

THE ARKANSAS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

**IN RE THE MATTER OF:
MITCHELL WAYNE WILLIAMS
JULY 11, 2019**

PLSB CASE NO. 18-125

FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW, AND ORDER

At its regular meeting on July 11, 2019, the Arkansas State Board of Education (Board) accepted the recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board Ethics Subcommittee (Ethics Subcommittee) for disciplinary action against the provisional teaching license of Mitchell Wayne Williams (Educator Williams). Based upon Educator Williams' acceptance of the Ethics Subcommittee's recommendation and the evidence presented, in accordance with the Administrative Procedures Act, Ark. Code Ann. 25-15-101 et seq., the Board hereby states as follows:

I. Findings of Fact

- a. The Arkansas Department of Education issued Educator Williams a provisional teaching license on August 1, 2016, valid until July 31, 2018.
- b. The Ethics Subcommittee received an allegation that Educator Williams violated the Arkansas Department of Education Rules Governing the Code of Ethics for Arkansas Educators promulgated pursuant to Ark. Code Ann. § § 6-17-422 and 6-17-428.
- c. On April 9, 2018, the Ethics Subcommittee authorized an investigation into allegations that Educator Williams violated Standard 1: an educator maintains a professional relationship with each student, both in and outside of the classroom; Standard 2: an educator maintains competence regarding his or her professional practice, inclusive of skills, knowledge, dispositions, and responsibilities relating to

his or her organizational position; and Standard 3: an educator honestly fulfills reporting obligations associated with professional practices.

- d. Educator Williams was notified on April 9, 2018, of the Ethics Subcommittee's authorization to investigate this allegation.
- e. After considering the investigator's report and evidence on October 5, 2018, the Ethics Subcommittee unanimously found that a preponderance of evidence existed to substantiate violations of Standards 1 and 2 in that Educator Williams:
 - Engaged in inappropriate communications of a sexual nature; and
 - Engaged in inappropriate physical contact of a sexual nature.
- f. The Ethics Subcommittee recommended that the State Board take the following actions:
 - 1. Non-Issuance of license;
 - 2. Assess a \$500 fine (due within 90 days of the State Board Order);
- g. On October 8, 2018, Educator Williams, was notified of the Ethics Subcommittee's reasonable belief determination and recommendation by certified and regular mail. Educator Williams accepted the Ethics Subcommittee's recommendation thereby waiving his right to any further notice, hearing, or any other rights he may have under the Administrative Procedure Act, including those rights set forth in Ark. Code Ann. §§ 25-15-211 and 25-15-212.
- h. At today's meeting, the Ethics Subcommittee's recommendation and supporting documentation were presented to the Board as part of its consent agenda.

II. Conclusions of Law

- a. Upon consideration of the evidence presented at the meeting, Ark. Code Ann. §§ 6-11-105, 6-17-401, 6-17-422, 6-17-428 and 25-15-201 et seq., and the Arkansas

Department of Education Rules Governing the Code of Ethics for Arkansas Educators, the Board adopts the Ethics Subcommittee's recommendations, and enacts the sanctions accordingly. The Board admonishes Educator Mitchell Wayne Williams for his violation of the Code of Ethics.

- b. This order shall remain permanently in Educator Williams's professional licensure file and the confidential files of the Professional Licensure Standards Board.

IT IS SO ORDERED.


Diane Zook, Chair
Arkansas State Board of Education