

THE ARKANSAS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

IN RE THE MATTER OF:
JON B. ALEXANDER
JUNE 13, 2019

PLSB CASE NO. 19-021

FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW, AND ORDER

At its regular meeting on June 13, 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 teaching license of Jon B. Alexander (Educator Alexander). Based upon Educator Alexander's 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 Alexander a standard five-year teaching license on June 4, 2018, valid until December 31, 2022. At the time of the alleged violation, Educator Alexander was a pre-service teacher and teaching on a waiver.
- b. The Ethics Subcommittee received an allegation that Educator Alexander 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 August 3, 2018, the Ethics Subcommittee authorized an investigation into allegations that Educator Alexander violated 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 8: an educator refrains from using, possessing and/or being under the influence of alcohol or unauthorized drugs/substances and/or possessing items prohibited by law, or possessing or using tobacco or tobacco-related products while on school premises or at school-sponsored activities involving students.

- d. Educator Alexander was notified on August 6, 2018, of the Ethics Subcommittee's authorization to investigate this allegation.
- e. After considering the investigator's report and evidence on May 3, 2019, the Ethics Subcommittee unanimously found that a preponderance of evidence existed to substantiate violations of Standards 2 and 8 in that Educator Alexander:
 - Possessed alcohol at a school-sponsored trip; and
 - Engaged in drinking alcohol while on a school-sponsored trip.
- f. The Ethics Subcommittee recommended that the State Board take the following actions:
 1. Probation of license for 1 year;
 2. Assess a \$200 fine (due within 90 days of the State Board Order);
 3. Require Educator to complete the following coursework/readings:
 - ERC19048: Professional Licensure Standards Board (PLSB): The Code of Ethics Training Video (2018) Credit Hours: 1
 - Title: The Power of Paradox: How We Gain and Lose Influence (208p); Author: Dacher Keltner; ISBN 10: 0143110292; ISBN 13: 978-0143110293
 4. Require Educator to prepare written reflection: that explains how trainings and readings will impact his professional practices and interactions with students and athletes (to be completed within 90 days of the State Board Order); and
 5. Require Educator to pay all associated costs.

- g. On May 6, 2019, Educator Alexander, was notified of the Ethics Subcommittee's reasonable belief determination and recommendation by certified and regular mail. Educator Alexander 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 Jon B. Alexander for his violation of the Code of Ethics.
- b. Educator Alexander is cautioned that his non-payment of the assessed fine of \$200 may result in the suspension of his license until the fine is paid in full.
- c. Educator Alexander is cautioned that further violations of the Code of Ethics or failure to pay the fine within ninety (90) days from the date of this order may result in more severe discipline including permanent revocation of his license.
- d. This order shall remain permanently in Educator Alexander's professional licensure file and the confidential files of the Professional Licensure Standards Board.

IT IS SO ORDERED.



Dr. Jay Barth, Chair
Arkansas State Board of Education