

**THE ARKANSAS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**IN RE THE MATTER OF:  
SCHELLY ELAINE GRAVES  
OCTOBER 11, 2018**

**PLSB CASE NO. 18-066**

**FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW, AND ORDER**

At its regular meeting on October 11, 2018, 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 Schelly Elaine Graves (Educator Graves). Based upon Educator Graves'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 Graves a standard five-year teaching license on January 1, 2015, valid until December 31, 2019.
- b. The Ethics Subcommittee received an allegation that Educator Graves violated the Arkansas Department of Education Rules Governing the Code of Ethics for Arkansas Educators (Code of Ethics) promulgated pursuant to Ark. Code Ann. §§ 6-17-422 and 6-17-428.
- c. On December 1, 2017, the Ethics Subcommittee authorized an investigation into allegations that Educator Graves violated Standard 1: An educator maintains a professional relationship with each student, both in and outside the classroom; and 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.

- d. On December 4, 2017, Educator Graves was notified of the Ethics Subcommittee's authorization to investigate the allegations.
- e. On April 9, 2018, after considering the investigator's report and evidence, the Ethics Subcommittee unanimously found preponderance of evidence that Educator Graves violated Standard 1 of the Code of Ethics when she made inappropriate physical contact with a student.

The Ethics Subcommittee recommended that the Board:

- Issue a written reprimand;
  - Assess a \$50 fine to be paid within ninety (90) days of the State Board's final order;
  - Require her to complete training through the ArkansasIDEAS online portal taking *Course IAD14491 Classroom Management: Managing Challenging Behavior* (2 hours);
  - Require her to submit a written reflection explaining how the training will impact student interactions (particularly challenging students). The written statement must be submitted within ninety (90) days of the State Board's final order; and
  - All costs will be paid by Educator Graves.
- f. On April 11, 2018, Educator Graves was notified of the Ethics Subcommittee's reasonable belief determination and recommendation by certified and regular mail.
  - g. On August 9, 2018, Educator Graves accepted the Ethics Subcommittee's recommendation, thereby waiving her right to any further notice, hearing, or any other rights she might 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 Graves for her violation of the Code of Ethics.
- b. Educator Graves 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 her license.

IT IS SO ORDERED.



---

Dr. Jay Barth, Chair  
Arkansas State Board of Education