

THE ARKANSAS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

**IN RE THE MATTER OF:
BRIAN PHILLIP WATT
JUNE 14, 2018**

PLSB CASE NO. 18-077

FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW AND ORDER

At its regular meeting on June 14, 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 Brian Phillip Watt (Educator Watt). Based upon Educator Watt's failure to respond to 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 Watt a standard five-year teaching license on January 1, 2013, valid until December 31, 2017.
- b. The Ethics Subcommittee received an allegation that Educator Watt 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 January 5, 2018, the Ethics Subcommittee authorized an investigation into allegations that Educator Watt violated Standard 3: An educator honestly fulfills

reporting obligations associated with professional practices; and Standard 4: An educator entrusted with public funds and property, including school sponsored activity funds, honors that trust with honest, responsible stewardship.

- d. On January 6, 2018, Educator Watt was notified of the Ethics Subcommittee's authorization to investigate the allegations.
- e. After considering the investigator's report and evidence on April 9, 2018, the Ethics Subcommittee unanimously found that reasonable belief existed to substantiate violations of Standards 3 and 4 in that from 2014 until 2017, Educator Watt misappropriated approximately \$37,000-\$47,000 from the band booster club for personal use. The Ethics Subcommittee recommended that the Board permanently revoke Educator Watt's license.
- f. Educator Watt was notified of the Ethics Subcommittee's reasonable belief determination and recommendation on April 11, 2018, by certified and regular mail.
- g. Educator Watt failed to respond to the Ethics Subcommittee's recommendation within the allotted time, thereby waiving his right to any additional notices or any other rights he 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.

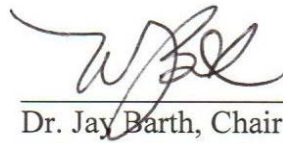
II. Conclusions of Law

- a. Upon consideration of the evidence presented at the meeting and pursuant to Ark.

Code Ann. §§ 6-11-105, 6-17-401, 6-17-422, 6-17-428 and 25-15-201 et seq., and the Code of Ethics, the Board adopts the recommendations of the Ethics Subcommittee.

- b. Accordingly, the Board orders permanent revocation of Educator Watt's license.
- c. This order shall remain permanently in Educator Watt'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