

THE ARKANSAS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

**IN RE THE MATTER OF:
LANDRA ALANE RINK
MAY 10, 2018**

PLSB CASE NO. 18-046

FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW AND ORDER

At its regular meeting on May 10, 2018, the Arkansas State Board of Education (Board) accepted the recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board Ethics Subcommittee (Subcommittee) for disciplinary action against the teaching license of Landra Alane Rink (Educator Rink). Based upon Educator Rink's failure to respond to the 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 Landra Alane Rink a standard five-year teaching license on January 1, 2017, valid until December 31, 2021.
- b. The Subcommittee received an allegation that Educator Rink 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 October 6, 2017, the Subcommittee authorized an investigation into allegations that Educator Rink 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 Rink was notified on October 9, 2017, of the Subcommittee's authorization to investigate this allegation.
- e. After considering the investigator's report and evidence on March 2, 2018, the Subcommittee unanimously found that reasonable belief existed to substantiate violations of Standards 2 and 8 in that Educator Rink was administered a portable breath test (PBT) which registered a blood alcohol content (BAC) of .193, and when asked to empty the contents of her purse, a water bottle which contained alcohol was confiscated, resulting in Educator being arrested for public intoxication and endangering the welfare of a minor.

- f. The Ethics Subcommittee recommended that the State Board take the following actions:
- Suspend Educator Rink's license for two (2) years;
 - Assess a \$100 fine;
 - Require her to attend alcohol treatment counseling;
 - Provide letter from licensed professional that Educator is fit to return to a classroom;
 - Provide quarterly reports on treatment progress for the duration of the suspension; and
 - Provide a written reflection regarding how Educator will ensure behavior will not reoccur (due to PLSB Office 30 days before the conclusion of the suspension).
- g. On March 6, 2018, Educator Rink, was notified of the Subcommittee's reasonable belief determination and recommendation by certified and regular mail. Educator Rink did not respond to the Subcommittee's recommendation thereby waiving her right to any further notice, hearing, or any other rights she 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 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 Subcommittee's recommendations, and

enacts the sanctions accordingly. The Board admonishes Educator Rink for her violation of the Code of Ethics.

- b. Educator Rink is cautioned that her non-payment of the assessed fine of \$100 will result in the continued suspension of her license until the fine is paid in full.
- c. Educator Rink 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.
- d. This order shall remain permanently in Educator Rink'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