

THE ARKANSAS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

**IN RE THE MATTER OF:
JOHNNY RAY TAYLOR
APRIL 12, 2018**

PLSB CASE NO. 17-232

FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW AND ORDER

At its regular meeting on April 12, 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 Johnny Ray Taylor (Educator Taylor). Based upon Educator Taylor'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 Taylor a standard five-year teaching license on January 1, 2017, valid until December 31, 2021.
- b. The Ethics Subcommittee received an allegation that Educator Taylor 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 June 5, 2017, the Ethics Subcommittee authorized an investigation into allegations that Educator Taylor 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 4: An educator entrusted with public funds and property, including school sponsored activity funds, honors that trust with honest, responsible stewardship.

- d. On June 8, 2017, Educator Taylor was notified of the Ethics Subcommittee's authorization to investigate the allegations.
- e. On February 6, 2018, after considering the investigator's report and evidence, the Ethics Subcommittee unanimously found reasonable belief that Educator Taylor violated Standards 2 and 4 of the Code of Ethics when he endangered student(s) by directing them to drive across a low water bridge that had high water running across it, resulting in the driver's education car becoming disabled.

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 educator to read: The Driving Instructor's Handbook (552p), by John Miller, (ISBN 10: 0749468408) or (ISBN 13: 978-0749468408);
 - Require educator to review "Water's Fury" (see link below)
<http://www.weather.gov/os/water/multimedia/Waters%20Fury.mov>
 - Require educator to submit a written reflection for book and audio (specifically how actions put students' lives in danger, and how you educator will ensure this does not reoccur); The written statement must be submitted to the PLSB office within ninety (90) days of the State Board's final order; and
 - All costs will be paid by Educator Taylor.
- f. On February 7, 2018, Educator Taylor was notified of the Ethics Subcommittee's reasonable belief determination and recommendation by certified and regular mail.
 - g. On February 19, 2018, Educator Taylor accepted the Ethics Subcommittee's recommendation, thereby waiving his right to any further notice, hearing, 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, 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 Taylor for his violation of the Code of Ethics and adopts the recommendation for actions as outlined by the Ethic's Subcommittee.
- b. Educator Taylor 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.
- c. This order shall remain for two (2) years in Educator Taylor's professional licensure file, but shall remain permanently in the confidential files of the Professional Licensure Standards Board.

IT IS SO ORDERED.



Dr. Jay Barth, Chair
Arkansas State Board of Education