

THE ARKANSAS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

**IN RE THE MATTER OF:
KEARSTIN DANIELLE GREENHAW
JANUARY 11, 2018**

PLSB CASE NO. 17-227

FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW AND ORDER

At its regular meeting on January 11, 2018, the Arkansas State Board of Education (Board) accepted the recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board Ethics Subcommittee for disciplinary action against the teaching license of Kearstin Danielle Greenhaw (Educator Greenhaw). Based upon Educator Greenhaw's consent 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 Kearstin Danielle Greenhaw a standard five-year teaching license on January 1, 2014, valid until December 31, 2018.
- b. The Professional Licensure Standards Board Ethics Subcommittee received an allegation that Educator Greenhaw 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 June 5, 2017, the Subcommittee authorized an investigation into allegations that Educator Greenhaw violated Standard 1: An educator maintains a professional relationship with each student, both in and outside of 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. Educator Greenhaw was notified on June 7, 2017, of the subcommittee's authorization to investigate this allegation.
- e. After considering the investigator's report and evidence on November 6, 2017, the subcommittee unanimously found that reasonable belief existed to substantiate violations of Standards 1 and 2 in that Educator Greenhaw:
 - Inappropriately engaged in the texting of a student(s) about personal matters;
 - Inappropriately went to the student(s) residence and hung out in the parking lot of his apartment complex at night;
 - Met with the student(s) multiple times outside of school that served no educational purpose; and
 - Sent unsolicited pictures of herself to the student.
- f. The Ethics Subcommittee recommended that the State Board take the following actions:
 - Suspend Educator Greenhaw's license for two (2) years;

- Assess a \$100 fine to be paid within 90 days following the State Board's final order;
 - Require educator to complete training through the ArkansasIDEAS online portal taking *Course TCC 14435: Professional Licensure Standards Board (PLSB) Social Media Guidelines* (3 hours); *Course LAC 16088: Building for Middle Level Success: Advisory Advocacy* (1 hour); and *Code of Ethics Training by PLSB* (3 hours);
 - Require educator to write a reflection statement on how each course will impact her classroom teaching and learning environment; the written reflection must be submitted to the PLSB office within ninety (90) days following the Board's final order; and
 - Require that all associated costs be paid by Educator Greenhaw.
- g. On November 7, 2017, Educator Greenhaw, was notified of the Ethics Subcommittee's reasonable belief determination and recommendation by certified and regular mail.
- h. Educator Greenhaw accepted the Ethics 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.
- i. 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 Ethics Subcommittee's recommendations, and enacts the sanctions accordingly. The Board admonishes Educator Greenhaw for her violation of the Code of Ethics.

- b. Educator Greenhaw 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 Greenhaw 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 Greenhaw'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