

**THE ARKANSAS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**IN RE THE MATTER OF:  
ALEXIS KATHLEEN RHEINHARDT  
JANUARY 11, 2018**

**PLSB CASE NO. 17-236**

**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 (Ethics Subcommittee) for disciplinary action against the teaching license of Alexis Kathleen Rheinhardt (Educator Rheinhardt). Based upon Educator Rheinhardt'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 Rheinhardt a standard five-year teaching license on January 1, 2014, valid until December 31, 2018.
- b. The Ethics Subcommittee received an allegation that Educator Rheinhardt 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 Rheinhardt 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 June 8, 2017, Educator Rheinhardt was notified of the Ethics Subcommittee's authorization to investigate the allegations.
- e. On November 6, 2017, after considering the investigator's report and evidence, the Ethics Subcommittee unanimously found reasonable belief that Educator Rheinhardt violated Standards 1 and 2 of the Code of Ethics when she: Engaged in an inappropriate verbal confrontation with a student in front of her class where she yelled, called a student a "stupid ass", and told the student to "bring it" while she stood face to face with the 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 educator to complete training through the ArkansasIDEAS online portal taking *Course IAD 14491: Classroom Management: Managing Challenging Behavior (2 hours)*; *Course IAD 14492: Classroom Management: Building Effective Relationships, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition (11 hours)*; *Course IAD 14523: Conflict Resolution: An Introduction (2.5 hours)*; and *Course IAD 14497: Differential Instruction: Learning More (2.5 hours)*;

- Require educator to submit a written reflection to the PLSB Office on each training indicating how the course affected her interaction with students in and outside the classroom; the written statement and courses must be completed within ninety (90) days of the State Board's final order; and
  - All costs will be paid by Educator Rheinhardt.
- f. On November 7, 2017, Educator Rheinhardt was notified of the Ethics Subcommittee's reasonable belief determination and recommendation by certified and regular mail.
- g. Educator Rheinhardt did not respond to 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 Rheinhardt for her violation of the Code of Ethics and adopts the recommendation for actions as outlined by the Ethics Subcommittee.

- b. Educator Rheinhardt 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.
- c. This order shall remain for two (2) years in Educator Rheinhardt's professional licensure file, but shall remain permanently in the confidential files of the Professional Licensure Standards Board.

IT IS SO ORDERED.



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Dr. Jay Barth, Chair  
Arkansas State Board of Education