

**THE ARKANSAS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**IN RE THE MATTER OF:  
ANTHONY CLARENCE BRIDGEFORTH  
DECEMBER 14, 2017**

**PLSB CASE NO. 15-149**

**FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW AND ORDER**

At its regular meeting on December 14, 2017, the Arkansas State Board of Education (Board) considered the matter of Anthony Clarence Bridgeforth (Educator Bridgeforth) concerning the non-payment of a fine assessed by the Board. Based upon the evidence presented, in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act, Ark. Code Ann. § 25-15-101 et seq., the Board hereby states as follows:

**I. Findings of Fact**

- a. On October 2, 2015, the Professional Licensure Standards Board (PLSB) Ethics Subcommittee (Ethics Subcommittee) unanimously found reasonable belief that Educator Bridgeforth violated Standards 1 and 2 of the Code of Ethics for Arkansas Educator. Additionally, the Ethics Subcommittee recommended that the Board:
  - Place Educator Bridgeforth's license on probation for two (2) years; and
  - Assess a \$75.00 fine.
- b. Educator Bridgeforth did not respond to the Ethics Subcommittee's recommendation, thereby waiving his right to any further notice or 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 .

- c. On January 21, 2016, the Board entered its Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Order (Order) in which it adopted the Ethics Subcommittee's findings and recommended sanctions.
- d. On January 26, 2016, the PLSB office mailed Educator Bridgeforth the Board's Order via certified and first-class mail. The educator received this correspondence on January 28, 2016.
- e. On July 7, 2016, the PLSB office mailed Educator Bridgeforth a request for payment via certified and first-class mail; the certified and first-class mail were not returned.
- f. On August 31, 2016, the PLSB office mailed Educator Bridgeforth a second request for payment via certified and first-class mail; the certified and first-class mail were not returned.
- g. On July 25, 2017 and November 14, 2017, the PLSB office mailed letters to Educator Bridgeforth notifying him that the PLSB would request suspension of his license until the required payment is received; the July 25<sup>th</sup> first-class letter was returned, the certified letter was not. The November 14<sup>th</sup> correspondence was not returned.
- h. Educator Bridgeforth has not responded to the PLSB's collection attempts and has not submitted payment of the assessed fine.


## **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 Arkansas Department of Education Rules Governing the Code of Ethics for Arkansas Educators, the Board unanimously voted to suspend Educator Bridgeforth's

license until payment of the assessed seventy-five dollars (\$75.00) is received by the Arkansas Department of Education's PLSB office.

- b. Furthermore, Educator Bridgeforth's license shall be reflected as suspended on the Arkansas Department of Education's public website for licensure until payment of the assessed seventy-five dollar (\$75.00) fine is received by the Arkansas Department of Education's PLSB office.

IT IS SO ORDERED.



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Dr. Jay Barth, Chair  
Arkansas State Board of Education

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