

THE ARKANSAS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

**IN RE THE MATTER OF:
STEFANIE KAYE HOWARD
DECEMBER 14, 2017**

PLSB CASE NO. 17-202

FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW AND ORDER

At its regular meeting on December 14, 2017, the Arkansas State Board of Education (State Board) accepted the recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board Ethics Subcommittee (Ethics Subcommittee) for disciplinary action against the teaching license of Stefanie Kaye Howard (Educator Howard). Based upon Educator Howard'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 State Board hereby states as follows:

I. Findings of Fact

- a. The Arkansas Department of Education issued Stefanie Kaye Howard a standard five-year teaching license on January 1, 2016, valid until December 31, 2020.
- b. The Ethics Subcommittee received an allegation that Educator Howard 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 May 5, 2017, the Ethics Subcommittee authorized an investigation into allegations that Educator Howard 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.

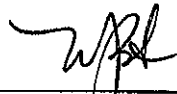
- d. Educator Howard was notified on May 9, 2017, of the Ethics Subcommittee's authorization to investigate this allegation.
- e. After considering the investigator's report and evidence on October 6, 2017, the Ethics Subcommittee unanimously found that reasonable belief existed to substantiate a violation of Standard 2 in that Educator Howard:
- Logged into student(s) computers in order to complete their computer based curriculum, OSHA training program, and other computer based test/assignments; and
 - Allowed student(s) to use and/or hide their tobacco in her classroom.
- f. The Ethics Subcommittee recommended that the State Board take the following actions:
- Place license on probation for one (1) year;
 - Assess a \$75 fine (due within 90 days following the State Board's final order);
 - Require educator to complete training through the ArkansasIDEAS online portal taking Course IAD 14526: *The Art and Science of Teaching* (12.5 hours);
 - Complete training on testing practices and procedures by the ADE Office of Student Assessment;
 - Require educator to provide written reflections on each training to the PLSB office indicating how the training will impact her teaching and knowledge of assessments (due within 90 days following State Board's final order); and
 - Require all associated costs to be paid by Educator Howard.
- g. On October 9, 2017, Educator Howard, was notified of the Ethics Subcommittee's reasonable belief determination and recommendation by certified and regular mail. Educator Howard accepted the Ethics Subcommittee's recommendation on November 1, 2017, 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 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 Howard for her violation of the Code of Ethics.
- b. Educator Howard is cautioned that further violations of the Code of Ethics may result in more severe discipline, including permanent revocation of her license. This order shall remain permanently in Educator Howard'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