

THE ARKANSAS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

**IN RE THE MATTER OF:
JOHNNY RAY TAYLOR
SEPTEMBER 14, 2017**

PLSB CASE NO. 17-146

FINDING OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW AND ORDER

At its regular meeting on September 14, 2017, 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 consent 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 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 February 6, 2017, the Ethics Subcommittee authorized an investigation into the allegation that Educator Taylor violated Standard 1: An educator maintains a professional relationship with each student, both in and outside the classroom;

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 February 7, 2017, Educator Taylor was notified of the Ethics Subcommittee's authorization to investigate the allegation.
- e. On July 10, 2017, after considering the investigator's report and evidence, the Ethics Subcommittee unanimously found that Educator Taylor violated Standards 1, 2 and 4 when he:
 - Continuously cursed at and/or around students calling students, "dumbass", "pussy", "stupid", and "bitching up";
 - Inappropriately had students over at his house during their driver's education class where they performed manual labor, assisted the educator with tasks, or wasted class time in his garage;
 - Exhibited poor sportsmanship when he used profanity in the presence of another team/coaches after the end of a basketball game; and
 - Inappropriately used the school district driver's education vehicle to run errands/get food/and go to the Educator's home.
- f. The Ethics Subcommittee recommended that the Board take the following actions:
 - (i) Issue a written warning;
 - (ii) Require educator to complete training through ArkansasIDEAS online portal taking Course IAE 14017: *The Learning Classroom: Feelings Count* (.5 hours);
 - (iii) Require educator to complete Course IAD 14492: *Classroom Management: Building Effective Relationships, 2nd Edition* (11 hours);
 - (iv) Require educator to provide a written reflection to the PLSB office on how this training will affect his interaction with students in the classroom. The training and written reflection must be completed and submitted to the PLSB office within ninety (90) days of the State Board's Final Order; and
 - (v) Require all costs to be paid by Educator Taylor.

- g. On July 14,, 2017, Educator Taylor was notified of the Ethics Subcommittee's reasonable belief determination and recommendation by certified and regular mail.
- h. On July 20, 2017, Educator Taylor accepted the Ethics Subcommittee's recommendation, thereby waiving his right to any further notice, hearing, and 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.

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 may result in more severe discipline, including permanent revocation of his license.
- c. This order shall remain permanently in Educator Taylor'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