

THE ARKANSAS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

**IN RE THE MATTER OF:
KENDRA D. SKAGGS
SEPTEMBER 14, 2017**

PLSB CASE NO. 17-147

FINDINGS 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 for disciplinary action against the teaching license of Kendra D. Skaggs (Educator Skaggs). Based upon Educator Skaggs's failure to respond 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 Kendra D. Skaggs a standard five-year teaching license on January 1, 2015, valid until December 31, 2019.
- b. The Professional Licensure Standards Board Ethics Subcommittee received an allegation that Educator Skaggs 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 February 6, 2017, the Subcommittee authorized an investigation into allegations that Educator Skaggs violated Standard 1: An educator maintains a professional relationship with each student, both in and outside of 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 3: An educator honestly fulfills reporting obligations associated with professional practices.

- d. Educator Skaggs was notified on February 7, 2017, of the subcommittee's authorization to investigate this allegation.
- e. After considering the investigator's report and evidence on July 10, 2017, the subcommittee unanimously found that reasonable belief existed to substantiate violations of Standards 1, 2, and 3 in that Educator Skaggs:
 - Fostered an inappropriate relationship with a 16 year old female student when she spoke with the student about leaving her home, living with her (the educator), and developing a plan to remove the student from the home without speaking with the student's parents;
 - Inappropriately communicated with a student via social media, email, and/or text messaging, and
 - Failed to report information that the student may harm herself to the Child Abuse Hotline.
- f. The Ethics Subcommittee recommended that the State Board take the following actions:
 - (i) Place the license on Probation for two (2) years;
 - (ii) Assess a \$75 fine to be paid within ninety (90) days of the SBOE final order;
 - (iii) Require her to complete training through the ArkansasIDEAS online portal taking Course IAD14492: *Classroom Management: Building Effective Relationships with Students, 2nd Edition* (11 hours); and ERC 15037: *Recognizing and Reporting Child Abuse: Training for Arkansas Reporters* (1.5 hours);
 - (iv) Require her to write a reflection statement for each training stating how this information will impact her interactions with students. The written reflection must be submitted to the PLSB office within ninety (90) days following the Board's final order; and
 - (v) Require that all associated costs be paid by Educator Skaggs.

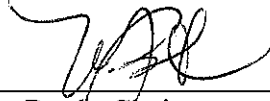
- g. On July 14, 2017, Educator Skaggs, was notified of the Ethics Subcommittee's reasonable belief determination and recommendation by certified and regular mail. Educator Skaggs did not respond to the Ethics Subcommittee's recommendation, thereby waiving her right to any further notice, hearing, or 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.
- h. 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 Skaggs for her violation of the Code of Ethics and adopts the recommendation for actions as outlined by the Ethic's Subcommittee.
- b. Educator Skaggs is cautioned that further violations of the Code of Ethics may result in more severe discipline, including permanent revocation of her license.

- c. This order shall remain permanently in Educator Skaggs'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