

BEFORE THE ARKANSAS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
March 9, 2017

FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW, AND ORDER
IN RE RICHARD THOMAS RILEY; PLSB CASE NO. 16-175

At its regular meeting on March 9, 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 Richard Thomas Riley (“Educator Riley”). Based upon 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 Riley a standard five-year teaching license on January 1, 2014, valid until December 31, 2018.
- b. The Ethics Subcommittee received an allegation that Educator Riley 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. The Ethics Subcommittee authorized an investigation into allegations that Educator Riley violated Standard 1. An educator maintains a professional relationship with each student, both in and outside the classroom.
- d. Educator Riley was notified on July 21, 2016, of the Ethics Subcommittee's authorization on July 11, 2016, to investigate this allegation.

e. After considering the investigator's report and evidence on January 17, 2017, the Ethics Subcommittee unanimously found that reasonable belief existed to substantiate a violation of Standard 1 in that he:

- Solicited sexually explicit messages and pictures from a student;
- Nude pictures were then sent by a student to Educator Riley;
- Knowingly received nude pictures of a student;
- Did not deny the allegations stated in the complaint;
- Had sex with a student on numerous occasions at his home;
- His actions are sexual abuse of a student as defined in A.C.A. § 6-17-428;
- Admitted he has had sex with student numerous times at his home.

The Ethics Subcommittee recommended that the Board permanently revoke Educator Riley's license.

- f. Educator Riley was notified of the Ethics Subcommittee's reasonable belief determination and recommendation on January 19, 2017, by certified and regular mail.
- g. Educator Riley did not respond to the Ethics Subcommittee's reasonable belief determination and 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.
- 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 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 Code of Ethics, the Board adopts the recommendations of the Ethics Subcommittee.

- b. Accordingly, the Board orders permanent revocation of Educator Riley's license.
- c. This order shall remain permanently in Educator Riley's professional licensure file and the confidential files of the Professional Licensure Standards Board.

IT IS SO ORDERED.



Mireya Reith, Chair
Arkansas State Board of Education