

**BEFORE THE ARKANSAS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
JANUARY 12, 2017**

**FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW, AND ORDER
IN RE JEREMY E. ELLIS, PLSB CASE NO. 16-131**

At its regular meeting on January 12, 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 Jeremy E. Ellis (“Educator Ellis”). Based upon Educator Ellis’ failure to respond to the Ethics Subcommittee’s recommendation and 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. The Arkansas Department of Education issued Educator Ellis a nontraditional two-year teaching license on August 1, 2015, valid until July 31, 2017.
- b. The Ethics Subcommittee received an allegation that Educator Ellis 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 April 1, 2016, the Ethics Subcommittee authorized an investigation into the allegation that Educator Ellis violated Standards 1 and 2: 1. An educator maintains a professional relationship with each student, both in and outside the classroom. 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. On April 11, 2016, Educator Ellis was notified of the Ethics Subcommittee’s authorization to investigate this allegation.

e. On July 11, 2016, after considering the investigator's report and evidence, the Ethics Subcommittee unanimously found reasonable belief that Educator Ellis violated Standards 1 and 2 when he:

- Did not appropriately address a fight between one or more students.

The Ethics Subcommittee recommended that the Board issue Educator Ellis a written warning.

f. On July 19, 2016, Educator Ellis was notified of the Ethics Subcommittee's reasonable belief determination and recommendation by certified and regular mail.

g. Educator Ellis did not respond to the Ethics Subcommittee's recommendation, thereby waiving his right to any further notice, 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. On October 13, 2016, the final order was presented to the Board for approval.

i. The Board returned the case to the Ethics Subcommittee asking that it review the recommendation to determine whether additional training would benefit the educator.

j. On November 7, 2016, the Ethics Subcommittee recommended adding the following training requirement to its original reasonable belief recommendation: require Educator Ellis to complete additional training, specifically, Course IAD14491 *Classroom Management – Managing Challenging Behavior* (2 hours) and IAD14492 *Classroom Management – Building Effective Relationships, 2nd Edition* (11 hours) through the ArkansasIDEAS online portal and provide a written reflections for each training to the PLSB office. Training and written reflections to be completed within sixty (60) days of the Board's final order. All costs paid by educator.

- k. Educator Ellis did not respond to the Ethics Subcommittee's recommendations.
- l. 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 Ethics Subcommittee's recommendation.
- b. Accordingly, the Board admonishes Educator Ellis for his violation of the Code of Ethics and issues a written warning, and requires completion of the training and written reflections as set forth above.
- c. Educator Ellis is cautioned that further violations of the Code of Ethics may result in more severe discipline, including permanent revocation of his license.
- d. This order shall remain for two (2) years in Educator Ellis' professional licensure file, but shall remain permanently in the confidential files of the Professional Licensure Standards Board.

IT IS SO ORDERED.


Mireya Reith, Chair
Arkansas State Board of Education