

**BEFORE THE ARKANSAS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
NOVEMBER 10, 2016**

**FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW, AND ORDER
IN RE MORGAN KELSEY COBLE, PLSB CASE NO. 17-030**

At its regular meeting on November 10, 2016, 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 Morgan Kelsey Coble (“Educator Coble”). Based upon Educator Coble’s acceptance of 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 Coble a standard license on July 14, 2015, valid until December 31, 2019.
- b. The Ethics Subcommittee received an allegation that Educator Coble 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 July 11, 2016, the Ethics Subcommittee authorized an investigation into allegations that Educator Coble violated Standard 1. An educator maintains a professional relationship with each student, both in and outside the classroom.
- d. On July 22, 2016, Educator Coble was notified of the Ethics Subcommittee’s authorization to investigate the allegations.

e. On September 2, 2016, after considering the investigator's report and evidence, the Ethics Subcommittee unanimously found reasonable belief that Educator Coble violated Standard

1 when she:

- Showed/discussed a text message concerning an individual being "generously endowed" or similar to/with one or more students.

The Ethics Subcommittee recommended that the Board issue Educator Coble a written reprimand; assess a fine of \$50.00; require her to complete training through ArkansasIDEAS, specifically, TCC14435 *PLSB Social Media Guidelines*; require her to provide a written reflection to the PLSB office on how the training will impact her future conduct as a professional educator; and require the training and written reflection to be completed within thirty (30) days of the Board's final order. All associated costs paid by Educator Coble.

f. On September 6, 2016, Educator Coble was notified of the Ethics Subcommittee's reasonable belief determination and recommendation by certified and regular mail.

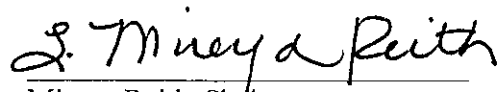
g. On September 12, 2016, Educator Coble accepted the Ethics Subcommittee's recommendation, thereby waiving her right to any further notice, hearing, or any other rights she might have under the Administrative Procedure Act, including those rights set forth in Ark. Code Ann. §§ 25-15-211 and 25-15-212.

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 Ethics Subcommittee's recommendation.
- b. Accordingly, the Board admonishes Educator Coble for her violation of the Code of Ethics; issues a written reprimand; assesses a fine of \$50.00; requires her to complete training through ArkansasIDEAS, specifically, TCC14435 *PLSB Social Media Guidelines*; require her to provide a written reflection to the PLSB office on how the training will impact her future conduct as a professional educator; and require the training and written reflection to be completed within thirty (30) days of the Board's final order. All associated costs paid by Educator Coble.
- c. Educator Coble is cautioned that further violations of the Code of Ethics or failure to pay the fine within ninety (90) days from the date of this order may result in more severe discipline, including permanent revocation of her license.
- d. This order shall remain for two (2) years in Educator Coble's 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