

**BEFORE THE ARKANSAS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
OCTOBER 13, 2016**

**FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW AND ORDER  
IN RE CHRISTOPHER M. HORNE, PLSB CASE NO. 16-120**

At its regular meeting on October 13, 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 Christopher M. Horne (“Educator Horne”). Based on Educator Horne’s 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 Horne a standard five-year teaching license on January 1, 2013, valid until December 31, 2017.
- b. The Ethics Subcommittee received an allegation that Educator Horne 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 March 4, 2016, the Ethics Subcommittee authorized an investigation into the allegation that Educator Horne 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 March 8, 2016, Educator Horne was notified of the Ethics Subcommittee's authorization to investigate the allegation.
- e. On July 11, 2016, after considering the investigator's report and evidence, the Ethics Subcommittee unanimously found reasonable belief that Educator Horne violated Standards 1 and 2 of the Code of Ethics when he:

- Called one or more students an inappropriate name (for example, "punk", "psycho", "bitch", "crazy", "ugly", "slow", "dumb", "stupid", "bullfrog", and/or "ugly duckling");
- Slapped a student on the back of the head or neck, or otherwise inappropriately interacted with the student;
- Used profanity (for example, "hell", "ass", "bitch", and "shit") in the presence of one or more students;
- Used or otherwise demonstrated the "middle finger", as a symbolically rude gesture, in the presence of one or more students;
- Inappropriately spoke about a parent and/or a teacher in the presence of one or more students;
- Put hand sanitizer (Germ X) in a student's ear/on a student's face or otherwise inappropriately interacted with the student;
- Slapped and/or punched a student, or otherwise inappropriately interacted with a student;
- Said "Get this crap out of here or get the crap off your desk" to a student, or otherwise inappropriately communicated with the student;
- Said, "no hablo espanol, are you speaking English?" to a student, or otherwise inappropriately communicated with the student;
- Stated, "[student] plagiarized his whole paper, you know he can barely spell cat", or similar, while in presence of one or more students;
- Unprofessionally spoke about a parent and/or teacher in the presence of one or more students;
- Inappropriately disciplined a student by slapping the student;
- Put his middle finger up at an employee as a symbolically rude gesture;
- Called one or more employees an inappropriate name (for example, "bitch", "whore", "ugly", and/or "two-faced"); and
- Stated, "[student] plagiarized his whole paper, you know he can barely spell cat", or similar language, to one or more employees.

The Ethics Subcommittee recommended that the Board suspend Educator Horne's license for one (1) year; assess a fine of \$100.00; require that he complete training

through ArkansasIDEAS, specifically, Course IAD14492 *Classroom Management: Building Effective Relationships* and Course IAD14519 *Understanding Student Motivation*, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition; and require that he submit to the PLSB, one written reflection on each course addressing how the training will impact his future conduct in the classroom and interaction with students. All requirements to be completed by the end of the suspension period and all associated costs paid by Educator Horne.

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

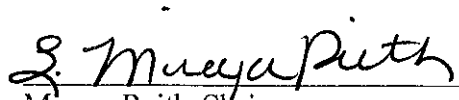
## **II. Conclusions of Law:**

- 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 of the Ethics Subcommittee's recommendations.
- b. Accordingly, the Board admonishes Educator Horne for his violation of the Code of Ethics; orders the suspension of Educator Horne's license for one (1) year; assesses a fine of \$100.00; requires that he complete training through ArkansasIDEAS, specifically, Course IAD14492 *Classroom Management: Building Effective*

*Relationships* and Course IAD14519 *Understanding Student Motivation*, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition; and require that he submit to the PLSB, one written reflection on each course addressing how the training will impact his future conduct in the classroom and interaction with students. All requirements will be completed by the end of the suspension period and all associated costs paid by Educator Horne.

- c. Educator Horne is cautioned that his non-payment of the assessed fine of \$100.00 will result in the continued suspension of his license until the fine is paid in full.
- d. Educator Horne is cautioned that further violations of the Code of Ethics or failure to pay the fine within ninety (90) days may result in more severe discipline, including permanent revocation of his license.
- d. This order shall remain permanently in Educator Horne'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