

BEFORE THE ARKANSAS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
July 14, 2016

FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW AND ORDER
IN RE JAMIE GAIL MORTON, PLSB CASE NO. 15-152

At its regular meeting on July 14, 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 Jamie Gail Morton (“Educator Morton”). Based upon Educator Morton’s consent to 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 Morton a standard five-year teaching license on January 1, 2012 valid until December 31, 2016.
- b. The Ethics Subcommittee received an allegation that Educator Morton 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. The Ethics Subcommittee authorized an investigation into allegations that Educator Morton violated Standard 1: An educator maintains a professional relationship with each student, both in and outside the classroom.
- d. Educator Morton was notified on June 11, 2015, of the Ethics Subcommittee’s authorization to investigate these allegations.
- e. After considering the investigator’s report and evidence on October 2, 2015, the Ethics Subcommittee unanimously found that reasonable belief existed to substantiate a violation of Standard 1 in that Educator Morton:
 - i. Struck a student on the hand when he tried to get a pencil off her desk; and
 - ii. Hit students in her class.

The Ethics Subcommittee recommended that the State Board place Educator Morton's license on suspension for two (2) years, assess a fine of \$100, require Educator Morton to complete six (6) hours of classroom management training with an emphasis on developing a positive relationship and communication with students, require Educator Morton to complete six (6) hours of anger management classes, require Educator Morton to complete the training and take the anger management classes prior to her returning to the classroom, require Educator Morton to be responsible for all associated costs, and require Educator Morton to reimburse the ADE for the cost of the court reporter as she did not appear for the evidentiary hearing she requested.

- f. Educator Morton was notified of the Ethics Subcommittee's reasonable belief determination and recommendation on October 7, 2015 by certified and regular mail.
- g. Educator Morton accepted the Ethics Subcommittee's recommendation on July 14, 2016, thereby waiving her right to any further notice or 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.

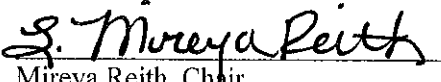
II. Conclusions of Law:

- 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 Arkansas Department of Education Rules Governing the Code of Ethics for Arkansas Educators, the Board adopts the recommendations of the Ethics Subcommittee.
- b. Accordingly, the Board orders suspension of Educator Morton's license for two (2) years, assesses a fine of \$100, requires Educator Morton to complete six (6) hours of classroom management training with an emphasis on developing a positive relationship and communication with students, requires Educator Morton to complete six (6) hours of anger management classes, requires Educator Morton to complete the training and take the anger

management classes prior to her returning to the classroom, requires Educator Morton to be responsible for all associated costs, and requires Educator Morton to reimburse the ADE for the cost of the court reporter as she did not appear for the evidentiary hearing she requested.

- c. Educator Morton is cautioned that her non-payment of the assessed fine of \$100 will result in the continued suspension of her license until the fine is paid in full.
- d. Educator Morton 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.
- e. This order shall remain permanently in Educator Morton'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