

**BEFORE THE ARKANSAS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
JULY 14, 2016**

**FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW, AND ORDER
IN RE COLTON S. TURNER, PLSB CASE NO. 16-095**

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 Colton S. Turner (“Educator Turner”). Based upon Educator Turner’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 Turner a standard five year teaching license on March 10, 2015, valid until December 31, 2019.
- b. The Ethics Subcommittee received an allegation that Educator Turner 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 February 5, 2016, the Ethics Subcommittee authorized an investigation into allegations that Educator Turner violated Standard 1: An educator maintains a professional relationship with each student, both in and outside the classroom.

- d. On February 11, 2016, Educator Turner was notified of the Ethics Subcommittee's authorization to investigate the allegations.
- e. On May 6, 2016, after considering the investigator's report and evidence, the Ethics Subcommittee unanimously found reasonable belief that Educator Turner violated Standard 1 when he:
- Inappropriately communicated with a student.

The Ethics Subcommittee recommended that the Board issue Educator Turner a written reprimand; assess a fine of \$50.00; require him to read *Cybertraps for Educators* by Frederick S. Lane (ISBN-10: 1507550758 or ISBN-13: 978-1507550755); provide a written reflection to the PLSB office on how the assigned reading will impact his professional interaction with students; and require the assigned reading and written reflection to be completed within six (6) months of the Board's final order. All associated costs paid by Educator Turner.

- f. On May 16, 2016, Educator Turner was notified of the Ethics Subcommittee's reasonable belief determination and recommendation by certified and regular mail.
- g. On May 26, 2016, Educator Turner accepted 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.

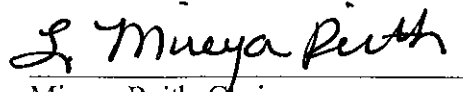
- h. At today's meeting, the Ethics Subcommittee's recommendation and supporting documentation were presented to the Board as part of its consent agenda.

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 Turner for his violation of the Code of Ethics; issues a written reprimand; assesses a fine of \$50.00; requires him to read *Cybertraps for Educators* by Frederick S. Lane (ISBN-10: 1507550758 or ISBN-13: 978-1507550755); provide a written reflection to the PLSB office on how the assigned reading will impact his professional interaction with students; and requires the assigned reading and written reflection to be completed within six (6) months of the Board's final order. All associated costs paid by Educator Turner.
- c. Educator Turner 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 his license.

- d. This order shall remain for two (2) years in Educator Turner'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