

**THE ARKANSAS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**IN RE THE MATTER OF:  
RHONDA HALL  
MARCH 11, 2021**

**PLSB CASE NO. 20-039**

**FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW, AND ORDER**

At its regular meeting on March 11, 2021, 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 Rhonda Hall (Educator Hall). Based upon Educator Hall'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 Hall a standard five-year teaching license on January 1, 2019, valid until December 31, 2023.
- b. The Ethics Subcommittee received an allegation that Rhonda Hall 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. On September 5, 2019, the Ethics Subcommittee authorized an investigation into allegations that Educator Hall violated *Standard 1: an educator maintains a professional relationship with each student, both in and outside the classroom;* *Standard 2: an educator maintains competence regarding his or her professional practice, inclusive of professional and ethical behavior, skills, knowledge,*

*dispositions, and responsibilities relating to his or her organizational position;*

*Standard 3: an educator honestly fulfills reporting obligations associated with*

*professional practices.*

- d. Educator Hall was notified on June 9, 2020, of the Ethics Subcommittee's authorization to investigate this allegation.
- e. After considering the investigator's report and evidence on June 9, 2020, the Ethics Subcommittee unanimously found that a preponderance of evidence existed to substantiate violation of Standard 1 and 2 in that Educator Hall:
- Made physical contact with student
  - Exhibited an inappropriate disposition inclusive of professional and ethical behavior
- f. On June 9, 2020, the Ethics Subcommittee initially recommended that the State Board take action upon Educator Hall of which she was notified the recommendation in a letter dated June 9, 2020. Educator Hall rejected the recommendation of the Subcommittee on June 20, 2020 and requested an Evidentiary Hearing.
- g. On January 20, 2021, an evidentiary hearing was conducted by the Professional Licensure Standards Board Ethics Hearing Subcommittee. After hearing the witnesses and evidence presented the Ethics Hearing Subcommittee found a preponderance of the evidence and the Ethics Subcommittee recommended that the State Board take the following actions:
1. One Year Probation;
  2. Assess a \$0 fine (due within 90 days of State Board Order);
  3. Recommend training, coursework or rehab treatment, with monitored progress:
    - a) ERC19048: Professional Licensure Standards Board (PLSB): The Code of Ethics Training Video (2018) Credit Hours: 1
    - b) Title: Taking Charge of Anger, Second Edition: Six Steps to Asserting Yourself without Losing Control (289p) Author: W.

Robert Nay, PhD. ISBN 10: 1462502423 ISBN 13: 978-1462502424


- c) Title: The Power Paradox: How We Gain and Lose Influence (208p) Author: Dacher Keltner ISBN 10: 0143110292 ISBN 13: 978-0143110293
  - d) ERC15037 Recognizing and Reporting Child Abuse: Training for Arkansas Reporters Credit Hours: 1.5
  - e) Written reflection on how the trainings will help her learn to deescalate student behavioral issues and maintain control in her interactions with students. Reflections and certificates should be returned to PLSB for review.
  - f) To be completed by: Within 90 days of the State Board of Education final order. (All costs paid by Educator).
- h. On January 20, 2021, Educator Hall, was notified of the Ethics Hearing Subcommittee's determination and recommendation secure server and email.
- Educator Hall has not responded to the recommendation of the Ethics Hearing Subcommittee, deeming it as accepted, and thereby waiving her right to any further notice, hearing, or any other rights she may have under the Administrative Procedure Act, including those rights set forth in Ark. Code Ann. §§ 25-15-211 and 25-15-212.
- i. 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, 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 Ethics Subcommittee's recommendations, and enacts the sanctions accordingly. The Board admonishes Educator Hall for her violation of the Code of Ethics.

- b. Educator Hal is cautioned that further violations of the Code of Ethics may result in more severe discipline including permanent revocation of her license.
- c. This order shall remain permanently in Educator Hall's professional licensure file and the confidential files of the Professional Licensure Standards Board.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

  
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Charisse Dean, Chair  
Arkansas State Board of Education