

THE ARKANSAS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

**IN RE THE MATTER OF:
SARAH LONG (AKA BETSY LAUGHTER)
OCTOBER 13, 2022**

PLSB CASE NO. 22-152

FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW, AND ORDER

At its regular meeting on October 13, 2022, 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 Sarah Long aka Betsy Laughter (Educator Long). Based upon Educator Long'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 Long a standard five-year teaching license on January 1, 2021, valid until December 31, 2025.
- b. The Ethics Subcommittee received an allegation that Educator Long 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 June 3, 2022, the Ethics Subcommittee authorized an investigation into allegations that Educator Long violated *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*

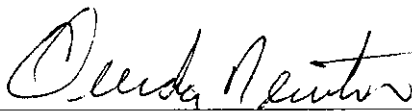
her organizational position; Educator Long was notified on June 6, 2022, of the Ethics Subcommittee's authorization to investigate this allegation.

- d. After considering the investigator's report and evidence on September 1, 2022, the Ethics Subcommittee unanimously found that a preponderance of evidence existed to substantiate violation of Standard 2 in that Educator Long:
 - Violated district, state or federal policies or law.
- e. The Ethics Subcommittee recommended that the State Board take the following actions:
 1. Written reprimand by the State Board of Education.
 2. Assess a \$100 fine (due within 90 days of the State Board Order);
 3. Require Educator to complete the following coursework/readings:
 4. Educator to provide written reflections to the PLSB based on the trainings required by the district and Equity Assistance Center. To be completed within 30 days of completion of the trainings.
 5. Require Educator to pay all associated costs.
- f. On September 1, 2022, Educator Long, was notified of the Ethics Subcommittee's initial determination and recommendation by secure server. Educator Long accepted the Ethics Subcommittee's recommendation 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.
- g. 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 Long for her violation of the Code of Ethics.
- b. Educator Long is cautioned that her non-payment of the assessed fine of \$100 may result in the suspension of her license until the fine is paid in full.
- c. Educator Long 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 permanently in Educator Long professional licensure file and the confidential files of the Professional Licensure Standards Board.

IT IS SO ORDERED.



Ouida Newton, Chair
Arkansas State Board of Education