

# THE ARKANSAS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

IN RE THE MATTER OF:  
EDUCATOR KAITLYN BARNES  
(A.K.A. KAITLYN RAINES)  
APRIL 13, 2023

PLSB CASE NO. 23-001

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

At its regular meeting on April 13, 2023, 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 Kaitlyn Barnes (A.K.A. Kaitlyn Raines) (“Educator Barnes”). Based upon Educator Barnes’ 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. Educator Barnes was employed under a charter teacher licensure waiver approved by the Arkansas Department of Education.
- b. The Ethics Subcommittee received an allegation that Educator Barnes 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 1, 2022, the Ethics Subcommittee authorized an investigation into allegations that Educator Barnes violated *Standard 1: an educator maintains a professional relationship with each student, both in and outside the classroom;*

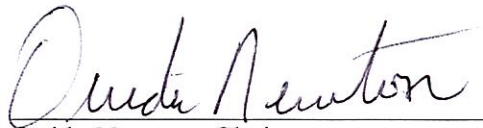
- d. Educator Barnes was notified on September 6, 2022, of the Ethics Subcommittee's authorization to investigate this allegation.
- e. After considering the investigator's report and evidence on March 3, 2023, the Ethics Subcommittee unanimously found that a preponderance of evidence existed to substantiate violation of Standard 1 in that Educator Barnes:
  - Engaged in inappropriate contact with a student (sexual)
- f. The Ethics Subcommittee recommended that the State Board take the following actions:
  - 1. Level 4 Public Notification of ethics violation.
- g. On March 9, 2023, Educator Barnes attorney, was notified of the Ethics Subcommittee's initial determination and recommendation by certified mail. Educator Barnes failed to respond to 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.
- 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, 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 Barnes for her violation of the Code of Ethics.

- b. This order shall remain permanently in Educator Barnes' professional licensure file and the confidential files of the Professional Licensure Standards Board.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Ouida Newton", written in black ink.

Ouida Newton, Chair  
Arkansas State Board of Education