

**THE ARKANSAS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**IN RE THE MATTER OF:  
ERIN MICHELLE LEWTER  
MARCH 9, 2023**

**PLSB CASE NO. 23-049**

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

At its regular meeting on March 9, 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 Erin Michelle Lewter (“Educator Lewter”). Based upon Educator Lewter’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 Lewter a standard five-year teaching license on January 1, 2022, valid until December 31, 2026.
- b. The Ethics Subcommittee received an allegation that Educator Lewter 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 November 2, 2022, the Ethics Subcommittee authorized an investigation into allegations that Educator Lewter 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; Standard 3: an educator honestly fulfills reporting obligations associated with professional practices;*

- d. Educator Lewter was notified on November 3, 2022, of the Ethics Subcommittee's authorization to investigate this allegation.
- e. After considering the investigator's report and evidence on February 3, 2023, the Ethics Subcommittee unanimously found that a preponderance of evidence existed to substantiate violation of Standard 2 and 3 in that Educator Lewter:
  - Exhibited inappropriate disposition inclusive of professional and ethical behavior.
  - Violated district, state or federal policies or law.
  - The educator failed to honestly maintain special education documents.
- f. The Ethics Subcommittee recommended that the State Board take the following actions:
  1. Written Reprimand;
  2. Assess a \$100 fine (due within 90 days of the State Board Order);
  3. Require Educator to complete the following coursework/readings:
    - a. Title: Flipping the Switch: Unleash the Power of Personal Accountability Using the QBQ! (144 p) Author: John G. Miller ISBN 10: 0399152334 ISBN 13: 978-0399152337
    - b. Code of Ethics as provided by the PLSB staff.
  4. Educator to provide written reflections on each training indicating how educator has continued to improve her educational practices and services to students. (Due to the PLSB for approval within 90 days of the State Board Order); and
  5. Require Educator to pay all associated costs.

- g. On February 3, 2023, Educator Lewter, was notified of the Ethics Subcommittee's initial determination and recommendation by certified and regular mail and secure server. Educator Lewter 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 Lewter for her violation of the Code of Ethics.
- b. Educator Lewter 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.
- c. Educator Lewter 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 Lewter professional licensure file and the confidential files of the Professional Licensure Standards Board.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

  
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Ouida Newton, Chair  
Arkansas State Board of Education