

THE ARKANSAS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

IN RE THE MATTER OF:
LEISHA NICOLE JONES

APRIL 13, 2023

PLSB CASE NO. 23-055

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 Leisha Nicole Jones (“Educator Jones”). Based upon Educator Jones’ 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 Jones a standard five-year teaching license on January 1, 2018, valid until December 31, 2022.
- b. The Ethics Subcommittee received an allegation that Educator Jones 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 December 2, 2022, the Ethics Subcommittee authorized an investigation into allegations that Educator Jones 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;*

- d. Educator Jones was notified on December 5, 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 and 2 in that Educator Jones:
- Inappropriate interaction with a student.
 - Exhibited inappropriate disposition inclusive of professional and ethical behavior.
 - Violated district, state or federal policies or law.
- f. The Ethics Subcommittee recommended that the State Board take the following actions:
1. Probation of license for 6 months.
 2. Assess a \$150 fine (due within 90 days of the State Board Order);
 3. Require Educator to complete the following coursework/readings:
 - a. Code of Ethics Training Provided by the PLSB (1.5 Hours);
 - b. ERC23004: Code of Ethics Part One: Professional Relationships (.5 Credit Hour);
 - c. Title: Real Talk About Classroom Management: 50 Best Practices That Work and Show You Believe in Your Students (296p) Author: Serena Pariser ISBN-13: 978-1544317755 ISBN-10: 1544317751;
 - d. Title: Classroom Management Success in 7 days or less: The Ultra-Effective Classroom Management System for Teachers (77p) Author: Rob Plevin ISBN-13: 978-1522001461 ISBN-10: 1522001468;
 - e. ERC20080 We Are All in This Together: Building Student Relationships (1 Credit Hour); and
 - f. 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

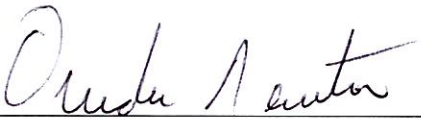
4. Educator to provide written reflections on each training indicating how educator will utilize and incorporate those trainings in her professional practices to be approved by the Ethics Subcommittee upon completion (due within 90 days of the State Board order); and
 5. Require Educator to pay all associated costs.
- g. On March 3, 2023, Educator Jones was notified of the Ethics Subcommittee's initial determination and recommendation by secure server. Educator Jones 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 Leisha Jones for her violation of the Code of Ethics.
- b. Educator Jones is cautioned that her non-payment of the assessed fine of \$150 will result in the continued suspension of her license until the fine is paid in full.

- c. Educator Jones 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 Jones' 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