

THE ARKANSAS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

IN RE THE MATTER OF:

ERIC ARRINGTON

MAY 12, 2022

PLSB CASE NO. 22-085

FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW, AND ORDER

At its regular meeting on May 12, 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 Eric Arrington (Educator Arrington). Based upon Educator Arrington'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 Arrington a standard five-year teaching license on January 1, 2019, valid until December 31, 2023.
- b. The Ethics Subcommittee received an allegation that Educator Arrington 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 January 14, 2022, the Ethics Subcommittee authorized an investigation into allegations that Educator Arrington 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; and Standard 8: an educator, while on school premises or

at school-sponsored activities involving students, refrains from: a) using, possessing and/or being under the influence of alcohol or unauthorized drugs/substances, and/or possessing items prohibited by law, b) possessing or using tobacco or tobacco-related products, e-cigarettes, e-liquid, or vapor products, or c) abusing/misusing prescription medications or other authorized substances as evidenced by impairment.

d. Educator Arrington was notified on January 14, 2022, of the Ethics Subcommittee's authorization to investigate this allegation.

e. After considering the investigator's report and evidence on April 1, 2022, the Ethics Subcommittee unanimously found that a preponderance of evidence existed to substantiate violation of Standard 2 and 8 in that Educator Arrington:

- Exhibited inappropriate disposition inclusive of professional and ethical behavior.
- Violated district, state or federal policies or law.
- Was under the influence of drugs or alcohol on school premises.

f. The Ethics Subcommittee recommended that the State Board take the following actions:

1. Probation of License for 1.5 years by State Board of Education.
2. Assess a \$250.00 fine (due within 90 days of the State Board Order)
3. Require Educator to complete the following coursework/readings:

- a. Code of Ethics in person training provided by PLSB. Educator to provide written reflections to the PLSB for approval on how his actions violated the Code of Ethics and how he will utilize this training in future interactions.
- b. Clean: Overcoming Addiction and Ending America's Greatest Tragedy (400p) Author: David Sheff ISBN 10: 0544112326 ISBN 13: 978-0544112322. Educator to provide written reflection on how this training will impact his interactions and practices in the future.

- c. The Addictive Personality: Understanding the Addictive Process and Compulsive Behavior (144p) Author: Craig Nakken ISBN 10: 1568381298 ISBN 13: 978-1568381299. Educator to provide written reflection on how this training will impact his interactions and practices in the future.
 - d. Quarterly reporting to the PLSB from a licensed treatment provider on educator's fitness to be employed in an educational setting
- 4. Written reflections on each training individually by the educator to show how he will utilize those trainings in his student interactions in the future due to the PLSB for approval within 90 days of the State Board Order.
- 5. Require Educator to pay all associated costs.
- g. On April 1, 2022, Educator Arrington, was notified of the Ethics Subcommittee's initial determination and recommendation by certified and regular mail. Educator Arrington failed to respond to the Ethics Subcommittee's recommendation thereby waiving his right to any further notice, hearing, or any other rights he 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 Eric Arrington for his violation of the Code of Ethics.

- b. Educator Arrington is cautioned that his non-payment of the assessed fine of \$250 will result in the continued suspension of her license until the fine is paid in full.
- c. Educator Arrington 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 his license.
- d. This order shall remain permanently in Educator Arrington's 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