

THE ARKANSAS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

**IN RE THE MATTER OF:
KATRINA ALUMBAUGH
NOVEMBER 12, 2020**

PLSB CASE NO. 20-002

FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW, AND ORDER

At its regular meeting on November 12, 2020, the Arkansas State Board of Education reviewed the findings of the Professional Licensure Standards Board Ethics Hearing Subcommittee (Hearing Subcommittee) for disciplinary action against the teaching license of Katrina Alumbaugh (Educator Alumbaugh). Based upon the briefs of the parties and the evidence presented to the Board, in accordance with the Administrative Procedures Act, Ark. Code Ann. 25-15-101 et seq., the Board hereby states as follows:

Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law

- a. On September 16, 2020, Educator Alumbaugh and her attorney appeared for her evidentiary hearing before the Hearing Subcommittee.
- b. After a review of the evidence, the Hearing Subcommittee found, based on a preponderance of the evidence, that Educator Alumbaugh violated Standards, 1 and 2 of the Code of Ethics for Arkansas Educators, and recommended her license be permanently revoked, and pay a fine of \$500.
- c. Educator Alumbaugh rejected the recommendation and asked the Board to review the case.
- d. On November 12, Educator Alumbaugh and her attorney appeared before the Board.
- e. 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 made the following findings, conclusions and determinations by a preponderance of the evidence.


f. The Board found that Educator Alumbaugh:

The Educator acknowledged receiving and sending inappropriate sexual pictures from a student and to a student. The Educator acknowledged that she was flirting with the student during their text message exchange. The Educator gave the student rides around the city and to restaurants (Subway). The Educator paid for haircuts, shoes, a hoodie, and other items for multiple students (2). The Educator violated school policy 3.45.1 when she inappropriately communicated with a student via text message. The educator acknowledged that she violated the Code of Ethics for Arkansas Educators when she did not maintain a professional relationship with students. The Educator acknowledged receiving a photograph of a student's penis and sending a photograph to the student of her breasts. The Educator only acknowledged this after being confronted by her administration. The students that the Educator communicated with were not her students, but came to her classroom. The Educator picked the student up in her car in an area that she had knowledge that there were no cameras. The Educator spend exorbitant amounts of money on two students. (\$600-\$800 total) The Educator acknowledged that she communicated with male and female students via Facebook Messenger, SnapChat, and text messages. The Educator was previously told to be careful with her communication with male students by administration. The Educator continued to text message a student after the meeting with administration. The Educator stated to the PLSB investigator, "They told me to

be careful. He did not ever tell me that I could not.” The Educator should have known that her actions violated school policy 3.45.1 Certified Personnel Social Networking and Ethics. The Educator has nine years of educational experience.

- g. Educator Alumbaugh violated Standards 1 and 2.
- h. The Board imposed the following sanction:
 - Permanent Revocation of license
 - Assess a \$500 fine (due within 90 days of State Board Order);
 - Require Educator to pay all associated costs.
- i. This order shall remain permanently in Educator Alumbaugh’s professional licensure file and the confidential files of the Professional Licensure Standards Board.

IT IS SO ORDERED.


Charisse Dean, Chair
Arkansas State Board of Education