

THE ARKANSAS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

IN RE THE MATTER OF:  
TEFILO SHARP  
NOVEMBER 2, 2020

PLSB CASE NO. 20-042

FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW, AND ORDER

At its regular meeting on November 2, 2020, 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 future ability to teach for Tefilo Sharp (Educator Sharp). Based upon Educator Sharp's acceptance of 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 Sharp an ACT 1240 waiver.
- b. The Ethics Subcommittee received an allegation that Educator Sharp 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 October 4, 2019, the Ethics Subcommittee authorized an investigation into allegations that Educator Sharp violated Standards 1, 2, and 4; *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; Standard 4: an educator entrusted with public funds and property, including school sponsored activity funds, honors that trust with honest, responsible stewardship.*


- d. Educator Sharp was notified on October 7, 2019, of the Ethics Subcommittee's authorization to investigate this allegation.
- e. After considering the investigator's report and evidence on May 1, 2020, the Ethics Subcommittee unanimously found that a preponderance of evidence existed to substantiate violation of Standard 1 and 2 in that Educator Sharp:
  - Engaged in inappropriate communications with a student in person or via electronic communication (Sexual)
  - Exhibited an inappropriate disposition inclusive of professional and ethical behavior.
  - Failed to follow school district policies.
- f. The Ethics Subcommittee recommended that the State Board take the following actions:
  1. Level 4 Public Notification of Ethics Violation or Non-Issuance by State Board of Education;
  2. Assess a fine of \$500;
  3. (due within 90 days of the State Board Order); and
  4. Require Educator to pay all associated costs.
- g. On May 4, 2020, Educator Sharp, was notified of the Ethics Subcommittee's initial determination and recommendation by certified and regular mail. Educator Sharp accepted 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 Sharp for his violation of the Code of Ethics.
- b. This order shall remain permanently in Educator Sharp professional licensure file and the confidential files of the Professional Licensure Standards Board.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

  
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Charisse Dean, Chair  
Arkansas State Board of Education