

THE ARKANSAS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

**IN RE THE MATTER OF:
SARAH HUDSON
AUGUST 12, 2021**

PLSB CASE NO. 21-088

FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW, AND ORDER

At its regular meeting on August 12, 2021, 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 Sarah Hudson (Educator Hudson). Based upon Educator Hudson'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 Hudson a standard five-year teaching license on January 1, 2017, valid until December 31, 2021.
- b. The Ethics Subcommittee received an allegation that Educator Hudson 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 April 2, 2021, the Ethics Subcommittee authorized an investigation into allegations that Educator Hudson 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.

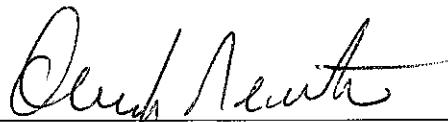
- d. Educator Hudson was notified on April 5, 2021, of the Ethics Subcommittee's authorization to investigate this allegation.
- e. After considering the investigator's report and evidence on June 2, 2021, the Ethics Subcommittee unanimously found that a preponderance of evidence existed to substantiate violation of Standards 1 and 2 in that Educator Hudson:
 - Engaged in inappropriate interactions with student(s)
 - Engaged in inappropriate contact with a student(s)
 - Exhibited an inappropriate disposition inclusive of professional and ethical behavior
 - Failed to follow district/state/federal laws or policies
- 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. ERC20059: Professional Licensure Standards Board Code of Ethics for Arkansas Educators: Ethical Scenarios in Education (2020) Credit Hours: 1
 - b. Children's Challenging Behaviors 10 Hours (Online)
<https://www.carecourses.com/Ecommerce/CourseDetail.aspx?ItemID-326>
 4. Educator to provide written reflections on each training detailing how the training will impact her interactions with students in the future.
- g. On July 8, 2021, the State Board of Education removed the final order from the consent agenda for State Board review.

- h. At today's meeting, the State Board of Education accepted the Ethics Subcommittee recommendation and supporting documentation presented as part of its action 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 Hudson for her violation of the Code of Ethics.
- b. Educator Hudson is cautioned that her non-payment of the assessed fine of \$100 may result in the suspension of her license until the fine is paid in full.
- c. Educator Hudson 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 Hudson 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