

THE ARKANSAS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

IN RE THE MATTER OF:

SARAH ISOM

DECEMBER 9, 2021

PLSB CASE NO. 22-025

FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW, AND ORDER

At its regular meeting on December 9, 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 Educator Sarah Isom. Based upon Educator Isom'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 Sarah Isom was a long-term substitute through SubTeach, where they did obtain a waiver for Educator Isom.
- b. The Ethics Subcommittee received an allegation that Educator Isom 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 August 2, 2021 the Ethics Subcommittee authorized an investigation into allegations that Educator Isom 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 her professional practice, inclusive of professional and ethical behavior, skills, knowledge, dispositions, and responsibilities relating to her organizational position.*

- d. Educator Isom was notified on August 2, 2021, of the Ethics Subcommittee's authorization to investigate this allegation.
- e. After considering the investigator's report and evidence on November 5, 2021, the Ethics Subcommittee unanimously found that a preponderance of evidence existed to substantiate violation of Standard 1 and Standard 2. in that Educator Isom:
- 1 (A) Engaged in inappropriate electronic communication with a student.
 - 1 (B) Engaged in inappropriate contact with a student – sexual.
 - 2 (A) Exhibited inappropriate disposition inclusive of professional and ethical behavior.
 - 2 (B) Violated district, state or federal policies or law.
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- f. The Ethics Subcommittee recommended that the State Board take the following actions:
1. Level 4 Public Notification of Ethics Violation by State board of Education, Fine of \$500.00.
- g. On November 5, 2021, Sarah Isom, was notified of the Ethics Subcommittee's initial determination and recommendation by certified and regular mail. Sarah Isom accepted 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.

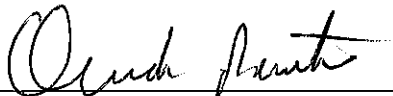
II. Conclusions of Law

- 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 Sarah Isom for her violation of the Code of Ethics.

- b. This order shall remain permanently in Sarah Isom 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