

**THE ARKANSAS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**IN RE THE MATTER OF:  
MATTHEW WILLIAMS  
DECEMBER 9, 2021**

**PLSB CASE NO. 22-028**

**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 Matthew Williams. Based upon Matthew Williams'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 Matthew Williams a standard five-year teaching license on January 1, 2018, valid until December 31, 2021.
- b. The Ethics Subcommittee received an allegation that Educator Williams 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 September 3, 2021, the Ethics Subcommittee authorized an investigation into allegations that Educator Williams 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 professional practice, inclusive of professional and ethical behavior, skills, knowledge, dispositions, and responsibilities relating to his organizational position.*

- d. Educator Williams was notified on September 3, 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 Standards 1 and 2 in that Educator Matthew Williams:
- 1(A) Engaged in inappropriate interactions with a student(s).
  - 2(A) Exhibited inappropriate disposition inclusive of professional and ethical behavior
  - 2(B) Violated district, state or federal policies or law.
- f. The Ethics Subcommittee recommended that the State Board take the following actions:
1. Probation of License for 1 year by State Board of Education, Fine of \$200.
  2. ERC20059: Professional Licensure Standards Board Code of Ethics for Arkansas Educators: Ethical Scenarios in Education (2020) Credit Hours: 1
  3. Written reflection on how the educator's actions violated the Code of Ethics and impacted student behavior.
  4. Review AAA policies and procedures and provide written reflection as to how the educator will insure compliance with those regulations in the future to minimize negative student impact. To be completed by: (All costs paid by Educator).
- g. On November 5, 2021, Educator Matthew Williams, was notified of the Ethics Subcommittee's initial determination and recommendation by certified and regular mail. Educator Matthew Williams accepted the Ethics Subcommittee's recommendation thereby waiving his right to any further notice, hearing, or any other

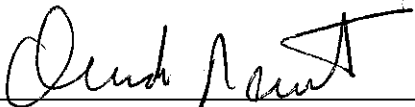
rights he may have under the Administrative Procedure Act, including those rights set forth in Ark. Code Ann. §§ 25-15-211 and 25-15-212.

- 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 Matthew Williams for his violation of the Code of Ethics.
- b. Educator Williams is cautioned that his non-payment of the assessed fine of \$200 may result in the suspension of his license until the fine is paid in full.
- c. Educator Williams 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 Matthew Williams' professional licensure file and the confidential files of the Professional Licensure Standards Board.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

  
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Ouida Newton, Chair  
Arkansas State Board of Education