

THE ARKANSAS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

IN RE THE MATTER OF:

CHANECE ROSS

MARCH 10, 2022

PLSB CASE NO. 22-067

FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW, AND ORDER

At its regular meeting on March 10, 2022, 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 Chanece Ross (Educator Ross). Based upon Educator Ross'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 Ross a standard five-year teaching license on July 1, 2019, valid until December 31, 2023.
- b. The Ethics Subcommittee received an allegation that Educator Ross 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 December 10, 2021, the Ethics Subcommittee authorized an investigation into allegations that Educator Ross 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 Ross was notified on December 10, 2021, of the Ethics Subcommittee's authorization to investigate this allegation.
- e. After considering the investigator's report and evidence on February 11, 2022, the Ethics Subcommittee unanimously found that a preponderance of evidence existed to substantiate violation of Standard 1 and 2 in that Educator Ross:
 - Engaged in inappropriate communication with students – verbal.
 - Engaged in inappropriate physical contact with a student.
 - Exhibited inappropriate disposition inclusive of professional and ethical behavior.
 - Violated district, state or federal policies or law.
- f. The Ethics Subcommittee recommended that the State Board take the following actions:
 - a. Probation of license for 2 years.
 - b. Assess a \$250 fine (due within 90 days of the State Board Order).
 - c. Require Educator to complete the following coursework/readings:
 1. Code of Ethics training as provided by the PLSB staff.
 2. Title: What Great Teachers Do Differently: 17 Things that Matter Most 2nd Edition Author: Todd Whitaker ISBN 10: 9781596671997 ISBN 13: 978-1596671997.
 3. Title: Positive Discipline: The Classic Guide to Helping Children Develop Self-Discipline, Responsibility, Cooperation, and Problem-Solving Skills (384p) Author: Jane Nelsen Ed. D. ISBN 10: 0345487672 ISBN 13: 978-0345487674.
 4. Capturing Minds by Capturing Hearts: 40 Ways in 40 Days to be a Better Teacher (174p) Author: Kay J. Mahne ISBN 10: 1483667251 ISBN 13: 978-1483667256.

- d. Require Educator to prepare written reflection on each individual training to show how she will utilize the trainings in her professional practices and interactions with students. (due within 90 days of the State Board Order); and
- e. Educator to provide quarterly reporting stating how she has incorporated the trainings into her practices as well as what supports she is seeking out to prevent such behavior in the future.
- f. Require Educator to pay all associated costs.
- g. On February 11, 2022, Educator Ross, was notified of the Ethics Subcommittee's initial determination and recommendation by secure server. Educator Ross 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 Ross for her violation of the Code of Ethics.

- b. Educator Ross is cautioned that her non-payment of the assessed fine of \$250 may result in the suspension of her license until the fine is paid in full.
- c. Educator Ross 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 Ross's 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