

THE ARKANSAS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

**IN RE THE MATTER OF:
GRANT MYRICK
MARCH 10, 2022**

PLSB CASE NO. 22-079

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 Grant Myrick (Educator Myrick). Based upon Educator Myrick'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 Myrick a standard five-year teaching license on January 1, 2021, valid until December 31, 2025.
- b. The Ethics Subcommittee received an allegation that Educator Myrick 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 Myrick violated *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 8: an educator, while on school premises or at*

school-sponsored activities involving students, refrains from: a) using, possessing and/or being under the influence of alcohol or unauthorized drugs/substances, and/or possessing items prohibited by law, b) possessing or using tobacco or tobacco-related products, e-cigarettes, e-liquid, or vapor products, or c) abusing/misusing prescription medications or other authorized substances as evidenced by impairment.

- d. Educator Myrick was notified on December 13, 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 2 and 8 in that Educator Henderson:
- Exhibited inappropriate disposition inclusive of professional and ethical behavior.
 - Violated district, state or federal policies or law.
 - Was under the influence of drugs or alcohol on school premises or at a school sponsored activity.
- f. The Ethics Subcommittee recommended that the State Board take the following actions:
- a. Suspension of License for 3 months followed by Probation of License for 2 years.
 - b. Assess a \$300 fine (due within 90 days of the State Board Order).
 - c. Require Educator to complete the following coursework/readings:
 1. ERC20059: Professional Licensure Standards Board Code of Ethics for Arkansas Educators: Ethical Scenarios in Education (2020)
 2. Title: Healing the Addicted Brain: The Revolutionary, Science-Based Alcohol and Addiction Recovery Program (288p) Author: Harold C. Urschel III, MD ISBN 10: 1402218443 ISBN 13: 978-1402218446.
 - d. Require Educator to prepare written reflection on each individual training to show how he will utilize the trainings in his professional practices and interactions with students. (due within 90 days of the State Board Order); and
 - e. Quarterly reflections and updates on how the educator is progressing in his treatment.

- f. Letter from a licensed mental health professional stating the educator is fit to be back in the classroom prior to returning to a school district.
 - g. Require Educator to pay all associated costs.
- g. On February 11, 2022, Educator Myrick, was notified of the Ethics Subcommittee's initial determination and recommendation by secure server. Educator Myrick 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 Myrick for his violation of the Code of Ethics.
- b. Educator Myrick is cautioned that his non-payment of the assessed fine of \$300 may result in the suspension of his license until the fine is paid in full.
- c. Educator Myrick 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 Myrick's professional licensure file and the confidential files of the Professional Licensure Standards Board.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Ouida Newton", written over a horizontal line.

Ouida Newton, Chair
Arkansas State Board of Education