

## THE ARKANSAS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

IN RE THE MATTER OF:  
TYLER WELCH  
NOVEMBER 10, 2022

PLSB CASE NO. 22-087

### FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW, AND ORDER

At its regular meeting on November 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 Tyler Welch (Educator Welch). Based upon Educator Welch'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 Welch a standard five-year teaching license on January 1, 2019, valid until December 31, 2023.
- b. The Ethics Subcommittee received an allegation that Educator Welch 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 January 14, 2022, the Ethics Subcommittee authorized an investigation into allegations that Educator Welch 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 Welch was notified on January 14, 2022, of the Ethics Subcommittee's authorization to investigate this allegation.
- e. After considering the investigator's report and evidence on September 1, 2022, the Ethics Subcommittee unanimously found that a preponderance of evidence existed to substantiate violation of Standards 1 and 2 of the Code of Ethics. Educator Welch rejected the Ethics Subcommittee's recommendation and requested an evidentiary hearing.
- f. On October 12, 2022, Educator Welch and his attorney appeared for his evidentiary hearing before the Hearing Subcommittee. After consideration of the testimony, evidence, and arguments presented at the evidentiary hearing, the Hearing Subcommittee found that a preponderance of evidence existed to substantiate violation of Standards 1 and 2 in that Educator Welch:
  - Engaged in inappropriate communications with a student.
  - Engaged in inappropriate interactions with a student.
  - Exhibited inappropriate disposition inclusive of professional and ethical behavior.
  - Violated district, state or federal policies or law.
- g. The Hearing Subcommittee recommended that the State Board take the following actions:
  1. Permanent Revocation of License.
- h. On October 13, 2022, Educator Welch's attorney, was notified of the Hearing Subcommittee's final determination and recommendation by secure server. Educator Welch accepted the Hearing 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.

- i. 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 Welch for his violation of the Code of Ethics.
- b. This order shall remain permanently in Educator Welch'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