

THE ARKANSAS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

IN RE THE MATTER OF:
BECKY J MEHLBURGER
(A.K.A. BECKY RAMSEY)
JUNE 8, 2023

PLSB CASE NO. 23-078

FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW, AND ORDER

At its regular meeting on June 8, 2023, 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 Becky J. Mehlburger (A.K.A. Becky Ramsey)(“Educator Mehlburger”). Based upon Educator Mehlburger’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 Mehlburgher a standard five-year teaching license on January 1, 2021 valid until December 31, 2025.
- b. The Ethics Subcommittee received an allegation that Educator Mehlburger 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 6, 2023, the Ethics Subcommittee authorized an investigation into allegations that Educator Mehlburger 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 7: an educator maintains the confidentiality of information about students and colleagues obtained in the course of the educator's professional services that is protected under state law or regulations, federal law or regulations or the written policies of the educator's school district, unless disclosure serves a professional purpose as allowed or required by law or regulations.

- d. Educator Mehlburger was notified on January 24, 2023 of the Ethics Subcommittee's authorization to investigate this allegation.
- e. After considering the investigator's report and evidence on May 5, 2023, the Ethics Subcommittee unanimously found that a preponderance of evidence existed to substantiate violation of Standard 2 in that Educator Mehlburger:
 - Exhibited inappropriate disposition inclusive of professional and ethical behavior.
- f. The Ethics Subcommittee recommended that the State Board take the following actions:
 1. Written reprimand;
 2. Assess a \$100 fine (due within 90 days of the State Board Order);
 3. Require Educator to complete the following coursework/readings:
 - a. Title: The Power Paradox: How We Gain and Lose Influence (208p)
Author: Dacher Keltner ISBN 10: 0143110292 ISBN 13: 978-0143110293
 - b. Title: The 85% Solution: How Personal Accountability Guarantees Success - No Nonsense, No Excuses (256p) Author: Linda Galindo
ISBN 10: ISBN 13: 9780470500163

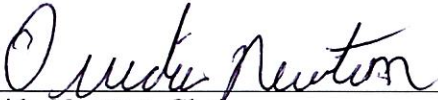
4. Educator to provide written reflection on each book regarding how this will impact her future interactions with staff and her future leadership decisions (due within 90 days of the state board order); and
 5. Require Educator to pay all associated costs.
- g. On May 5, 2023, Educator Mehlburger, was notified of the Ethics Subcommittee's initial determination and recommendation by secure server. Educator Mehlburger 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 Mehlburger for her violation of the Code of Ethics.
- b. Educator Mehlburger is cautioned that her non-payment of the assessed fine of \$100 may result in the suspension of her license until the fine is paid in full.

- c. Educator Mehlburger 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 Mehlburger'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