

THE ARKANSAS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

IN RE THE MATTER OF:
ALISHA RENE GUYTON
NOVEMBER 9, 2023

PLSB CASE NO. 23-119

FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW, AND ORDER

At its regular meeting on November 9, 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 Alisha Rene Guyton (“Educator Guyton”). Based upon Educator Guyton’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 Guyton a standard five-year teaching license on January 1, 2019, valid until December 31, 2023.
- b. The Ethics Subcommittee received an allegation that Educator Guyton 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 May 5, 2023, the Ethics Subcommittee authorized an investigation into allegations that Educator Guyton 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; and 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 Guyton was notified on May 8, 2023, of the Ethics Subcommittee's authorization to investigate this allegation.
- e. After considering the investigator's report and evidence on October 6, 2023, the Ethics Subcommittee unanimously found that a preponderance of evidence existed to substantiate violation of Standards 1, 2, and 8 in that Educator Guyton:
 - Inappropriate interactions with student(s).
 - Exhibited inappropriate disposition inclusive of professional and ethical behavior.
 - Violated district, state or federal policies or law.
 - Under the influence of alcohol on school campus.
- f. The Ethics Subcommittee recommended that the State Board take the following actions:
 1. Suspension of License for 1 year followed by a Probation of License for 2 years.
 2. Assess a \$400 fine (due within 90 days of the State Board Order);
 3. Require Educator to complete the following coursework/readings:
 - a. Code of Ethics Training Provided by the PLSB (1.5 Hours)

4. Educator to provide written reflection on each training/reading on how it will impact her professional practices. (due within 90 days of the state board order);
 5. Educator shall provide proof of continued attendance at an alcohol addiction management, recovery, and support program quarterly to the Ethics Subcommittee during suspension and probation.
 6. 30 days prior to the end of suspension, the educator shall provide a letter from a licensed medical professional stating the educator is ready to return to the classroom; and
 7. Require Educator to pay all associated costs.
- g. On October 7, 2023, Educator Guyton, was notified of the Ethics Subcommittee's initial determination and recommendation by secure server. Educator Guyton 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 Alisha Rene Guyton for her violation of the Code of Ethics.

- b. Educator Guyton is cautioned that her non-payment of the assessed fine of \$400 may result in the suspension of her license until the fine is paid in full.
- c. Educator Guyton 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 Guyton's professional licensure file and the confidential files of the Professional Licensure Standards Board.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sarah Moore". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Dr. Sarah Moore, Chair
Arkansas State Board of Education