

## THE ARKANSAS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

IN RE THE MATTER OF:

LYDIA BROOKS

APRIL 11, 2024

PLSB CASE NO. 24-092

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

At its regular meeting on April 11, 2024, 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 Lydia Brooks (“Educator Brooks”). Based upon Educator Brooks’ failure to respond to 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:

#### 1) Findings of Fact

- a) The Arkansas Department of Education issued Educator Brooks a standard five-year teaching license on April 22, 2021, valid until December 31, 2025.
- b) The Ethics Subcommittee received an allegation that Educator Brooks 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 November 13, 2023, the Ethics Subcommittee authorized an investigation into allegations that Educator Brooks 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; and Standard 3: an educator honestly fulfills reporting obligations associated with professional practices.*

- d) Educator Brooks was notified on November 15, 2023, of the Ethics Subcommittee's authorization to investigate this allegation.
- e) After considering the investigator's report and evidence on March 1, 2024, the Ethics Subcommittee unanimously found that a preponderance of evidence existed to substantiate violation of Standards 2 and 3 in that Educator Brooks:
- Exhibited inappropriate disposition inclusive of professional and ethical behavior.
  - Violated district, state or federal policies or law.
  - Provided false information.
  - Forged signature(s).
- f) The Ethics Subcommittee recommended that the State Board take the following actions:
- (1) Permanent Revocation of License;
  - (2) Assess a \$500 fine (due within 90 days of the State Board Order).
- g) On March 4, 2024, Educator Brooks, was notified of the Ethics Subcommittee's initial determination and recommendation by secure email. Educator Brooks failed to respond to 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.

## **2) 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 Lydia Brooks for her violation of the Code of Ethics.

- b) This order shall remain permanently in Educator Brooks' professional licensure file and the confidential files of the Professional Licensure Standards Board.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

  
for \_\_\_\_\_  
Dr. Sarah Moore, Chair  
Arkansas State Board of Education