

**BEFORE THE ARKANSAS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
MAY 14, 2015**

**FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW AND ORDER
IN RE WILLIAM ELVIS CROTTTS, JR., PLSB CASE NO. 14-165**

At its regular meeting on May 14, 2015, the Arkansas State Board of Education (Board) accepted the Professional Licensure Standards Board Ethics Subcommittee's ("Ethics Subcommittee") recommendation for disciplinary action against the teaching license of William Elvis Crotts, Jr. ("Educator Crotts"). Based upon Educator Crotts' consent to the Ethics Subcommittee's recommendation and the evidence presented, in accordance with the Administrative Procedures 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 Crotts a standard five-year teaching license on January 1, 2014, valid until December 31, 2018.
- b. The Professional Licensure Standards Board Ethics Subcommittee received an allegation that Educator Crotts violated the Arkansas Department of Education Rules Governing the Code of Ethics for Arkansas Educators ("Code of Ethics") promulgated pursuant to Ark. Code Ann. § § 6-17-422 and 6-17-428.
- c. On May 2, 2014, the Ethics Subcommittee authorized an investigation into allegations that Educator Crotts violated Standards 1 and 2 of the Code of Ethics: 1) An educator maintains a professional relationship with each student, both in and outside the classroom. 2) An educator maintains competence regarding skills, knowledge, and dispositions relating to his/her organizational position, subject matter, and/or pedagogical practice.

- d. On May 8, 2014, Educator Crotts was notified of the Ethics Subcommittee's authorization to investigate the allegations.
- e. On November 5, 2014, after considering the investigator's report and evidence, the Ethics Subcommittee unanimously found that Educator Crotts violated Standards 1 and 2 of the Code of Ethics when he:
 - 1. Failed to take adequate steps to protect a special needs student under his supervision from injury, resulting in an injury to the student; and
 - 2. As an educator and assigned bus driver, instead of ensuring that a wheelchair bound student was properly secured for travel on a school bus, relied on her ten (10) and thirteen (13) year old siblings to perform the task, which resulted in the wheelchair falling over and injuring the student.

The Ethics Subcommittee recommended that the Board place Educator Crotts' license on suspension for one (1) year and assess a fine of \$100.

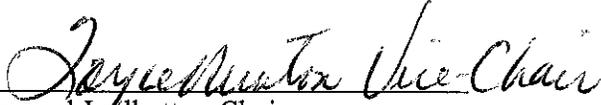
- f. On November 6, 2014 , Educator Crotts, through his attorney, was notified of the Ethics Subcommittee's reasonable belief determination and recommendation by certified and regular mail.
- g. On November 18, 2014, Educator Crotts, through his attorney, rejected the Ethics Subcommittee's recommendation and requested an evidentiary hearing under the Administrative Procedure Act including those rights set forth in Ark. Code Ann. §§ 25-15-211 and 25-15-212.

- h. On March 24, 2015, the Ethics Subcommittee amended its initial decision and recommended that the Board place Educator Crotts' license on probation for one (1) year and assess a fine of \$75.
- i. On March 24, 2015, Educator Crotts accepted the Ethics Subcommittee's recommendation, thereby waiving his right to any further notice, or hearing, or any other rights he might have under the Administrative Procedure Act including those rights set forth in Ark. Code Ann. §§ 25-15-211 and 25-15-212.
- j. 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 and pursuant to Ark. Code Ann. §§ 6-11-105, 6-17-401, 6-17-422, 6-17-428 and 25-15-201 et seq., and the Code of Ethics, the Board adopts the Ethics Subcommittee's recommendations.
- a. Accordingly, the Board orders that Educator Crotts' license be placed on probation for one (1) year and assesses a fine of \$75.
- b. Educator Crotts is cautioned that further violations of the Code of Ethics or failure to pay the fine within thirty (30) days from the date of this order may result in more severe discipline including permanent revocation of his license.
- c. This order shall remain permanently in Educator Crotts' professional licensure file and the confidential files of the Professional Licensure Standards Board.

IT IS SO ORDERED.


Samuel Ledbetter, Chair
Arkansas State Board of Education