

**BEFORE THE ARKANSAS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
DECEMBER 11, 2014**

**FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW AND ORDER
IN RE DEE F. GODWIN, PLSB CASE NO. 14-053**

At its regular meeting on December 11 2014, the Arkansas State Board of Education (Board) accepted the recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board Ethics Subcommittee for disciplinary action against the teaching license of Dee F. Godwin. Based upon Ms. Godwin's failure to respond to the 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 Dee F. Godwin a standard five-year teaching license on January 1, 2011, valid until December 31, 2015.
- b. The Professional Licensure Standards Board Ethics Subcommittee received an allegation that Ms. Godwin 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. The subcommittee authorized an investigation into allegations that Ms. Godwin violated Standard 1: An educator maintains a professional relationship with each student, both in and outside the classroom.
- d. Ms. Godwin was notified on November 14, 2013, of the subcommittee's authorization on November 8, 2013, to investigate this allegation.

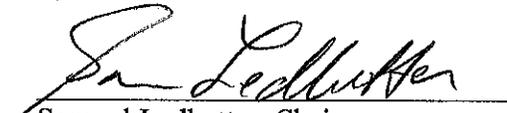
- e. After considering the investigator's report and evidence on October 3, 2014, the subcommittee unanimously found that reasonable belief existed to substantiate a violation of Standard 1 in that Dee F. Godwin:
 - A. had a minor female student, believed to possibly be one of her homebound students, with her at a local Walmart close to midnight;
 - B. after an incident at the store with another educator, followed the other educator to a residence and then to a car wash with the student and others in her vehicle; and
 - C. while at the car wash an argument ensued, during which the juvenile female student got out of the vehicle and struck the other educator.
- f. The subcommittee recommended that the State Board place Ms. Godwin's license on probation for two (2) years and assess a fine of \$75.
- g. Ms. Godwin was notified of the subcommittee's reasonable belief determination and recommendation on October 6, 2014, by certified and regular mail. Ms. Godwin did not respond to the recommendation and she did not request a hearing thereby waiving her right to any further notice or hearing or any other rights she might 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 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 Arkansas Department of Education Rules Governing the Code of Ethics for Arkansas Educators, the Board adopts the recommendations of the subcommittee.

- b. Accordingly, the Board orders that Dee F. Godwin's license be placed on probation for two (2) years and assesses a fine of \$75.
- c. Ms. Godwin 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 her license.
- d. This order shall remain permanently in Ms. Godwin's 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