

BEFORE THE ARKANSAS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
February 12, 2015

FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW AND ORDER
IN RE STEPHEN TAYLOR PRICE, PLSB CASE NO. 14-195

At its regular meeting on February 12, 2015, 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 Stephen Taylor Price. Based upon Mr. Price'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 Stephen Taylor Price a three-year initial teaching license on January 1, 2012, valid until January 30, 2015.
- b. The Professional Licensure Standards Board Ethics Subcommittee received an allegation that Mr. Price 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 Mr. Price violated Standard 1: An educator maintains a professional relationship with each student, both in and outside the classroom.
- d. Mr. Price was notified on July 11, 2014, of the subcommittee's authorization on July 7, 2014, to investigate this allegation.

- e. After considering the investigator's report and evidence on December 5, 2014, the subcommittee unanimously found that reasonable belief existed to substantiate a violation of Standard 1 in that Stephen Taylor Price:

Refused to let students out of class for legitimate reasons causing one student to wet his pants when he needed to go to the restroom.

The subcommittee recommended that the State Board issue a written reprimand to Mr. Price and assess a fine of \$50.

- f. Mr. Price was notified of the subcommittee's reasonable belief determination and recommendation on December 8, 2014, by certified and regular mail.
- g. Mr. Price did not respond to the recommendation and he did not request a hearing 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.
- 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 admonishes Stephen Taylor Price for his violation of the Code of Ethics, issues a written reprimand, and assesses a fine of \$50.

- c. Mr. Price 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.
- d. This order shall remain permanently in Mr. Price'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