

BEFORE THE ARKANSAS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
February 12, 2015

FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW AND ORDER
IN RE SANDRA SUE HENDERSON, PLSB CASE NO. T15-001

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 Sandra Sue Henderson. Based upon Ms. Henderson's consent 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 Sandra Sue Henderson a standard five-year teaching license on January 1, 2012, valid until December 31, 2016.
- b. The Professional Licensure Standards Board Ethics Subcommittee received an allegation that Ms. Henderson 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. Henderson violated Standard 6: An educator keeps in confidence information about students and colleagues obtained in the course of professional service, including secure standardized test materials and results, unless disclosure serves a professional purpose or is allowed by law.
- d. Ms. Henderson was notified on August 6, 2014, of the subcommittee's authorization on August 1, 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 6 in that Ms. Henderson:

Questioned a student about his test answers.

The subcommittee recommended that the State Board issue a written reprimand to Ms. Henderson, assess a fine of \$50, and that she complete additional training in test administration from the Department of Education Assessment Office, and submit a written reflection on the impact of the training on the educator's practice. This requirement must be completed before the educator may administer any state testing.

- f. Ms. Henderson was notified of the subcommittee's reasonable belief determination and recommendation on December 8, 2014, by certified and regular mail.
- g. Ms. Henderson accepted the subcommittee's recommendation on December 17, 2014, 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 admonishes Sandra Sue Henderson for her violation of the Code of Ethics, issues a written reprimand, assesses a fine of \$50, and requires that she complete additional training in test administration from the Department of Education Assessment Office, and submit a written reflection on the impact of the training on the educator's practice. This requirement must be completed before the educator may administer any state testing.
- c. Ms. Henderson 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 Ms. Henderson'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