

BEFORE THE ARKANSAS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
January 8, 2015

FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW AND ORDER
IN RE JEFFREY CARTER JAMES, PLSB CASE NO. 14-183

At its regular meeting on January 8, 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 Jeffrey Carter James. Based upon Mr. James' 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 Jeffrey Carter James a standard five-year teaching license on January 1, January 1, 2013, valid until December 31, 2017.
- b. The Professional Licensure Standards Board Ethics Subcommittee received an allegation that Mr. James 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. James violated Standards 3 and 4:
 3. An educator honestly fulfills reporting obligations associated with professional practices.
 4. An educator entrusted with public funds and property, including school sponsored activity funds, honors that trust with honest, responsible stewardship.

- d. Mr. James was notified on July 16, 2014, of the subcommittee's authorization on June 6, 2014, to investigate this allegation.
- e. After considering the investigator's report and evidence on November 5, 2014, the subcommittee unanimously found that reasonable belief existed to substantiate a violation of Standards 3 and 4 in that Jeffrey Carter James:
 - 3. A. Reported to the school district that he had attended the "How to be a great Science Teacher: offered through Henderson state University when he did not attend; and
 - B. Falsely reported on the school absence log that he had attended professional development instead of reporting the absence as sick leave.
 - 4. A. Falsely took leave for professional development that he did not attend, which cost the school district \$400 plus the cost of a substitute.

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

- f. Mr. James was notified of the subcommittee's reasonable belief determination and recommendation on November 6, 2014, by certified and regular mail.
- g. Mr. James 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.

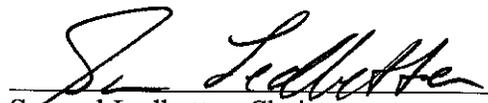
II. Conclusions of Law:

- 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 Jeffrey Carter James for his violation of the Code of Ethics, issues a written reprimand, and assesses a fine of \$50.
- c. Mr. James 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. James' 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