

**BEFORE THE ARKANSAS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
NOVEMBER 12, 2015**

**FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW, AND ORDER
IN RE JOY A. HOLT, PLSB CASE NO. 15-119**

At its regular meeting on November 12, 2015, the Arkansas State Board of Education (“Board”) accepted the recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board Ethics Subcommittee (“Ethics Subcommittee”) for disciplinary action against the teaching license of Joy A. Holt (“Educator Holt”). Based upon Educator Holt’s acceptance of 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 Holt a standard five-year license on January 1, 2014, valid until December 31, 2018.
- b. The Ethics Subcommittee received an allegation that Educator Holt 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 April 3, 2015, the Ethics Subcommittee authorized an investigation into allegations that Educator Holt violated Standards 2 and 3: 2. An educator maintains competence regarding his or her professional practice inclusive of skills, knowledge, dispositions, and responsibilities relating to his or her organizational position. 3. An educator honestly fulfills reporting obligations associated with professional practices.
- d. On April 13, 2015, Educator Holt was notified of the Ethics Subcommittee’s authorization to investigate the allegations.

e. On September 4, 2015, after considering the investigator's report and evidence, the Ethics Subcommittee unanimously found reasonable belief that Educator Holt violated Standard 3 when she:

- As a mandated reporter, failed to notify the DIHS Child Abuse/Maltreatment Hotline of a report of a student having been raped.

The Ethics Subcommittee recommended that the Board issue Educator Holt a written reprimand and assess a fine of \$50.

f. On September 15, 2015, Educator Holt, through her attorney, was notified of the Ethics Subcommittee's reasonable belief determination and recommendation by certified and regular mail.

g. On October 12, 2015, Educator Holt, through her attorney, accepted the Ethics Subcommittee's recommendation, thereby waiving her right to any further notice, 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 Ethics Subcommittee's recommendation and supporting documentation were presented to the Board as part of its consent agenda.

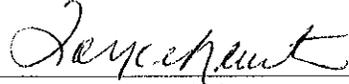
II. Conclusions of Law:

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 recommendation.

b. Accordingly, the Board admonishes Educator Holt for her violation of the Code of Ethics, issues a written reprimand, and assesses a fine of \$50.

- c. Educator Holt 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 for two (2) years in Educator Holt's professional licensure file, but shall remain permanently in the confidential files of the Professional Licensure Standards Board.

IT IS SO ORDERED.



Toyce Newton, Chair
Arkansas State Board of Education