

**BEFORE THE ARKANSAS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
APRIL 9, 2015**

**FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW AND ORDER
IN RE JASON ALEXANDER GEORGE, PLSB CASE NO. 14-021**

At its regular meeting on April 9, 2015, the Arkansas State Board of Education (State Board) accepted the recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board Ethics Subcommittee for disciplinary action against the teaching license of Jason Alexander George. Based upon Mr. George'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 State Board hereby states as follows:

I. Findings of Fact:

- a. The Arkansas Department of Education issued Jason Alexander George 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 Mr. George 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. George violated Standard 1: An educator maintains a professional relationship with each student, both in and outside the classroom.
- d. Mr. George was notified on October 16, 2013, of the subcommittee's authorization on October 11, 2013, to investigate this allegation.

- e. After considering the investigator's report and evidence on September 5, 2014, the subcommittee unanimously found that reasonable belief existed to substantiate a violation of Standard 1 in that Mr. George:
 - A. Contacted a female student on Facebook, notwithstanding that she was not a student in the school where he taught, that he did not know her personally, nor did he have a valid reason or contacting her; and
 - B. Sent message to the student that was suggestive or inappropriate in nature.

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

- f. Mr. George was notified of the subcommittee's reasonable belief determination and recommendation on September 16, 2014, by certified and regular mail. Mr. George rejected the subcommittee's recommendation through his attorney on September 7, 2014. An evidentiary hearing was scheduled for February 6, 2015. On January 28, 2015, Mr. George, through his attorney indicated that he was willing to enter into a stipulated agreement in lieu of the evidentiary hearing. The stipulated agreement, signed on February 13, 2015 states that reasonable belief existed to substantiate a violation of Standard 1 in that Mr. George:
 - A. Contacted a female student on Facebook, notwithstanding that she was not a student in the school where he taught, that he did not know her personally, nor did he have a valid reason or contacting her; and
 - B. Sent messages to the student that were inappropriate in nature.

- g. The Stipulated Agreement also maintains the subcommittee's recommendation that the State Board issue a written reprimand and assess a fine of \$50. Mr. George accepted the subcommittee's recommendation on February 13, 2015, 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.

- f. At today's meeting, the subcommittee's recommendation and supporting documentation were presented to the State 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 State Board adopts the recommendations of the subcommittee.
- b. Accordingly, the State Board admonishes Jason Alexander George for his violation of the Code of Ethics, issues a written reprimand and assesses a fine of \$50.
- c. Mr. George 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. George'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