

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

**FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW AND ORDER  
IN RE ANDREW TERRELL CURRY, PLSB CASE NO. 14-137**

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 Andrew Terrell Curry. Based upon Mr. Curry'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 Mr. Curry 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. Curry 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. Curry violated Standards 2 and 3: 2) An educator maintains competence regarding skills, knowledge, and dispositions relating to his/her organizational position, subject matter, and/or pedagogical practice; and 3) An educator honestly fulfills reporting obligations associated with professional practices.

- d. Mr. Curry was notified on April 9, 2014, of the subcommittee's authorization on April 7, 2014, to investigate this allegation.
- e. After considering the investigator's report and evidence on June 6, 2014, the subcommittee unanimously authorized an additional investigation that Mr. Curry violated Standards 1, 2, 4, and 5: 1) An educator maintains a professional relationship with each student, both in and outside the classroom; 2) An educator maintains competence regarding skills, knowledge, and dispositions relating to his/her organizational position, subject matter, and/or pedagogical practice; 4) An educator entrusted with public funds and property, including school sponsored activity funds, honors that trust with honest, responsible stewardship; and 5) An educator maintains integrity regarding the acceptance of any gratuity, gift, compensation or favor that might impair or appear to influence professional decisions or actions and shall refrain from using the educator's position for personal gain.
- f. Mr. Curry was notified on June 11, 2015, of the subcommittee's authorization on June 6, 2014, to investigate the additional allegations.
- g. After again considering the investigator's report and evidence on September 5, 2014, the subcommittee unanimously found that reasonable belief existed to substantiate a violation of Standards 1, 2, 4, and 5 as follows:

Standard 1: An educator maintains a professional relationship with each student, both in and outside the classroom.

- Educator led up to 30+ students in an unauthorized parade on Arkansas Hwy 70 called the "train". They were stopped by State Police for impeding traffic; and
- After receiving the citation for the "train", Educator accepted a collection of money from the students to pay for the ticket.

Standard 2: An educator maintains competence regarding skills, knowledge, and dispositions relating to his/her organizational position, subject matter, and/or pedagogical practice.

- After a coach unintentionally left a bus window down, Educator had the coach wear a “dunce hat” and poured water on the coach as punishment, in front of other coworkers;
- Failed to make accommodations in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Standard 4: An educator entrusted with public funds and property, including school sponsored activity funds, honors that trust with honest, responsible stewardship.

- Educator, in violation of grant rules, split between two libraries a \$10,000 award won by a Jessieville High School student in a national essay contest instead of awarding the full amount to the library designated by the high school student.

Standard 5: An educator maintains integrity regarding the acceptance of any gratuity, gift, compensation or favor that might impair or appear to influence professional decisions or actions and shall refrain from using the educator’s position for personal gain.

- After receiving the citation for the “train”, Educator accepted a collection of money from the students to pay for the ticket.

The subcommittee recommended that the State Board issue Mr. Curry a written warning.

- h. Mr. Curry was notified of the subcommittee’s reasonable belief determination and recommendation on September 16, 2014, by certified and regular mail.
- i. Mr. Curry rejected the subcommittee’s recommendation on September 22, 2014, and requested an Evidentiary Hearing under the Administrative Procedure Act including those rights set forth in Ark. Code Ann. §§ 25-15-211 and 25-15-212.
- j. On February 6, 2015, Mr. Curry, through his attorney, accepted the subcommittee’s initial determination and recommendation and withdrew his request for an evidentiary hearing.

- k. 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 Mr. Curry for his violations of the Code of Ethics and issues a written warning.
- c. Mr. Curry is cautioned that further violations of the Code of Ethics may result in more severe discipline including permanent revocation of his license.
- d. This order shall remain for two (2) years in his professional licensure file, but shall remain permanently in the confidential files of the Professional Licensure Standards Board.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

  
Samuel Ledbetter, Chair  
Arkansas State Board of Education