

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

**FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW AND ORDER
IN RE MICHAEL DARREN DEAN, PLSB CASE NO. 15-027**

At its regular meeting on April 9, 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 Michael Darren Dean. Based upon Mr. Dean'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 Michael Darren Dean a standard five-year teaching license on January 1, 2015, valid until December 31, 2019.
- b. The Professional Licensure Standards Board Ethics Subcommittee received an allegation that Mr. Dean 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 Mr. Dean violated Standards 1 and 2: 1) An educator maintains a professional relationship with each student, both in and outside the classroom; and 2) An educator maintains competence regarding skills, knowledge, and dispositions relating to his/her organizational position, subject matter, and/or pedagogical practice.
- d. Mr. Dean was notified on October 7, 2014, of the subcommittee's authorization on October 3, 2014, to investigate this allegation.

e. After considering the investigator's report and evidence on January 9, 2015, the subcommittee unanimously found that reasonable belief existed to substantiate a violation of Standards 1 and 2 in that Michael Darren Dean:

- Elbowed the student in the side; and
- Grabbed the student around the neck and started to choke him.

The subcommittee recommended that the State Board place Mr. Dean's license on probation for one (1) year, assess a fine of \$75, and recommends anger management classes with a written reflection to the PLSB office on how the anger management classes have impacted or will impact his future interaction with students. Anger management classes should be completed within one (1) year of State Board final order and all costs paid by educator.

- f. Mr. Dean was notified of the subcommittee's reasonable belief determination and recommendation on January 13, 2015, by certified and regular mail.
- g. Mr. Dean accepted the subcommittee's recommendation on February 19, 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.
- 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 orders that Michael Darren Dean's license be placed on probation for one (1) year, assesses a fine of \$75, and requires anger management classes to be completed within one (1) year of State Board final order with all costs paid by educator.
- c. Mr. Dean 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 his license.
- d. This order shall remain permanently in Mr. Dean'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