

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

**FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW AND ORDER  
IN RE STEPHEN TYLER HART, PLSB CASE NO. 15-032**

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 Stephen Tyler Hart. Based upon Mr. Hart'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 Stephen Tyler Hart a standard five-year teaching license on January 1, 2014, valid until December 31, 2018.
- b. The Professional Licensure Standards Board Ethics Subcommittee received an allegation that Mr. Hart 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. Hart violated Standard 1: An educator maintains a professional relationship with each student, both in and outside the classroom.
- d. Mr. Hart 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 Standard 1 in that Mr. Hart:

Repeatedly directed a student to sit down and when the student didn't comply, grabbed the student's shirt to sit him in his desk.

The subcommittee recommended that the State Board issue a written reprimand to Mr. Hart, assess a fine of \$50, and recommends classroom management training with a written reflection to PLSB within one (1) year of the State Board final order. All costs paid by educator.

- f. Mr. Hart was notified of the subcommittee's reasonable belief determination and recommendation on January 13, 2015, by certified and regular mail.
- g. Mr. Hart accepted the subcommittee's recommendation on February 3, 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 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 Stephen Tyler Hart for his violation of the Code of Ethics, issues a written reprimand, assesses a fine of \$50, and requires

classroom management training with a written reflection to PLSB within one (1) year of the State Board final order. All costs paid by educator.

- c. Mr. Hart 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. Hart'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