

**BEFORE THE ARKANSAS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
APRIL 14, 2016**

**FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW AND ORDER
IN RE BARTON WAYNE HARRISON; PLSB CASE NO. 16-009**

At its regular meeting on April 14, 2016, 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 Barton Wayne Harrison (“Educator Harrison”). Based upon Educator Harrison’s failure to respond to the Ethics Subcommittee’s recommendation and the evidence presented, in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act, Ark. Code Ann. § 25-15-101 et seq., the Board finds that the Educator Harrison’s license should be permanently revoked. The Board hereby states as follows:

I. Findings of Fact:

- a. The Arkansas Department of Education issued Educator Harrison a standard five-year teaching license on January 1, 2012, valid until December 31, 2016.
- b. The Professional Licensure Standards Board Ethics Subcommittee (“Ethics Subcommittee”) received an allegation that Educator Harrison 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 August 7, 2015, the Ethics Subcommittee authorized an investigation into the allegations that Educator Harrison violated Standard 1: An educator maintains a professional relationship with each student, both in and outside the classroom.
- d. On August 17, 2015, and again on August 25, 2015, Educator Harrison was notified of the Ethics Subcommittee’s authorization to investigate the allegation.

e. On January 8, 2016, after considering the investigator's report and evidence, the Ethics Subcommittee unanimously found reasonable belief that Educator Harrison violated Standard 1 when he:

- Made inappropriate physical contact with one or more students; and
- Sent one or more students an inappropriate message or otherwise communicated with one or more students in an inappropriate manner.

The Ethics Subcommittee recommended that the Board permanently revoke Educator Harrison's license.

- f. On January 12, 2016, Educator Harrison was notified of the Ethics Subcommittee's reasonable belief determination and recommendation by certified and regular mail.
- g. Educator Harrison did not respond within the required thirty (30) day period, thereby waiving his right to any notice, hearing, and any other rights he might be entitled to under the Administrative Procedure Act including those set forth in Ark. Code Ann. §§ 25-15-211 and 212.

II. Conclusion of Law:

- a. The Administrative Procedure Act, Ark. Code Ann. § 25-15-208 (b), provides for the resolution of this matter by consent order.
- b. The Board voted unanimously to permanently revoke Educator Harrison's license.
- c. This order shall remain permanently in Educator Harrison's professional licensure file and the confidential files of the Professional Licensure Standards Board.

IT IS SO ORDERED.



Toyce Newton, Chair
Arkansas State Board of Education