

**BEFORE THE ARKANSAS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
DECEMBER 10, 2015**

**FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW, AND ORDER
IN RE LEE JAMESON BLACK, PLSB CASE NO. 15-153**

At its regular meeting on December 10, 2015, 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 Lee Jameson Black (“Educator Black”). Based upon Educator Black’s failure to respond to the Ethics 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 Educator Black a provisional one-year license on January 1, 2015, valid until January 1, 2016.
- b. The Ethics Subcommittee received an allegation that Educator Black 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 June 5, 2015, the Ethics Subcommittee authorized an investigation into allegations that Educator Black violated Standard 1: An educator maintains a professional relationship with each student, both in and outside the classroom.
- d. On June 11, 2015, Educator Black was notified of the Ethics Subcommittee’s authorization to investigate the allegations.

e. On October 2, 2015, after considering the investigator's report and evidence, the Ethics Subcommittee unanimously found reasonable belief that Educator Black violated Standard 1 when he:

- Yelled at a student and called the student a "coward" and "a sorry person" in front of other students.

The Ethics Subcommittee recommended that the Board issue Educator Black a written reprimand, assess a fine of \$50, and require him to complete six (6) hours of classroom management training and six (6) hours of building a positive rapport and relationship with students training through AETN prior to issuance of his traditional five-year license.

f. On October 7, 2015, Educator Black was notified of the Ethics Subcommittee's reasonable belief determination and recommendation by certified and regular mail.

g. Educator Black did not respond to the Ethics Subcommittee's recommendation, thereby waiving his right to any further notice, 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 Ethics 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 Code of Ethics, the Board adopts the Ethics Subcommittee's recommendation.

b. Accordingly, the Board admonishes Educator Black for his violation of the Code of Ethics, issues a written reprimand, assesses a fine of \$50, and requires him to complete six (6) hours of classroom management training and six (6) hours of building a positive

rapport and relationship with students training through AETN prior to issuance of his traditional five-year license.

- c. Educator Black 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 for two (2) years in Educator Black's professional licensure file, but shall remain permanently in the confidential files of the Professional Licensure Standards Board.

IT IS SO ORDERED.



Toyce Newton, Chair
Arkansas State Board of Education