

## THE ARKANSAS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

IN RE THE MATTER OF:  
MYKA MATTHEW HUGHES  
FEBRUARY 13, 2025

PLSB CASE NO. 24-293

### FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW, AND ORDER

At its regular meeting on February 13, 2025, 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 Myka Matthew Hughes (“Educator Hughes”). Based upon Educator Hughes’ 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 hereby states as follows:

#### 1) Findings of Fact

- a) The Arkansas Department of Education issued Educator Hughes a standard five-year teaching license on January 1, 2024, valid until December 31, 2028.
- b) The Ethics Subcommittee received an allegation that Educator Hughes 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) On June 7, 2024, the Ethics Subcommittee authorized an investigation into allegations that Educator Hughes violated *Standard 1: an educator maintains a professional relationship with each student, both in and outside the classroom; and Standard 2: an educator maintains competence regarding his or her professional practice, inclusive of professional and ethical behavior, skills, knowledge,*

*dispositions, and responsibilities relating to his or her organizational position.*

Subsequently, on October 4, 2024, after an initial investigation, the Ethics Subcommittee authorized alleged violations of *Standard 8: an educator, while on school premises or at school-sponsored activities involving students, refrains from:*

*a) using, possessing and/or being under the influence of alcohol or unauthorized drugs/substances, and/or possessing items prohibited by law, b) possessing or using tobacco or tobacco-related products, e-cigarettes, e-liquid, or vapor products, or c) abusing/misusing prescription medications or other authorized substances as evidenced by impairment.* Later, on November 1, 2024, the Ethics Subcommittee authorized investigation of potential violations of *Standard 4: an educator entrusted with public funds and property, including school sponsored activity funds, honors that trust with honest, responsible stewardship* was approved.


- d) Educator Hughes was notified on June 10, 2024, of the Ethics Subcommittee's authorization to investigate this allegation and he received additional notification following authorization of additional standards.
- e) After considering the investigator's report and evidence on December 6, 2024, the Ethics Subcommittee unanimously found that a preponderance of evidence existed to substantiate violation of Standards 1, 2, 4, and 8 in that Educator Hughes:
- Inappropriate interactions with student(s).
  - Inappropriate communication with student(s)
  - Exhibited inappropriate disposition inclusive of professional and ethical behavior.
  - Violated district, state or federal policies or law.
  - Misuse of funds.
  - Used and/or possessed tobacco or tobacco-related products, e-cigarettes, e-liquid, or vapor products on school premises and/or at a school-sponsored activity involving students.

- f) The Ethics Subcommittee recommended that the State Board take the following actions:
  - (1) Permanent Revocation of License; and
  - (2) Assess a \$500.00 fine (due within 90 days of the State Board Order).
- g) On December 6, 2024, Educator Hughes was notified of the Ethics Subcommittee's initial determination and recommendation by secure email. Educator Hughes failed to respond to the Ethics Subcommittee's recommendation, thereby waiving his right to any further notice, hearing, or any other rights he may 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.

**2) Conclusions of Law**

- a) Upon consideration of the evidence presented at the meeting, 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 Ethics Subcommittee's recommendations and enacts the sanctions accordingly. The Board admonishes Educator Myka Hughes for his violation of the Code of Ethics.
- b) This order shall remain permanently in Educator Hughes' professional licensure file and the confidential files of the Professional Licensure Standards Board.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

  
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Kathy Rollins, Vice-Chair  
Arkansas State Board of Education