

#169-14

IN THE MATTER OF THE TENURE :
HEARING OF JOSEPH A. GRECO, : COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION
SCHOOL DISTRICT OF THE BOROUGH OF : DECISION
PARK RIDGE, BERGEN COUNTY. :

SYNOPSIS

Petitioning Board filed tenure charges of conduct unbecoming against respondent Joseph A. Greco, a tenured teaching staff member, and sought to terminate his employment. The matter was held in abeyance pending the resolution of a concurrent criminal proceeding arising from the same allegations. Respondent subsequently pled guilty to Criminal Sexual Contact in connection with allegations that he engaged in sexual relations with a former student. His plea agreement included relinquishment of his New Jersey teaching certificates – with the force and effect of revocation – to the State Board of Examiners (Examiners). On December 6, 2013, the Examiners ordered the revocation of respondent’s certificates.

The Commissioner concluded that this tenure matter has been rendered moot by the Examiner’s decision to revoke respondent’s certificates and, accordingly, dismissed the charges.

This synopsis is not part of the Commissioner’s decision. It has been prepared for the convenience of the reader. It has been neither reviewed nor approved by the Commissioner.

April 24, 2014

AGENCY DKT NO. 37-2/12

IN THE MATTER OF THE TENURE :
HEARING OF JOSEPH A. GRECO, : COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION
SCHOOL DISTRICT OF THE BOROUGH : DECISION
OF PARK RIDGE, BERGEN COUNTY. :

In February 2012, the Board of Education of the Borough of Park Ridge certified tenure charges against respondent, Joseph A. Greco, a tenured teaching staff member, alleging unbecoming conduct. The matter was subsequently placed in abeyance pending resolution of a concurrent criminal proceeding arising from the same allegations.

On May 28, 2013, respondent pled guilty to Criminal Sexual Contact. Thereafter, respondent agreed to relinquish, with the force and effect of revocation, the teaching certificates issued to him by the New Jersey Department of Education, State Board of Examiners (Examiners). The Examiners determined to accept the relinquishment and, on December 6, 2013, ordered the revocation of respondent's certificates.

The Commissioner finds that this matter has been rendered moot by the Examiners' decision to revoke respondent's certificates, as he is now prohibited by law from continuing his tenured employment with the Board and, indeed, is no longer eligible for employment as a teaching staff member in the public schools of this State.

Accordingly, the instant tenure charges are hereby dismissed.

IT IS SO ORDERED.*

ACTING COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION

Date of Decision: April 24, 2014
Date of Mailing: April 28, 2014

* This decision may be appealed to the Appellate Division of the Superior Court pursuant to *P.L. 2008, c. 36*. (*N.J.S.A. 18A:6-9.1*)