

SCHOOL ETHICS COMMISSION	:	BEFORE THE
	:	SCHOOL ETHICS COMMISSION
v.	:	DOCKET NO. T11-06
DEBORAH FOX	:	DECISION FOR FAILURE
West Wildwood Board of Education	:	TO ATTEND TRAINING
Cape May County	:	

WHEREAS, the School Ethics Act, N.J.S.A. 18A:12-21 et. seq. was enacted by the New Jersey State Legislature to ensure and preserve public confidence in school board members and school administrators and to provide specific ethical standards to guide their conduct; and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 18A:12-33 requires each newly elected or appointed board member to complete, during the first year of the member's first term, a training program offered by the New Jersey School Boards Association (NJSBA) regarding the skills and knowledge necessary to serve as a school board member or charter school trustee; and

WHEREAS, Deborah Fox was newly elected or appointed in April 2005 to a local school board or charter school board and therefore, had until April 2006, to complete the training requirement; and

WHEREAS, the NJSBA mails correspondence to all new board members who have failed to register for or attend an orientation and did mail such correspondence to this board member on October 5, 2005, January 17, 2006 and February 6, 2006; and

WHEREAS, the NJSBA conducted eight training sessions between April 2005 and March 2006 at varying locations and continuously published the dates and times of the sessions in its publication, *School Board Notes*; and

WHEREAS, through correspondence dated August 9, 2006, because you are a member of a non-operating district, the Commission provided you with the opportunity to attend half of the one-day training on October 24, 2006; and

WHEREAS, the Commission has been notified by the New Jersey School Boards Association that you did not attend the October 24, 2006 training; and

WHEREAS, the Commission issued an Order on November 1, 2006, directing Deborah Fox to Show Cause why she had not attended training up until that time; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Fox did not respond to the Order; and

WHEREAS, the Commission notified Ms. Fox that the Commission would discuss this matter at its November 28, 2006 meeting; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Fox has failed to attend the required training program for the one year allowed; and

WHEREAS, the Commission finds that her failure to attend board member training from April 2005 to March 2006 constitutes a clear violation of N.J.S.A. 18A:12-33; and

WHEREAS, the Commission finds that the appropriate penalty for the violation is suspension from the board if she fails to attend the December 9, 2006 training session and removal if she fails to attend the January 6, 2007 training session;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the School Ethics Commission finds that Deborah Fox violated the N.J.S.A. 18A:12-33 of the School Ethics Act if she fails to attend the December 9, 2006 training session and recommends that the Commissioner of Education impose a penalty of suspension from the board if she fails to attend the December 9, 2006 training session and removal if she fails to attend the January 6, 2007 training session.

Paul C. Garbarini, Chairman
School Ethics Commission

Dated: November 29, 2006

I certify that the within Resolution
was duly adopted by the School Ethics
Commission at its Public Meeting
on November 28, 2006.

Lisa James-Beavers
Executive Director

This matter shall be transmitted to the Commissioner of Education for action on the Commission's recommendation for sanction pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:12-29. Within thirteen (13) days from the date on which the Commission's decision was mailed to the parties, any party may file written comments on the recommended sanction with the Commissioner of Education, c/o Bureau of Controversies and Disputes, 100 Riverview Plaza, P. O. Box 500, Trenton, NJ 08625, marked "Attention: Comments on Ethics Commission Sanction." A copy of any comments filed must be sent to the School Ethics Commission and all other parties.