

IN THE MATTER OF : NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
THE CERTIFICATE OF : STATE BOARD OF EXAMINERS
JUDITH BOUSQUET : ORDER OF REVOCATON
_____ : DOCKET NO. 504-01/99-191

At its meeting of January 21, 1999, the State Board of Examiners reviewed information received from the New York State Department of Education indicating that it had permanently revoked Judith Bousquet's New York teaching certificate because of substantial questions as to Bousquet's moral character. Specifically, the New York Department of Education found discrepancies in the educational and employment history Bousquet had supplied in an employment application. In addition, Bousquet had submitted a falsified transcript when applying for an additional teaching certificate. Bousquet currently holds a Teacher of Elementary School certificate in New Jersey. After reviewing the above information, at its meeting of January 21, 1999, the State Board of Examiners voted to issue an Order to Show Cause to Respondent.

On February 24, 1999, the Board mailed the Order to Bousquet by regular and certified mail. Neither the regular or certified copies of the Order were returned. Bousquet did not respond to the Order to Show Cause. On May 7, 1999, the Board gave Bousquet an additional 10 days to submit an Answer. Once again, neither the certified or regular mail copies were returned. Bousquet did not respond to the Order.

The threshold issue before the State Board of Examiners in this matter, therefore, is to determine whether Bousquet's conduct in the State of New York was conduct unbecoming a certificate holder and provides just cause for the suspension or revocation of her New Jersey certificate. Since Bousquet did not respond to the Order to Show Cause, the State Board of

Examiners had no responsive pleading to consider in the hearing process. It is therefore ORDERED that the charges in the Order to Show Cause are deemed admitted for the purpose of this proceeding. N.J.A.C. 6:11-3.6(a)1.

The State Board of Examiners must now determine whether the conduct outlined in the Order to Show Cause, which led to the revocation of Bousquet's New York certificate, constitutes a sufficient basis to act against her New Jersey certificate pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6:11-3.6(a)1. We find that it does.

In this case, Bousquet presented a falsified resume in order to obtain employment. In addition, she submitted a falsified transcript when applying for a teaching certificate. The State Board of Examiners may revoke or suspend the certification of any certificate holder on the basis of demonstrated inefficiency, incapacity, conduct unbecoming a teacher or other just cause. N.J.A.C. 6:11-3.4. The system of certification in this State ensures the public that each certificate holder is properly qualified for the position held. Any certificate fraudulently obtained "demeans the value of all certificates" and "harms the integrity of the teacher certification system." In re Williams, No. 214-2/94 (Examiners Dec. 14, 1995)(decision on remand). Although Bousquet's offenses took place in New York, her dishonesty transcends state boundaries.

Such behavior is so foreign to the expectations of the deeds and actions of a professional certified teacher - or of any person - that it raises doubts as to the continued performance of that person in the classroom. Tenure of Blasco, OAL Dkt. EDU 3842-79 (July 15, 1980), mod. Comm'r of Ed. (August 28, 1980), mod. St. Bd. of Ed. (Feb. 4, 1981). The public must be assured that the respondent will no longer be given access to children as a teacher. Indeed, the

Department of Education of New York came to that very conclusion. The New Jersey State Board of Examiners' review of the New York report compels the same conclusion.

Accordingly, the State Board of Examiners finds respondent's conduct, as proven by the New York Commission of Education, conduct unbecoming a certificate holder. The State of New York made a reasoned decision to bar Bousquet from the classroom. The children of New Jersey deserve the same protection as their peers in New York. Consequently, the only appropriate penalty for Bousquet's breach is the revocation of her New Jersey teaching certificate.

It is, therefore, ORDERED that Judith Bousquet's New Jersey Teacher of Elementary School certificate be revoked on this 17th day of June, 1999. It is further ORDERED that Judith Bousquet return her certificate to the Secretary of the State Board of Examiners, Office of Licensing, P.O. Box 500, Trenton, NJ 08625-0500 within fifteen (15) days of receipt of this decision.

Secretary
State Board of Examiners

Date of Mailing: August 6, 1999

Appeals may be made to the State Board of Education pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:6-28.

IBG:MZ:br:judithbousquet