

IN THE MATTER OF : NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
THE CERTIFICATES OF: STATE BOARD OF EXAMINERS
SATTIK DEB : ORDER OF REVOCATION
_____ : DOCKET NO: 0405-303

At its meeting of July 21, 2005, the State Board of Examiners reviewed information received from the Division of Criminal Justice indicating that on April 20, 2005, Sattik Deb entered into a Pre-Trial Intervention (PTI) program after being charged with official misconduct for engaging in a sexual relationship with a student. As one of the conditions for entry into PTI, Deb was required to surrender his teaching license and agree not to seek licensure or employment as a teacher and/or tutor in public or private schools. Deb currently holds a Teacher of Social Studies Certificate of Eligibility, issued in January 2002, and a Teacher of Social Studies certificate, issued in June 2004. Upon review of the above information, at its July 21, 2005, meeting, the State Board of Examiners voted to issue Deb an Order to Show Cause.

The Board sent Deb the Order to Show Cause by regular and certified mail on August 18, 2005. The Order provided that Deb's Answer was due within 30 days. The certified mail copy was returned but the regular mail copy was not returned. Deb did not file a response to the Order to Show Cause.

Thereafter, pursuant to *N.J.A.C. 6A:9-17.7(e)*, on October 3, 2005, the Board of Examiners sent Deb a second notice by regular and certified mail. The notice explained that Deb had an additional 15 days in which to submit an Answer. If he did not do so, the allegations in the Order to Show Cause would be deemed admitted and the Board would decide the matter based on the evidence before it. Once again the certified mail copy was returned as unclaimed and the regular mail copy was not returned. Deb did not file a response.

The threshold issue before the State Board of Examiners in this matter, therefore, is whether Deb's entry into PTI for official misconduct and the court-ordered surrender of his teaching licenses constitutes conduct unbecoming a certificate holder. At its meeting of May 4, 2006, the State Board of Examiners reviewed the charges in the Order to Show Cause. Since Deb had not responded to the Order, the charges were deemed admitted. Thus, the Board of Examiners determined that summary decision was appropriate in this matter. *N.J.A.C. 6A:9-17.7(h)*.

The State Board of Examiners must now determine whether Deb's offense as set forth in the Order to Show Cause, provides just cause to act against his certificates pursuant to *N.J.A.C. 6A:9-17.5*. The Board finds that it does.

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. 6A:9-17.5*. “Teachers... are professional employees to whom the people have entrusted the care and custody of ... school children. This heavy duty requires a degree of self-restraint and controlled behavior rarely requisite to other types of employment.” *Tenure of Sammons*, 1972 *S.L.D.* 302, 321. Deb’s acts underlying his entry into PTI are inexcusable for any individual, teacher or not.

Furthermore, unfitness to hold a position in a school system may be shown by one incident, if sufficiently flagrant. *Redcay v. State Bd. of Educ.*, 130 *N.J.L.* 369, 371 (Sup. Ct. 1943), *aff’d*, 131 *N.J.L.* 326 (E & A 1944). In this instance, the court concluded that Deb’s actions were egregious enough to warrant the forfeiture of his teaching licenses and the condition that he never be allowed to teach or serve as a tutor in a public or private school in New Jersey. The only appropriate response to Deb’s act is the revocation of his teaching certificates.

Accordingly, pursuant to the Board’s vote, it is therefore ORDERED that Sattik Deb’s Teacher of Social Studies Certificate of Eligibility and his Teacher of Social Studies certificate be revoked effective this 8th day of June, 2006. It is further ORDERED that Deb return his certificates to the Secretary of the State Board of Examiners, Office of Licensure, PO Box 500, Trenton, NJ 08625-0500 within 20 days of the mailing date of this decision.

Robert R. Higgins, Acting Secretary
State Board of Examiners

Date of Mailing: JUNE 12, 2006

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