

SBE #0304-218  
SB # 21-04

IN THE MATTER OF THE REVOCATION :  
OF THE TEACHING CERTIFICATES OF : STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
TERRY STOCKER BY THE STATE BOARD : DECISION  
OF EXAMINERS. :

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Decided by the State Board of Examiners, April 1, 2004

For the Appellant, Bergman & Barrett (Michael T. Barrett, Esq., of  
Counsel)

For the Respondent, Carolyn G. Labin, Deputy Attorney General (Peter C.  
Harvey, Attorney General of New Jersey)

After a thorough review of the record, including the videotape of the incident at issue – in which the appellant wrapped a special education student in duct tape and instructed two female students to drag him down a school hallway by his legs while another student videotaped the episode – we affirm the decision of the State Board of Examiners to revoke the appellant’s teaching certificates. Notwithstanding the appellant’s testimony that his actions were intended as harmless “horseplay,” initial decision, slip op. at 13, we, like the Administrative Law Judge (“ALJ”) and the Board of Examiners, find his conduct to be “highly disturbing,” *id.* at 17. Indeed, the record confirms the ALJ’s account that the appellant “was not only an active participant but he was actually the instigator of the highly inappropriate activity....” *Id.* As underscored by the Board of Examiners, “there can be no dispute that Stocker’s actions...fall far short of

our expectations for appropriate teacher behavior.” State Board of Examiners’ Decision, slip op. at 6. Under the circumstances, we fully agree with the Board of Examiners that revocation of the appellant’s teaching certificates is warranted.

September 1, 2004

Date of mailing \_\_\_\_\_