

162-99 SEC

AGENCY DKT. NO. 67-4/99

IN THE MATTER OF RAYMOND :
 RODNEY COLEMAN, WILLINGBORO : COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION
 BOARD OF EDUCATION, : DECISION
 BURLINGTON COUNTY. :
 _____ :

The record of this matter and the decision of the School Ethics Commission (Commission) have been reviewed. Initially, the Commissioner must emphasize that, pursuant to *N.J.S.A.* 18A:12-29(c), the Commission’s determination as to violation of the Act **is not reviewable by him**. Only the Commission may determine whether a violation of the School Ethics Act occurred. The Commissioner’s jurisdiction is limited to reviewing the sanction to be imposed following a finding of a violation by the Commission. Therefore, this decision is restricted solely to a review of the recommended penalty and its implementation.

The parties submitted no comments to the Commissioner with respect to the Commission’s recommended penalty.

Upon thorough review of the full record in this matter, the Commissioner determines to accept the Commission’s recommendation that censure is the appropriate penalty in this matter for the reasons expressed in the Commission’s decision finding that a violation of the School Ethics Act occurred.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Raymond Rodney Coleman be censured as a school official found to have violated the School Ethics Act.*

IT IS SO ORDERED.

* This decision, as the Commissioner’s final determination in the instant matter, may be appealed to the State Board of Education pursuant to *N.J.S.A.* 18A:6-27 *et seq.* and *N.J.A.C.* 6:2-1.1 *et seq.*, within 30 days of its filing. Commissioner decisions are deemed filed three days after the date of mailing to the parties.

May 24, 1999

COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION

IN THE MATTER OF RAYMOND :

RODNEY COLEMAN, WILLINGBORO: **RESOLUTION OF CENSURE**

BOARD OF EDUCATION, :

BURLINGTON COUNTY. :

_____ :

WHEREAS, the Willingboro Board of Education member, Raymond Rodney Coleman, was found by the School Ethics Commission at its meeting on March 23, 1999 to have used his position as a school official to participate in discussions regarding lease of school facilities to a church in which he is a Deacon, and subsequently voted not to rescind the lease;

WHEREAS, the School Ethics Commission concluded that such conduct violated *N.J.S.A. 18A:12-24(c)* of the School Ethics Act; and

WHEREAS, after considering the facts determined during the course of the investigation and Mr. Coleman’s testimony regarding this matter, the School Ethics Commission, in a decision dated March 23, 1999, recommended to the Commissioner of Education that he impose upon Mr. Coleman the penalty of censure pursuant to *N.J.S.A. 18A:12-29(c)* and *N.J.A.C. 6:3-9.19(c)1*; and

WHEREAS, no comments were submitted to the Commissioner by Mr. Coleman with regard to this penalty; and

WHEREAS, the Commissioner has concluded that the Commission’s censure is the appropriate penalty for the aforementioned violation for the reasons set forth in the Commission’s decision; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that Raymond Rodney Coleman is hereby censured as a school official found to have violated the School Ethics Act; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Willingboro Board of Education is ordered to read this resolution at the next public meeting following its adoption by the School Ethics Commission and to post it in such places as the Board posts its public notices.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION

May 24, 1999