

#101-12

IN THE MATTER OF THE TENURE :
HEARING OF PAMELA WILLIAMS : COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION
SCHOOL DISTRICT OF THE CITY : DECISION
OF CAMDEN, CAMDEN COUNTY. :

SYNOPSIS

Petitioning Board filed tenure charges of unbecoming conduct, neglect of duty and insubordination against respondent, a tenured special education teacher, and sought to terminate her employment with the district. Neither respondent nor any attorney acting on her behalf filed an answer to the petition following notice pursuant to *N.J.A.C.* 6A:3-5.3 and 6A:3-5.4.

The Commissioner concluded that, pursuant to *N.J.A.C.* 6A:3-5.4(h), the allegations – which respondent has chosen not to deny – may be deemed admitted and are sufficient to warrant termination of the respondent from her tenured position. Accordingly, the Commissioner granted summary decision to the petitioner, dismissed the respondent from her tenured teaching position in petitioner’s school district, and forwarded a copy of this decision to the State Board of Examiners for action against respondent’s certificate as that body deems appropriate.

This synopsis is not part of the Commissioner’s decision. It has been prepared for the convenience of the reader. It has been neither reviewed nor approved by the Commissioner.
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March 16, 2012

IN THE MATTER OF THE TENURE :
HEARING OF PAMELA WILLIAMS : COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION
SCHOOL DISTRICT OF THE CITY : DECISION
OF CAMDEN, CAMDEN COUNTY. :

For the District, Louis R. Lessig, Esq., Brown & Connery LLP

No appearance by or on behalf of Pamela Williams

This matter was opened before the Commissioner of Education on February 23, 2012 through the certification of tenure charges of unbecoming conduct, neglect of duty and insubordination by the School District of the City of Camden against Pamela Williams, a tenured special education teacher in the District.

By notice dated February 23, 2012, the Commissioner directed respondent, via both certified and regular mail – the certified copy having been signed for on February 27, 2012 – to file an Answer to the tenure charges against her. This communication clearly provided notice to respondent that, pursuant to *N.J.A.C. 6A:3-5.3* and *6A:3-5.4*, an individual against whom tenure charges are certified “*shall have 15 days from the day such charges are filed with the Commissioner to file a written response to the charges with the Commissioner,*” and that failure to answer within the prescribed period would – absent granting of an extension for good cause shown – result in the charges being deemed admitted by the charged employee. No reply was received from respondent or any attorney on her behalf.

The Commissioner has reviewed the tenure charges certified against respondent by the District, *i.e.*, unbecoming conduct, neglect of duty and insubordination, and the statement of evidence in support of those charges. The District further reports that Ms. Williams has been, and continues to be, absent without official leave from her assigned duties since September 1, 2011.

Deeming the allegations to be admitted and noting that respondent has failed to respond to the charges certified against her, the Commissioner finds that the District has demonstrated that respondent is guilty of unbecoming conduct, neglect of duty and insubordination, warranting dismissal from her tenured position.

Accordingly, summary decision is hereby granted to the District, and respondent Pamela Williams is dismissed from her tenured teaching position in the District's employ as of the date of this decision. A copy of this decision is being forwarded to the State Board of Examiners for action as that body deems appropriate.

IT IS SO ORDERED.¹

ACTING COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION

Date of Decision: March 16, 2012

Date of Mailing: March 21, 2012

¹ This decision may be appealed to the Appellate Division of the Superior Court pursuant to *P.L.* 2008, *c.* 36 (*N.J.S.A.* 18A:6-9.1).