

221-21SEC

SEC Dkt. No. D10-21
Agency Dkt. No. 139-8/21

New Jersey Commissioner of Education
Final Decision

In the Matter of Jennifer Metzger,
Franklin Township Board of Education,
Gloucester County.

The Commissioner has reviewed the record of this matter and the decision of the School Ethics Commission (SEC), finding that respondent violated the School Ethics Act for failure to timely file Personal/Relative and Financial Disclosure Statements (“Disclosure Statements”) in accordance with *N.J.S.A. 18A:12-25*, *N.J.S.A. 18A:12-26*, and *N.J.A.C. 6A:28-3.1*. The SEC’s decision was forwarded to the Commissioner for final determination on the recommended penalty pursuant to *N.J.S.A. 18A:12-29(c)*. The SEC recommended a sanction of removal effective upon the adoption of the decision by the Commissioner. Alternatively, if the respondent filed the Disclosure Statements before the issuance of the Commissioner’s final decision, the SEC recommended that respondent be suspended for 60 days.¹ Respondent has neither filed exceptions to the recommended penalty, nor instituted an appeal of the SEC’s underlying finding of violation pursuant to *N.J.A.C. 6A:4-1 et seq.*

Upon review, the Commissioner concurs with the penalty recommended by the SEC for respondent’s failure to timely honor an obligation placed upon school officials by law.

¹ The SEC’s decision does not indicate why the alternative penalty is a 60-day suspension, when the penalty under similar circumstances is routinely a 30-day suspension. In the absence of specific information in the record before the Commissioner that would support an increased penalty, the Commissioner finds that the appropriate alternative penalty is a 30-day suspension.

Accordingly, as of the date of this decision, respondent is hereby removed from the board for violating the School Ethics Act.

IT IS SO ORDERED.²


ANGELINA ALLEN McMILLAN, J.D.
ACTING COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION

Date of Decision: October 7, 2021
Date of Mailing: October 7, 2021

² This decision may be appealed to the Appellate Division of the Superior Court pursuant to *N.J.S.A.* 18A:6-9.1. Under *N.J.Ct.R.* 2:4-1(b), a notice of appeal must be filed with the Appellate Division within 45 days from the date of mailing of this decision.