

252-21SEC

SEC Dkt. No. T19-21
Agency Dkt. No. 177-9/21

New Jersey Commissioner of Education
Final Decision

In the Matter of Roger Lai,
Environment Community Opportunity
Charter School, Camden 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 complete board member training in accordance with *N.J.S.A.* 18A:12-33 and *N.J.A.C.* 6A:28-4.1. 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 advises that respondent completed training after the issuance of its Order to Show Cause. Respondent filed exceptions to the recommended penalty, indicating that he relied on information from the school business administrator that his required training has been completed and that he then completed the training immediately upon receiving the Order to Show Cause and realizing that that information was mistaken. Respondent further indicates that he does not dispute that he failed to complete the training by the deadline but asks the Commissioner to reconsider the sanction.

Upon review, the Commissioner concurs with the penalty recommended by the SEC for respondent's failure to timely honor an obligation placed upon board members by law. Respondent's exceptions do not provide a basis for modifying the recommended penalty when

respondent does not dispute that he failed to complete the training in a timely manner. Accordingly, respondent is hereby reprimanded for violating the School Ethics Act.

IT IS SO ORDERED.¹


ACTING COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION

Date of Decision: October 13, 2021
Date of Mailing: October 13, 2021

¹ 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.