

New Jersey Commissioner of Education

Final Decision

In the Matter of the Suspension of the Teaching Certificates of Lauren Newman, Board of Education of the Northern Burlington Regional School District, Burlington County.

This matter was opened before the Commissioner of Education on November 22, 2023, by way of an Order to Show Cause served by petitioner (Northern Burlington County Regional School District Board of Education) upon respondent (Lauren Newman), requiring respondent to show cause why an order should not be entered suspending her teaching certificates pursuant to *N.J.S.A. 18A:26-10* and *N.J.S.A. 18A:28-8* for resigning without giving the notice required by law.

In response to the Order to Show Cause, respondent emailed the Office of Controversies and Disputes to provide mitigating factors that she wished the Commissioner to consider in making her decision, including that she gave notice in the summer to avoid affecting students or colleagues during the school year; her efforts in leaving resources for her successor and the district; and the fact that the district still has not hired a replacement 126 days after her resignation, such that providing an extra 24 days' notice likely would not have made a difference. However, petitioner indicated that she did not wish to engage in the administrative dispute resolution process.

The petition and supporting exhibits submitted by petitioner in this matter indicate that: respondent entered into a contract to work as a teacher for the 2023-2024 school year; the contract provides that it can be terminated by the employee upon sixty days' written notice; and

on July 31, 2023, respondent sent correspondence to petitioner indicating that she was resigning, effective August 4, 2023, thereby providing less than the required sixty days' notice. The respondent has not denied these allegations; therefore, the Commissioner deems such allegations to be admitted pursuant to *N.J.A.C. 6A:3-1.5(a)* and further deems them sufficient to justify suspension of respondent's teaching certificates pursuant to *N.J.S.A. 18A:26-10* and *N.J.S.A. 18A:28-8*.

Accordingly, summary decision is hereby granted to petitioner, and respondent's teaching certificates are suspended for a period of one year from the filing date of this decision, a copy of which shall be forwarded to the State Board of Examiners for implementation of the suspension.

IT IS SO ORDERED.¹


ANGELICA ALLEN-McMILLAN, J.D.
ACTING COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION

Date of Decision: January 4, 2024
Date of Mailing: January 5, 2024

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.