

New Jersey Commissioner of Education

Final Decision

In the Matter of the Suspension of the Teaching
Certificate of Natalie Ostrowski, Board of
Education of the Township of Bedminster,
Somerset County

This matter was opened before the Commissioner of Education on February 18, 2025, by way of an Order to Show Cause (OSC) served by petitioner, Board of Education of the Township of Bedminster, upon respondent, Natalie Ostrowski, 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*. By notice dated February 24, 2025, the Office of Controversies and Disputes (Office) acknowledged proof that the OSC had been served upon respondent and directed her to answer within 20 days.

Having received no response, the Office sent respondent a second and final notice via email on March 24, 2025, stating that if she did not file an answer within 10 days, each count in the petition would be deemed admitted and the Commissioner could decide the matter on a summary basis pursuant to *N.J.A.C. 6A:3-1.5(e)*. That same day, the Office received an email from respondent stating that she had received the OSC and notices and was “writing to give permission for the suspension of my New Jersey teaching license.”

The petition and supporting exhibits in this matter indicate that on July 29, 2024, petitioner sent respondent a letter of intent to hire her as a leave replacement middle school teacher for the 2024-2025 school year, with a start date of September 1, 2024. The letter states that non-tenured teachers must give 60 days’ notice of intention to leave the district. Respondent signed the letter

indicating her receipt of it and her acceptance of its terms. On December 11, 2024, respondent sent petitioner a letter announcing her resignation effective February 9, 2025, which petitioner approved.

However, on or about January 2, 2025, respondent told the Superintendent of Schools that she intended to terminate her employment on January 17, 2025, prior to the expiration of the 60-day notice period. On January 9, 2025, respondent confirmed via letter to petitioner that her last day at the district would be January 17, 2025, so that she could embark on a new career opportunity. 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*.

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


COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION

Date of Decision: April 7, 2025
Date of Mailing: April 7, 2025

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.