

New Jersey Commissioner of Education

Final Decision

In the Matter of the Suspension of the Teaching
Certificate of Mairead G. O'Sullivan, North
Hudson Academy, Hudson County

This matter was opened before the Commissioner of Education on August 20, 2024, by way of an Order to Show Cause served by petitioner (North Hudson Academy) upon respondent (Mairead G. O'Sullivan), 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* for ceasing to perform her duties before the expiration of the term of her employment.

By notice dated August 23, 2024, the Office of Controversies and Disputes (Office) acknowledged proof that the Order to Show Cause had been served upon respondent and directed her to answer within 20 days. No answer having been received, on October 23, 2024, the Office sent respondent a second and final notice – via regular and certified mail – directing her to file an answer within ten days. The notice advised that, pursuant to *N.J.A.C. 6A:3-1.5(e)*, failure to answer would cause each allegation in petitioner's papers to be deemed admitted and might result in summary decision by the Commissioner. To date, respondent has not answered the Order to Show Cause.

The petition and supporting exhibits submitted in this matter indicate that: on May 29, 2024, respondent entered into an employment contract to work as a teacher at North Hudson

Academy for the 2024-2025 school year, beginning September 3, 2024 and ending June 30, 2025; the contract provides that an employee who fails to complete the term of the agreement for the school year shall be assumed guilty of unprofessional conduct and reported to the Commissioner of Education; and, on July 30, 2024, respondent sent correspondence to the Board indicating that she was resigning effective August 1, 2024, thereby failing to complete the term of the agreement. She has not denied these allegations; therefore, the Commissioner deems such allegations to be admitted pursuant to *N.J.A.C. 6A:3-1.5(e)* and further deems them sufficient to justify suspension of respondent's teaching certificate 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, as well as any substitute teaching credential she may hold, 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


ACTING COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION

Date of Decision: January 29, 2025
Date of Mailing: January 29, 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.