

<b>SCHOOL ETHICS COMMISSION</b>	:	<b>BEFORE THE</b>
	:	<b>SCHOOL ETHICS COMMISSION</b>
<b>v.</b>	:	<b>RESOLUTION</b>
<b>BARBARA DeLUCA,</b>	:	
<b>Audubon Park Board of Education</b>	:	
<b>Camden County</b>	:	
	:	

**WHEREAS**, the School Ethics Act, N.J.S.A. 18A:12-21 et. seq. was enacted by the New Jersey State Legislature to ensure and preserve public confidence in school board members and school administrators and to provide specific ethical standards to guide their conduct; and

**WHEREAS**, N.J.S.A. 18A:12-33 requires new board members to attend training within one year of election or appointment to the board to gain the skills and knowledge necessary to serve as a school board member; and

**WHEREAS**, Barbara DeLuca was elected to serve a three-year term on the Audubon Park Board of Education on April 15, 1996; and

**WHEREAS**, the New Jersey School Boards Association (NJSBA) advises prospective board members of the training requirement in the “candidate kit” before their election and mails correspondence to all new board members who have failed to register for or attend an orientation and did mail such correspondence to this board member on February 13, 1997; and

**WHEREAS**, at the request of the School Ethics Commission, the NJSBA published a notice with the heading “Last Chance to Meet Training Requirements” on the front page of the February 21, 1997 edition of *School Board Notes* advising that the March 15, 1997 session was the last that new board members could attend without penalty; and

**WHEREAS**, the NJSBA conducted seven training sessions between April 1996 and April 1997 at varying locations and continuously published the dates and times of the sessions; and

**WHEREAS**, the last training session to fulfill the requirement was held on March 15, 1997; and

**WHEREAS**, the Commission issued an Order on March 27, 1997, directing Barbara DeLuca to Show Cause why she had not attended training up until that time; and

**WHEREAS**, Ms. DeLuca replied that she did not attend the January session for which she was scheduled because she had to work and that she attends school on Saturdays until November, but she would attend “as soon as possible”; and

**WHEREAS**, the Commission notified Ms. DeLuca that the Commission would discuss this matter at its May 27, 1997 meeting, that she had the right to attend, and he could be found in violation of the School Ethics Act and receive a penalty up to removal; and

**WHEREAS**, Ms. DeLuca's response does not provide an adequate explanation of why she failed to attend training within the year allowed by law in light of other sessions offered before March; and

**WHEREAS**, Ms. DeLuca has failed to attend the required training program for the one year allowed; and

**WHEREAS**, the Commission finds that her failure to attend board member training from April 1996 to April 1997 constitutes a violation of N.J.S.A. 18A:12-33; and

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the School Ethics Commission finds that Barbara DeLuca violated N.J.S.A. 18A:12-33 of the School Ethics Act and recommends that the Commissioner of Education impose a penalty of removal from the board.

Dated: May 27, 1997

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Paul C. Garbarini, Chairperson

I certify that the within Resolution was duly adopted by the School Ethics Commission at its Public Meeting on May 27, 1997.

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Lisa James-Beavers, Executive Director

This matter shall be transmitted to the Commissioner of Education for action on the Commission's recommendation for sanction pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:12-29. Within thirteen (13) days from the date on which the Commission's decision was mailed to the parties, any party may file written comments on the recommended sanction with the Commissioner of Education, c/o Bureau of Controversies and Disputes, 100 Riverview Plaza, CN 500, Trenton, NJ 08625, marked "Attention: Comments on Ethics Commission Sanction." A copy of any comments filed must be sent to the School Ethics Commission and all other parties.