

IN THE MATTER OF : NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
THE LICENSES OF : STATE BOARD OF EXAMINERS
JOHN ROBINSON : ORDER OF REVOCATION
DOCKET NO. 442-04/91-87

At its meeting of April 3, 1997, the State Board of Examiners reviewed information received from the Cumberland County Superintendent of Schools concerning John Robinson's 1996 conviction on charges of theft by deception, credit card theft, theft and forgery. At that meeting the State Board of Examiners voted that said convictions constituted sufficient grounds for issuing an Order to Show Cause.

The Order was forwarded by regular and certified mail on April 23, 1997. Mr. Robinson signed for the certified mail on April 23, 1997. The regular mail was not returned. Said Order provided that if John Robinson desired to file an Answer to said Order, such answer must be filed within twenty (20) days. Twenty (20) days elapsed without an answer having been filed by or on behalf of John Robinson.

It is therefore ORDERED that said charges are deemed admitted for the purpose of this proceeding. School law cases have traditionally recognized the right of the State Board of Examiners to revoke license where the teacher was involved in criminal activities, even if said activities were not related to the classroom, see Cox v. State Board of Examiners (App. Div. Docket No. A-3527-81T3) (November 18, 1983); State Board of Examiners v. Krupp, 3 N.J.A.R. 285 (1981). In this case, Respondent has been found guilty of crimes of dishonesty. The Commissioner of Education has determined in the past that crimes involving dishonesty do constitute conduct unbecoming a teaching staff member sufficient to warrant dismissal. See, e.g.,

In the Matter of the Tenure Hearing of Emil J. Guasconi, School District of the Town of West New York, Hudson County, 1977 S.L.D. 513. It is the conclusion of the State Board of Examiners that the crimes for which Respondent herein was found guilty reflect discredit upon his professional stature and that such offenses represent conduct unbecoming a license holder. The Board further determines that the appropriate penalty for his unbecoming conduct is the revocation of respondent's licenses as a Teacher of Elementary School and a Teacher of Bilingual/Bicultural Education.

It is, therefore, ORDERED that the convictions against John Robinson warrant revocation of his New Jersey teaching licensure, and hence, John Robinson's Teacher of Elementary School and Teacher of Bilingual/Bicultural Education licenses are hereby revoked on this 25th day of September, 1997.

It is further ORDERED that John Robinson return his licenses to the Secretary of the State Board of Examiners, Office of Licensing, P.O. Box 500, Trenton, NJ 08625-0500 within fourteen (14) days of receipt of this letter.

Secretary
State Board of Examiners

Date of Mailing: October 8, 1997

Appeals may be made to the State Board of Education pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:6-28.

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