

IN THE MATTER OF : NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
THE CREDENTIAL OF : STATE BOARD OF EXAMINERS  
CHRISTOPHER S. JUNEAU : ORDER OF REVOCATION  
\_\_\_\_\_ : DOCKET NO: 1819-235

At its meeting of August 1, 2019, the State Board of Examiners (Board) reviewed information regarding Christopher S. Juneau. The Middlesex County Prosecutor's Office and the Office of Student Protection (OSP) provided information to the State Board of Examiners (Board) regarding Juneau. On or about December 11, 2018, Juneau signed a plea form, admitting that he committed the offense of Stalking after waiving indictment and being Accused of Stalking (4<sup>th</sup> degree). Juneau was admitted to the pretrial intervention program for a period of 36 months and was ordered to have no contact with the victim and/or the victim's family. OSP notified the Board that, as a result of his conviction, Juneau was disqualified from public school employment pursuant to *N.J.S.A. 18A:6-7.1 et seq.* Juneau currently holds substitute credential, expiring December, 2021.

Juneau did not challenge the accuracy of his criminal history record before the Commissioner of Education. Upon review of the above information, the Board voted at its meeting of September 19, 2019 to issue Juneau an Order to Show Cause as to why his credential should not be revoked.

The Board sent Juneau the Order to Show Cause by regular and certified mail on September 24, 2019. The Order provided that Juneau had 30 days to respond. The correspondence was signed for the regular mail was not returned. Juneau did not respond. Thereafter, on October 31, 2019, the Board sent Juneau another notice by regular and certified mail. The correspondence was unclaimed and the regular mail was not returned. Juneau still did not respond.

Accordingly, pursuant to *N.J.A.C.* 6A:9B-4.6(e), on November 18, 2019, the Board sent Juneau a hearing notice by regular and certified mail. The notice explained that the allegations in the Order to Show Cause were deemed to be admitted as a result of his failure to file an Answer. Thus, Juneau was offered an opportunity to submit written arguments on the issue of whether the conduct addressed in the Order to Show Cause constituted conduct unbecoming a certificate holder, as well as arguments with regard to the appropriate sanction in the event that the Board found just cause to take action against his certificates/credential. It also explained that, upon review of the charges against him and the legal arguments tendered in his defense, the Board would determine if his offense warranted action against his certificates/credential. Thereupon, the Board would also determine the appropriate sanction, if any. Juneau was also offered the opportunity to appear before the Board to provide testimony on the sanction issue. The certified mail copy was unclaimed, and the regular mail copy was not returned. Once again, Juneau did not file a response.

The threshold issue before the Board in this matter is whether Juneau's conviction and subsequent disqualification constitute conduct unbecoming a certificate holder or other just cause. Since Juneau failed to respond to the Order to Show Cause, the allegations therein are deemed admitted. *N.J.A.C.* 6A:9B-4.6(c). Consequently, at its meeting of February 28, 2020, the Board considered only the allegations in the Order to Show Cause and the information received and considered by the Board. The Board concluded that no material facts related to Juneau's offenses were in dispute since he never denied that he engaged in the conduct alleged and had been convicted and therefore determined that summary decision was appropriate in this matter. *N.J.A.C.* 6A:9B-4.6(h). After reviewing the allegations, the Board found that Juneau engaged in unbecoming conduct.

The Board must now determine whether Juneau's conviction and resulting disqualification, as set forth in the Order to Show Cause, represent just cause to act against his credential pursuant to *N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-4.4*. The Board finds that they do.

In enacting the Criminal History Review statute, *N.J.S.A. 18A:6-7.1 et seq.* in 1986, the Legislature sought to protect public school pupils from contact with individuals whom it deemed were not proper examples for them. Individuals convicted of crimes such as Stalking fall squarely within this category. The strong legislative policy statement is also in accord with the Commissioner's long-standing belief that teachers must serve as role models for their students. "Teachers... are professional employees to whom the people have entrusted the care and custody of ... school children. This heavy duty requires a degree of self-restraint and controlled behavior rarely requisite to other types of employment." *Tenure of Sammons*, 1972 *S.L.D.* 302, 321. Moreover, unfitness to hold a position in a school system may be shown by one incident, if sufficiently flagrant. *Redcay v. State Bd. of Educ.*, 130 *N.J.L.* 369, 371 (1943), *aff'd*, 131 *N.J.L.* 326 (E & A 1944). In this instance, Juneau's conviction for Stalking demonstrates behavior that falls far short of a role model.

The strong policy statement on the part of the Legislature set forth in *N.J.S.A. 18A:6-7.1(b)* also offers guidance to the Board as to the appropriate sanction in this matter. An individual whose offense is so great that he or she is barred from service in public schools should not be permitted to retain the certificate that authorizes such service. Nor should a person who has been disqualified from teaching in a public school be permitted to continue to hold himself out as a teacher. Thus, because the Legislature and the Commissioner consider Juneau's offense so significant, the Board believes that the only appropriate sanction in this case is the revocation of his credential.

Accordingly, on February 28, 2020, the Board voted to revoke Christopher S. Juneau's substitute credential. On this 14<sup>th</sup> day of May 2020, the Board voted to adopt its formal written decision and it is therefore ORDERED that the revocation of Juneau's credential be effective immediately. It is further ORDERED that Juneau return his credential to the Secretary of the State Board of Examiners, Office of Certification and Induction, P.O. Box 500, Trenton, NJ 08625-0500 within 30 days of the mailing date of this decision.

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Rani Singh, Secretary  
State Board of Examiners

**Date of Mailing:**  
**By Certified and Regular Mail**

Appeals may be made to the Commissioner of Education pursuant to the provisions of *N.J.S.A.* 18A:6-38.4.