

IN THE MATTER OF : NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
THE CERTIFICATES OF : STATE BOARD OF EXAMINERS  
ALEISHA MOROSCO : ORDER OF REVOCATION  
\_\_\_\_\_ : DOCKET NO: 1920-147

At its meeting of January 23, 2020, the State Board of Examiners (Board) reviewed information the National Association of State Directors of Teacher Education and Certification (NASDTEC) and the Pennsylvania Professional Standards and Practices Commission (Pennsylvania) forwarded regarding Aleisha Morosco. Morosco surrendered her Pennsylvania teaching license(s) in October 2019 after allegations that she attempted to change her grade at Bucks County Community College by using stolen credentials of a faculty member.

In New Jersey, Morosco currently holds a Teacher of Psychology Certificate of Eligibility with Advanced Standing, and a Teacher of Elementary Grades K-6 Certificate of Eligibility with Advanced Standing. Upon review of the above information, at its February 28, 2020 meeting, the Board voted to issue Morosco an Order to Show Cause as to why her certificates should not be revoked.

The Board sent Morosco the Order to Show Cause by regular and certified mail on March 3, 2020. The Order provided that Morosco had 30 days to respond. The certified mail copy was signed, and the regular mail copy was not returned. Morosco did not file a response. On June 3, 2020, the Board sent another notice of the Order via certified and regular mail. Morosco again did not respond. The certified mail copy was signed, and the regular mail copy was not returned.

Thereafter, pursuant to *N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-4.6(e)*, on June 25, 2020, the Board sent Morosco 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 her failure to file an Answer. Thus, Morosco 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 her certificates. It also explained that, upon review of the charges against her and the legal arguments tendered in her defense,

the Board would determine if Morosco's offense warranted action against her certificates. Thereupon, the Board would also determine the appropriate sanction, if any. Morosco was also offered the opportunity to appear before the Board to provide testimony on the sanction issue. The certified mail receipt was signed and returned, and the regular mail copy was not returned. Once again, Morosco did not file a response.

The threshold issue before the Board in this matter is whether Morosco's conduct constitutes conduct unbecoming a certificate holder or other just cause. Since Morosco 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 October 29, 2020, the Board considered only the allegations in the Order to Show Cause and the information received from NASDTEC and Pennsylvania. The Board concluded that no material facts related to Morosco's offense were in dispute since she never denied that she engaged in the conduct alleged. Thus, the Board 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 Morosco engaged in unbecoming conduct.

The Board must now determine whether Morosco's conduct, as set forth in the Order to Show Cause, provides just cause to act against her certificates pursuant to *N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-4.4*. The Board finds that it does.

The Board may revoke or suspend the certification of any certificate holder on the basis of demonstrated inefficiency, incapacity, conduct unbecoming a teacher or other just cause. *N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-4.4*. "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). Morosco's actions using the stolen credentials of a faculty member and attempting to change her grades, as well as surrendering her Pennsylvania certificate(s) is clearly conduct that is unacceptable for a role model. The Board therefore concludes that the appropriate response to her breach is the revocation of her certificates.

Accordingly, on October 29, 2020, the Board voted to revoke Aleisha Morosco's Teacher of Psychology Certificate of Eligibility with Advanced Standing and Teacher of Elementary Grades K-6 Certificate of Eligibility with Advanced Standing. On this 10<sup>th</sup> day of December 2020 the Board voted to adopt its formal written decision and it is therefore ORDERED that the revocation of Morosco's certificates be effective immediately. It is further ORDERED that Morosco return her certificates 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

RS/KG/rg

**Date of Mailing:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Via 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.