

IN THE MATTER OF : NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
THE CERTIFICATES OF : STATE BOARD OF EXAMINERS
JAMIE A. YOURMAN : ORDER OF REVOCATION
_____ : DOCKET NO: 1920-152

At its meeting of October 28, 2021, the State Board of Examiners (Board) reviewed information the Monmouth County Prosecutor's Office and the Office of Student Protection (OSP) forwarded regarding Jamie A. Yourman. On July 8, 2017, Yourman was charged with Endangering the Welfare of a Child (2nd degree) and Use/Under the Influence of a Controlled Dangerous Substance (2nd degree) after she allegedly drove while intoxicated with her child in the car. On January 5, 2018, both charges were remanded to municipal court for disposition. On May 15, 2018, Yourman was found guilty of Driving Under the Influence and the other charges were dismissed.

On August 15, 2017, Yourman was charged with several traffic offenses along with Operating Under the Influence of Liquor or Drugs and Reckless Driving. On February 28, 2018, Yourman was found guilty of Driving Under the Influence and the other traffic offenses were dismissed.

Yourman currently holds a Teacher of Elementary Grades K-6 Certificate of Eligibility with Advanced Standing and a Teacher of Students with Disabilities Certificate of Eligibility with Advanced Standing. Upon review of the above information, at its May 14, 2020 meeting, the Board voted to issue Yourman an Order to Show Cause as to why her certificates should not be revoked.

After attempting service to various addresses, the Board was able to obtain what it believes is an appropriate mailing address for Yourman. Accordingly, the Board sent Yourman the Order to Show Cause by regular and certified mail on April 5, 2021. The Order provided that Yourman had 30 days to respond. The certified mail card was signed and returned, and the regular mail was not returned. Yourman did not respond. Thereafter, on July 24, 2021 the Board sent another notice providing Yourman an additional 15 days to respond to the Order to Show Cause. The certified mail copy was returned and signed, and the regular mail copy was not returned. Once again, Yourman did not respond.

Thereafter, pursuant to *N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-4.6(e)*, on August 12, 2021, the Board sent Yourman 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, Yourman 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 Yourman's offense warranted action against her certificates. Thereupon, the Board would also determine the appropriate sanction, if any. Yourman was also offered the opportunity to appear before the Board to provide testimony on the sanction issue. The certified mail card was signed and returned, and the regular mail copies were returned. Once again, Yourman did not file a response.

The threshold issue before the Board in this matter is whether Yourman's conduct constitutes conduct unbecoming a certificate holder or other just cause. Since Yourman 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 28, 2021, the Board considered only the allegations in the Order to Show Cause and the information received from the Prosecutor's Office and the OSP. The Board concluded that no material facts related to Yourman's offense were in dispute since she never denied that she had engaged in the alleged conduct. 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 Yourman engaged in unbecoming conduct.

The Board must now determine whether Yourman'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). Yourman’s actions in driving under the influence with a child in the car clearly demonstrate conduct that is unacceptable of a role model. The Board therefore concludes that the appropriate response to this breach is the revocation of her certificates.

Accordingly, on October 28, 2021, the Board voted to revoke Jamie A. Yourman’s Teacher of Elementary Grades K-6 Certificate of Eligibility with Advanced Standing and Teacher of Students with Disabilities Certificate of Eligibility with Advanced Standing. On this 16th day of December 2021 the Board voted to adopt its formal written decision and it is therefore ORDERED that Yourman’s certificates are hereby revoked, effective immediately. It is further ORDERED that Yourman 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.

Rani Singh, Secretary
State Board of Examiners

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.