

EDU #146-02
C #365-02
SB # 47-02

IN THE MATTER OF THE TENURE HEARING :
OF GEORGE ZOFCHAK, SCHOOL DISTRICT :
OF THE CITY OF TRENTON, MERCER :
COUNTY. :

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
DECISION

Decided by the Commissioner of Education, October 15, 2002

Decided by the State Board of Education, February 5, 2003

Decision on motion by the State Board of Education, April 2, 2003

For the Respondent-Appellant, Bergman & Barrett (Michael T. Barrett,
Esq., of Counsel)

For the Petitioner-Respondent, Sumners George (Thomas W. Sumners,
Jr., Esq., of Counsel)

The decision of the Commissioner of Education to dismiss the respondent from his tenured employment is affirmed for the reasons expressed therein. We fully agree with the Commissioner that the pattern of improper conduct exhibited by the respondent constitutes unbecoming conduct and warrants his dismissal. In this respect, we stress in particular our concerns about the incidents in which the respondent left his classroom unattended.

In addition, although our determination rests solely on the respondent's pattern of unbecoming conduct, we also remind the Trenton Board of its obligation to assure that teaching staff members are observed, evaluated and provided with professional improvement plans in accordance with the requirements of N.J.A.C. 6:3-4.1 et seq.

June 4, 2003

Date of mailing _____