

439-02SEC

IN THE MATTER OF REV. RANDALL :
LASSITER, PATERSON CHARTER SCHOOL : COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION
FOR URBAN LEADERSHIP, :
PASSAIC COUNTY. :
_____ :

DECISION

SYNOPSIS

The School Ethics Commission recommended removal of school official for failure to file a personal/relative disclosure, pursuant to *N.J.S.A.* 18A:12-25, and an annual financial disclosure statement required by *N.J.S.A.* 18A:12-26.

Since the school official failed to respond to correspondence and failed to submit proper disclosures, The Commissioner concurred with and adopted as his own the recommendations of the Commission. Moreover, the Commissioner admonished the official for causing an inordinate amount of administrative and adjudicative time to be wasted by local, county and state education officials. The Commissioner ordered the official suspended from office for a period of 30 days from the filing date of this decision and automatically removed from the Board if, within the 30 days, he failed to file properly prepared disclosure forms with the county superintendent in accordance with *N.J.A.C.* 6A:28-1.5 *et seq.*

This synopsis is not part of the Commissioner's decision. It has been prepared for the convenience of the reader. It has been neither reviewed nor approved by the Commissioner.

December 23, 2002

IN THE MATTER OF REV. RANDALL :
LASSITER, PATERSON CHARTER SCHOOL : COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION
FOR URBAN LEADERSHIP, :
PASSAIC COUNTY. :
: DECISION
: :
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Whereas, the School Ethics Commission has acted pursuant to the authority granted to it by *N.J.S.A.* 18A:12-21 *et seq.* to recommend removal of the above-named school official for failure to file a personal/relative disclosure statement, pursuant to *N.J.S.A.* 18A:12-25, and an annual financial disclosure statement required by *N.J.S.A.* 18A:12-26;

Whereas, the deadline to file these disclosure statements was April 30, 2002 for school officials in office since January 30, 2002, or 30 days from swearing in or start of service for newly elected or appointed board members and administrators; and

Whereas, Rev. Randall Lassiter is a member of the Paterson Charter School for Urban Leadership Board of Trustees, and thus a “school official” under *N.J.A.C.* 6A:11-3.1; and

Whereas, the School Ethics Commission, upon being advised by the County Superintendent that this school official did not file disclosure statements with the Paterson Charter School for Urban Leadership and with the County Superintendent’s office as required by the Act; and

Whereas, pursuant to *N.J.A.C.* 6A:28-1.5(j), on September 25, 2002, the Commission issued an Order to Show Cause directing this school official to demonstrate why he should not be found in violation of the Act for failing to file the necessary statements; and

Whereas, the above-named school official failed to reply to the Order to Show Cause, although the return receipt indicates that Kim Holmes received the Order on September 27, 2002 directing her to deliver it to Rev. Randall Lassiter; and

Whereas, the Commission voted on October 29, 2002 to suspend the above-named school official for 30 days, and to automatically remove him from the Board if he fails to file the necessary disclosures by the end of the 30 days, memorializing such decision through a resolution forwarded to the Commissioner, pursuant to *N.J.S.A.* 18A:12-29; and

Whereas, by letter dated November 6, 2002 from the School Ethics Commission, the above-named school official was afforded an opportunity to submit to the Commissioner written comments on said resolution recommending removal; and

Whereas, the above-named school official submitted no comment to the Commissioner; and

Whereas, on November 25, 2002, the Assistant to the Executive Director/New Jersey State Compliance Coordinator of the Paterson Charter School for Urban Leadership submitted by facsimile to the Bureau of Controversies and Disputes the signed, but inadequately completed personal/relative and financial disclosure statements prepared by Rev. Randall Lassiter on November 21, 2002; and

Whereas, the Commissioner of Education has carefully considered the record of this matter and the decision of the School Ethics Commission and concurs with and adopts as his own the recommendations of the Commission, and further admonishes the school official for his failure to file appropriately the requisite statements, in that such inactivity has caused an inordinate amount of administrative and adjudicative time to be wasted by local, county and state education officials; now therefore

IT IS ORDERED that the above-named Board member is on this date suspended from office for a period of 30 days from the filing date of this decision and shall be automatically removed from the Board if, within the 30 days, he fails to file properly prepared disclosure forms with the county superintendent in accordance with *N.J.A.C. 6A:28-1.5 et seq.**

COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION

Date of Decision: December 23, 2002

Date of Mailing: December 24, 2002

* This decision, as the Commissioner's final determination regarding penalty in the instant matter, may be appealed to the State Board of Education pursuant to *N.J.S.A. 18A:6-27 et seq.* and *N.J.A.C. 6:2-1.1 et seq.*, within 30 days of its filing. Commissioner decisions are deemed filed three days after the date of mailing to the parties.