

AGENCY DKT. NO. 14-1/08

**CORRECTED DECISION**

IN THE MATTER OF NEIL GOETZE, : COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION  
SEA BRIGHT BOARD OF EDUCATION, : DECISION  
MONMOUTH COUNTY. :

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The record of this matter, and the decision of the School Ethics Commission – forwarded to the Commissioner pursuant to *N.J.S.A. 18A:12-29* solely for review of the Commission’s recommended penalty – have been reviewed. The Commissioner has also received and reviewed the disclosure statement which respondent submitted on January 8, 2008, along with an explanation and apology for the late filing.

Upon such review, the Commissioner concurs with the penalty recommended by the Commission and additionally admonishes the respondent for failure to timely file the requisite disclosure statement, in that such delay has resulted in a waste of administrative and adjudicative time by local, county and State education officials. While the Commissioner appreciates the respondent’s explanation and apology, the fact remains that the Commission found a violation to have occurred, and the commissioner cannot disagree that a penalty is warranted, even where the violation resulted from oversight, as opposed to deliberate disregard of the law.

Accordingly, the above-named respondent is hereby censured as a school official found to have violated the School Ethics Act.<sup>1</sup>

IT IS SO ORDERED.<sup>2</sup>

COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION

Date of Decision: February 25, 2008

Date of Mailing: February 25, 2008

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<sup>1</sup> In her prior decision in this matter, although the Commissioner concurred with – and purported to adopt – the Commission’s recommended penalty, she inadvertently imposed a penalty of reprimand rather than the intended censure. That error is corrected herein.

<sup>2</sup> 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. 6A:4-1.1 et seq.* Pursuant to *N.J.A.C. 6A:4-1.4(a)*, Commissioner decisions are deemed filed three days after the date of mailing to the parties.