

#202-14

IN THE MATTER OF THE SUSPENSION :  
OF THE TEACHING CERTIFICATE OF :  
GISELE AUGUSTE-WASHINGTON, : COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION  
BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE CITY : DECISION  
OF HOBOKEN, UNION COUNTY. :

---

SYNOPSIS

In December 2013, the Commissioner of Education issued an Order to Show Cause upon respondent, requiring her to show cause why an order should not be entered suspending her teaching certificate for unprofessional conduct, pursuant to *N.J.S.A. 18A:26-10* and *N.J.A.C. 6A:9-17.9*, for resigning her position on inadequate notice. The respondent failed to answer the order. Respondent was duly advised that, pursuant to *N.J.A.C. 6A:3-1.5(e)*, failure to respond would cause each allegation raised by the Board to be deemed admitted, and might result in summary decision by the Commissioner.

There being no response to the order to show cause, the Commissioner concluded that the allegations – which respondent has chosen not to deny – may be deemed admitted, and justify suspension of respondent’s certification. Accordingly, summary decision was granted to petitioner, and respondent’s certificate is suspended for a period of one year from the date of the filing of this decision – a copy of which has been forwarded to the State Board of Examiners for the purpose of effectuating this order.

|  |
|--|
| 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. |
|--|

May 13, 2014

IN THE MATTER OF THE SUSPENSION :  
 OF THE TEACHING CERTIFICATE OF :  
 GISELE AUGUSTE-WASHINGTON, : COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION  
 BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE CITY : DECISION  
 OF HOBOKEN, UNION COUNTY. :

---

For the Petitioning Board, Okechi C. Ogbuokiri, Esq. (Porzio Bromberg & Newman P.C.)

No appearance by or for respondent

This matter having been opened by way of Motion for an Order to Show Cause before the Commissioner of Education by the Board of Education of the City of Hoboken, seeking suspension of the instructional certificate of Gisele Auguste-Washington for resigning from employment on inadequate notice; and

The Commissioner having issued, on December 3, 2013, an Order directing Ms. Auguste-Washington to show cause why further order should not be entered suspending her teaching certificate for unprofessional conduct pursuant to *N.J.S.A.* 18A:26-10 and *N.J.A.C.* 6A:9-17.9; and

The Order and accompanying Affidavit of Miguel Hernandez, Ed.D., Assistant Superintendent of Schools of the Hoboken Public School District, having been sent by the Board via certified mail and Federal Express to Gisele Auguste-Washington; and

The Commissioner having directed respondent, by notice dated February 6, 2014, to submit an answer within 20 days of receipt of the Order; and

There being no Answer filed in that time, the Commissioner provided respondent, by notice dated March 6, 2014, and sent via certified and regular mail, an additional 10 days to file an answer; and

There being no Answer filed in that time, the Commissioner provided respondent, by notice dated March 25, 2014, and sent via certified and regular mail, a final period of 10 days to file an Answer,

pursuant to *N.J.A.C.* 6A:3-1.5(e), or else allegations raised by the Board would be deemed true and this matter would be resolved in summary fashion by the Commissioner of Education; and

As of this date, Ms. Auguste-Washington has not provided an Answer to the Show Cause Order and, therefore, the Board's allegations against her are deemed to be admitted; and

Ms. Auguste-Washington, having ceased to perform her teaching duties in the Hoboken School District before the expiration of the term of her employment, without the Board's consent, and under the circumstances set forth in the Affidavit of Miguel Hernandez, Ed.D., Assistant Superintendent of Schools of the Hoboken Public School District; and

Thereby, Gisele Auguste-Washington being deemed to have engaged in unprofessional conduct pursuant to *N.J.S.A.* 18A:26-10 and *N.J.A.C.* 6A:9-17.9; now therefore

IT IS ORDERED on this 13th day of May 2014, that Gisele Auguste-Washington's instructional certificate shall be suspended for a period of one year, to commence upon the date of this decision. A copy of this decision is hereby forwarded to the State Board of Examiners for the purpose of effectuating this order and taking such further action, if any, as it deems appropriate.<sup>1</sup>

ACTING COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION

Date of Decision: May 13, 2014

Date of Mailing: May 14, 2014

---

<sup>1</sup> This decision may be appealed to the Appellate Division of the Superior Court pursuant to *P.L.* 2008, *c.* 36. (*N.J.S.A.* 18A:6-9.1)