

IN THE MATTER OF THE SUSPENSION :  
OF THE TEACHING CERTIFICATE : COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION  
OF BRUCE WILSON, SCHOOL DISTRICT : DECISION  
OF THE TOWNSHIP OF FRANKLIN, :  
SOMERSET COUNTY. :

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SYNOPSIS

In October 2017, the Commissioner of Education issued an Order to Show Cause requiring respondent to show cause why an order should not be entered suspending his teaching certificate for unprofessional conduct pursuant to *N.J.S.A. 18A:26-10* for resigning his position without giving the notice required by his contract with the petitioner. 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 Assistant Commissioner – to whom this matter was delegated pursuant to *N.J.S.A. 18A:4-34* – 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 is 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.

February 15, 2018

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For Petitioner, Andrew W. Li, Esq.

No appearance by or on behalf of respondent

This matter was opened before the Commissioner of Education on November 6, 2017, by way of an Order to Show Cause served by petitioner (School District of the Township of Franklin) upon respondent (Bruce Wilson), requiring respondent to show cause why an order should not be entered suspending his teaching certificate pursuant to *N.J.S.A. 18A:26-10* for resigning without giving the notice required by his contract with petitioner. By notice dated November 8, 2017, the Bureau of Controversies and Disputes (Bureau) acknowledged receipt of proof that the Order to Show Cause had been served upon respondent, and directed respondent to answer within 20 days.

No answer having yet been received, on December 1, 2017, the Bureau sent respondent a second and final notice – via regular and certified mail – directing that he file an answer within ten days. The notice advised that, pursuant to *N.J.A.C. 6A:3-1.5(e)*, failure to answer would cause each allegation in petitioner’s papers to be deemed admitted, and might result in summary decision by the Commissioner. The certified mail return receipt card indicates that the December 1, 2017 notice was delivered on December 9, 2017. No answer to the Order to Show Cause has been filed as of this date.

The certification submitted by the petitioner in this matter states that: respondent entered into a contract for the 2015-2016 school year, which was renewed for the 2016-2017 school year; respondent was expected to report to work for the start of classes on September 13, 2017; on

September 8, 2017, respondent submitted his resignation; and on September 10, 2017, respondent clarified that his resignation was effective immediately. The respondent has not denied these allegations; therefore, the Commissioner deems such allegations to be admitted pursuant to *N.J.A.C. 6A:3-1.5(e)* and further deems them sufficient to justify suspension of respondent's teaching certification pursuant to *N.J.S.A. 18A:26-10*.

Accordingly, summary decision is hereby granted to petitioner, and respondent's teaching certification is suspended for a period of one year from the filing date of this decision, a copy of which shall be forwarded to the State Board of Examiners for implementation of the suspension.

IT IS SO ORDERED.<sup>1</sup>

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION<sup>2</sup>

Date of Decision: February 15, 2018

Date of Mailing: February 16, 2018

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<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*)

<sup>2</sup> This matter has been delegated to the undersigned Assistant Commissioner, pursuant to *N.J.S.A. 18A:4-34*.