

SCHOOL ETHICS COMMISSION	:	BEFORE THE
	:	SCHOOL ETHICS COMMISSION
v.	:	
	:	DOCKET NO. T01-07
Rosemarie Arnold	:	AMENDED
Saddle River Board of Education	:	DECISION FOR FAILURE
Bergen County	:	TO ATTEND TRAINING
	:	

**WHEREAS**, the School Ethics Act, N.J.S.A. 18A:12-21 et. seq. was enacted by the New Jersey State Legislature to ensure and preserve public confidence in school board members and school administrators and to provide specific ethical standards to guide their conduct; and

**WHEREAS**, N.J.S.A. 18A:12-33 requires each newly elected or appointed board member to complete, during the first year of the member's first term, a training program offered by the New Jersey School Boards Association (NJSBA) regarding the skills and knowledge necessary to serve as a school board member or charter school trustee; and

**WHEREAS**, Rosemarie Arnold was newly elected or appointed in May 2006 to a local school board or charter school board and therefore, had until May 2007, to complete the training requirement; and

**WHEREAS**, the NJSBA mails correspondence to all new board members who have failed to register for or attend an orientation and did mail such correspondence to this board member on July 31, 2006, and December 28, 2006; and

**WHEREAS**, the NJSBA conducted seven training sessions between April 2006 and March 2007 at varying locations and continuously published the dates and times of the sessions in its publication, *School Board Notes*; and

**WHEREAS**, the last training session to fulfill the requirement was held on September 7-9, 2007; and

**WHEREAS**, the Commission issued an Order on August 17, 2007, directing Ms. Arnold to Show Cause why she had not attended training up until that time; and

**WHEREAS**, Ms. Arnold responded to the Order on August 20, 2007 and indicated that she attended the training session on December 9, 2006; and

**WHEREAS**, Mark A. Bonjavanni from the NJSBA certified that Ms. Arnold had arrived late to the December 9, 2006 training session and had missed the legal portion of the training; and

**WHEREAS**, the Commission notified Ms. Arnold that the Commission would discuss this matter at its September 25, 2007 meeting; and

**WHEREAS**, Ms. Arnold has failed to attend the legal portion of the required training program during the first year of the board member's first term as required in N.J.S.A. 18A:12-33; and

**WHEREAS**, at its September 25, 2007 meeting, the Commission found that her failure to attend the legal portion of the board member training from April 2006 to March 2007 constituted a clear violation of N.J.S.A. 18A:12-33; and

**WHEREAS**, at its September 25, 2007 meeting, the Commission found that the appropriate penalty for the violation was suspension from the board until she attends the legal portion of the October 23, 2007 training session and removal if she failed to attend the legal portion of the October 23, 2007 session and recommended such penalty to the Commissioner of Education; and

**WHEREAS**, Ms. Arnold indicated that she could not attend the October 23, 2007 training session because of inability to obtain child care for her children and requested the Commission to reconsider its September 25, 2007 recommendation to the Commissioner; and

**WHEREAS**, at the October 30, 2007 meeting, the Commission reconsidered its decision and voted to amend its penalty determination finding that the appropriate penalty for the violation was suspension from the board until Ms. Arnold attends the legal portion of the November 16, 2007 training session and removal if she fails to attend the legal portion of the November 16, 2007 training session; and

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the School Ethics Commission finds that Rosemarie Arnold violated the N.J.S.A. 18A:12-33 of the School Ethics Act and recommends that the Commissioner of Education impose a penalty of suspension from the board until she attends the legal portion of the November 16, 2007 training session and removal if she fails to attend the legal portion of the November 16, 2007 training session.

---

Paul C. Garbarini, Chairman  
School Ethics Commission

Dated: November 2, 2007

I certify that the within Resolution was duly adopted by the School Ethics Commission at its Public Meeting on October 30, 2007.

---

Joanne Boyle  
Executive Director

This matter shall be transmitted to the Commissioner of Education for action on the Commission's recommendation for sanction pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:12-29. Within thirteen (13) days from the date on which the Commission's decision was mailed to the parties, any party may file written comments on the recommended sanction with the Commissioner of Education, c/o Bureau of Controversies and Disputes, 100 Riverview Plaza, CN 500, Trenton, NJ 08625, marked "Attention: Comments on Ethics Commission Sanction." A copy of any comments filed must be sent to the School Ethics Commission and all other parties.

PCG/LJB/MET/training/decisions/decision template