

IN THE MATTER OF : NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
THE CERTIFICATE OF : STATE BOARD OF EXAMINERS
JERRY LAMB : ORDER OF REVOCATION
_____ : DOCKET NO: 1112-216

At its meeting of May 17, 2012, the State Board of Examiners (Board) reviewed information regarding Jerry Lamb. On December 14, 2011 the New York State Commissioner of Education revoked Lamb's Teacher of Special Education and School District Administrator certificates. The revocation was based on Lamb's inappropriate relationship with several male students that included intimate, physical and/or sexual contact. In one instance he took a student back to his apartment. In New Jersey, Lamb currently holds a Supervisor certificate, issued in September 2011. Upon review of the above information, at its June 21, 2011 meeting, the Board voted to issue Lamb an Order to Show Cause.

The Board sent Lamb the Order to Show Cause by regular and certified mail on June 25, 2012. The Order provided that Lamb must file an Answer within 30 days. Lamb filed an Answer on July 2, 2012. In that Answer, he denied the allegations regarding his inappropriate relationships with students in New York. (Answer, p. 1). Lamb returned his Supervisor's certificate "as if I had never applied for it." (Answer, p. 1). He added that "Therefore, I am not in possession of any license from NJ and therefore should not be considered for any further legal action." (Answer, p. 1).

Thereafter, pursuant to *N.J.A.C. 6A:9-17.7(e)*, on September 19, 2012, the Board sent Lamb a hearing notice by regular and certified mail. The notice explained that it appeared that no material facts were in dispute. Thus, Lamb was offered an opportunity to submit written arguments on the issue of whether the conduct addressed in the Order to Show Cause constituted conduct unbecoming a certificate holder as well as arguments with regard to the appropriate sanction in the event that the Board determined to take action against his certificate. It also explained that upon review of the charges against him and the legal arguments tendered in his defense, the Board would determine if Lamb's conduct warranted action against his certificate. Thereupon, the Board would also determine the appropriate sanction, if any. Lamb was also offered the opportunity to appear before the Board to provide testimony on the sanction

issue. The certified mail receipt was signed and returned and the regular mail copy was not returned. Lamb did not file a response.

The threshold issue before the Board in this matter, therefore, is whether Lamb's conduct and the revocation of his New York licenses constitute conduct unbecoming a certificate holder. At its meeting of December 13, 2012, the Board considered the allegations in the Order to Show Cause and Lamb's Answer. The Board determined that no material facts related to Lamb's offense were in dispute since he never denied that his New York certificates had been revoked. Thus, the Board determined that summary decision was appropriate in this matter. *N.J.A.C. 6A:9-17.7(h)*. It is therefore ORDERED that the charges in the Order to Show Cause are deemed admitted for the purpose of this proceeding.

The Board must now determine whether Lamb's conduct and the revocation of his New York certificates, as set forth in the Order to Show Cause, provide just cause to act against his New Jersey certificate pursuant to *N.J.A.C. 6A:9-17.5*. The Board finds that they do.

The Board may revoke or suspend the certification of any certificate holder on the basis of demonstrated inefficiency, incapacity, conduct unbecoming a teacher or other just cause. *N.J.A.C. 6A:9-17.5*. "Teachers... are professional employees to whom the people have entrusted the care and custody of ... school children. This heavy duty requires a degree of self-restraint and controlled behavior rarely requisite to other types of employment." *Tenure of Sammons*, 1972 *S.L.D.* 302, 321. Lamb's acts of engaging in several inappropriate relationships with minor students is inexcusable for any individual, teacher or not.

The Commissioner has long held that teachers serve as role models for their students. Clearly, a teacher who has engaged in inappropriate behavior with students and had his certificates revoked as a result cannot claim status as a role model to anyone. Lamb's conduct and the revocation of his New York certificates therefore warrant the revocation of his New Jersey certificate.

Accordingly, on December 13, 2012, the Board voted to revoke Jerry Lamb's Supervisor certificate. On this 25th day of January 2013 the Board voted to adopt its formal written decision and it is therefore ORDERED that the revocation of Lamb's certificate be effective immediately. It is further

ORDERED that Lamb return his certificate to the Secretary of the State Board of Examiners, Office of Licensure, P.O. Box 500, Trenton, NJ 08625-0500 within 30 days of the mailing date of this decision.

Robert R. Higgins, Secretary
State Board of Examiners

Date of Mailing:

Appeals may be made to the Commissioner of Education pursuant to *N.J.S.A. 18A:6-38.4*.