

IN THE MATTER OF RAYMOND :  
BONKER, LENAPE VALLEY : COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION  
REGIONAL BOARD OF EDUCATION, : DECISION  
SUSSEX COUNTY. :  
\_\_\_\_\_ :

SYNOPSIS

Board member violated the School Ethics Act, *N.J.S.A.* 18A:12-24(b), when he used his position as Board president and member to obtain the e-mail addresses of employees and release them as part of his personal campaign for reelection to the Board.

Commission found that although the e-mail addresses were not privileged and confidential information, they were not Mr. Bonker's to release, especially not on his personal campaign literature to promote himself. Thus, Commission concluded that Mr. Bonker violated *N.J.S.A.* 18A:12-24(b). Commission recommended the penalty of censure.

Commissioner accepted the Commission's recommendation that Mr. Bonker be censured as a school official found to have violated the School Ethics Act.

May 22, 1998

IN THE MATTER OF RAYMOND :  
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REGIONAL BOARD OF EDUCATION, : DECISION  
SUSSEX COUNTY. :  
\_\_\_\_\_ :

The record of this matter and the decision of the School Ethics Commission have been reviewed. Written comments were submitted to the Commissioner by Mr. Bonker. These comments essentially addressed the factual findings rendered by the Commission, which findings are not reviewable by the Commissioner.

Upon a thorough review of the record, the Commissioner determines to accept the Commission's recommendation that censure is the appropriate penalty in this matter, in view of the Commission's determination that a violation of the act occurred under the circumstances set forth in the decision.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Raymond Bonker be censured as a school official found to have violated the School Ethics Act.\*

IT IS SO ORDERED.

COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION

May 22, 1998

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\* This decision, as the Commissioner's final determination 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. 6:2-1.1 et seq.*, within 30 days of its filing. Commissioner decisions are deemed filed three days after the date of mailing to the parties.

**IN THE MATTER OF RAYMOND** :  
**BONKER, LENAPE VALLEY** :  
**REGIONAL BOARD OF EDUCATION,** : **RESOLUTION OF CENSURE**  
**SUSSEX COUNTY.** :  
\_\_\_\_\_ :

**WHEREAS**, the Lenape Valley Regional Board of Education member, Raymond Bonker, was found by the School Ethics Commission at its meeting on March 30, 1998 to have improperly used his position as a school official by releasing staff e-mail addresses in his campaign literature before the Board had discussed and approved releasing the addresses to the public; and

**WHEREAS**, the School Ethics Commission concluded that such conduct violated *N.J.S.A.* 18A:12-24(b) of the School Ethics Act; and

**WHEREAS**, after considering the facts determined during the course of the investigation and relevant testimony regarding this matter, the School Ethics Commission, in a decision dated March 30, 1998, recommended to the Commissioner of Education that he impose upon Raymond Bonker the penalty of censure pursuant to *N.J.S.A.* 18A:12-29(c) and *N.J.A.C.* 6:3-9.19(c)1; and

**WHEREAS**, comments were submitted by Mr. Bonker to the Commissioner; and

**WHEREAS**, the Commissioner has concluded that the Commission's censure is the appropriate penalty for the aforementioned violation for the reasons set forth in the Commission's decision; now therefore

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that Raymond Bonker is hereby censured as a school official found to have violated the School Ethics Act; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Lenape Valley Regional Board of Education is ordered to read this resolution at the next public meeting following its adoption by the School Ethics Commission and to post it in such places as the Board posts its public notices.

**IT IS SO ORDERED.**

COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION

MAY 22, 1998