

427-98 SEC

AGENCY DKT. NO. 171-5/98

IN THE MATTER OF RICHARD MEIER, :  
RAMAPO INDIAN HILLS REGIONAL : COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION  
HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT, BERGEN : DECISION  
COUNTY. :  
\_\_\_\_\_ :

Whereas, the School Ethics Commission has acted pursuant to the authority granted to it by *N.J.S.A.* 18A:12-21 *et seq.* to recommend removal of the above-named Board member from office for failure to attend the Board member training sessions required by *N.J.S.A.* 18A:12-33 and *N.J.A.C.* 6:3-9.4; and

Whereas, the School Ethics Commission sent ample notice to the above-named Board member of his failure to attend such training sessions; and

Whereas, pursuant to *N.J.A.C.* 6:3-9.3(i), on April 15, 1998, the Commission issued an Order to Show Cause why a penalty should not be imposed for such failure; and

Whereas, the above-named Board member replied that the scheduling and travel demands of his job had interfered repeatedly with his plans to attend the training sessions, but that he planned to attend either the June 5-7 or the October 27 training sessions; and

Whereas, the Commission ruled that the above-named Board member could have attended one of the sessions within the year, notwithstanding his representation of his many commitments; and

Whereas, the Commission voted on May 26, 1998, to recommend a one-meeting suspension of the above-named Board member if he attends the *June* training session, but removal for failure to attend training sessions in violation of State statute if he fails to attend the June session, memorializing such decision through a resolution forwarded to the Commissioner, pursuant to *N.J.S.A. 18A:12-29*; and

Whereas, on May 27, 1998, the above-named Board member was afforded an opportunity to submit to the Commissioner a response to said resolution; and

Whereas, the district superintendent responded on behalf of the above-named Board member on June 12, stating that a communication problem within the Board office prevented the above-named Board member from being informed of the training sessions offered from January to April 1998, when he would have been available to go, and further noting the exemplary attendance record of the above-named Board member; and

Whereas, the above-named Board member did attend the June 19, 1998 training session; and

Whereas, the Commissioner of Education has carefully considered the record of this matter and the decision of the School Ethics Commission and concurs with and adopts as his own the recommendations of the Commission; now therefore

IT IS ORDERED that the above-named Board member is suspended from office for the next regularly scheduled meeting as of the date of this decision.

COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION

OCTOBER 1, 1998