

FURQAN WASI BILAL, :
PETITIONER, :
V. : COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION
NEW JERSEY STATE BOARD : DECISION
OF EXAMINERS, :
RESPONDENT. :
:

SYNOPSIS

Petitioner challenged the State Board of Examiners' denial of his application for permanent certification as a teacher of skilled trades in New Jersey's public schools based on his conviction for felony murder for a homicide which occurred during the course of a robbery.

At the OAL respondent filed an application for summary decision which was unopposed by petitioner. The ALJ concluded that petitioner failed to sustain his burden of proving the Board abused its discretion in denying petitioner's application for a teaching certificate and granted respondent's application for summary decision.

The Commissioner agreed with the ALJ that summary decision is appropriately granted to respondent in this matter.

SEPTEMBER 13, 1999

OAL DKT. NO. EDU 7069-96
AGENCY DKT. NO. 161-4/96

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The record of this matter and the initial decision of the Office of Administrative Law (OAL) have been reviewed.¹ The parties filed no exceptions to the initial decision.

Upon his independent review of the record, the Commissioner agrees with the Administrative Law Judge's conclusion that summary decision is appropriately granted to respondent in this matter.

Accordingly, the initial decision of the OAL is affirmed for the reasons stated therein and the instant Petition of Appeal is hereby dismissed.²

IT IS SO ORDERED.

ACTING COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION

SEPTEMBER 13, 1999

¹It is noted that, although the initial decision identifies petitioner as *pro se* in these proceedings, the record reflects that he is represented by Melvin A. Jacobs, Esq.

² 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.