

361-17SEC (SEC Decision: Not available online)

AGENCY DKT. NO. 263-11/17

IN THE MATTER OF JOHANNA LOPEZ, :
EAST NEWARK BOARD OF EDUCATION, : COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION
HUDSON COUNTY. : DECISION
_____ :

The Commissioner has reviewed the record of this matter and the decision of the School Ethics Commission, finding that respondent violated the School Ethics Act for failure to timely file her Personal/Relative and Financial Disclosure statements in accordance with *N.J.S.A.* 18A:12-25 and 26. The Commission's decision was forwarded pursuant to *N.J.S.A.* 18A:12-29 for the Commissioner's final determination on the recommended penalty. The Commission advises that the respondent ultimately filed disclosure statements after the issuance of its August 22, 2017 Order to Show Cause, but prior to the Commission's September 26, 2017 meeting and it, therefore, recommends a penalty of reprimand. Respondent has neither filed exceptions to the recommended penalty nor instituted an appeal, pursuant to *N.J.A.C.* 6A:4, of the Commission's underlying finding of violation.

Upon review, the Commissioner concurs with the penalty recommended by the Commission in consequence of respondent's failure to timely honor an obligation placed upon school board members by law. Additionally, respondent is admonished for causing the unnecessary expenditure of administrative and adjudicative resources at both State and local levels.

Accordingly, respondent is hereby reprimanded as a school official found to have violated the School Ethics Act.

IT IS SO ORDERED.*

COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION

Date of Decision: December 18, 2017

Date of Mailing: December 20, 2017

* This decision may be appealed to the Appellate Division of the Superior Court pursuant to *P.L.* 2008, *c.* 36. (*N.J.S.A.* 18A:6-9.1)