

AGENCY DKT. NO. 186-7/17

IN THE MATTER OF THERESA OWENS, :
BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE TOWNSHIP : COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION
OF WILLINGBORO, BURLINGTON 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 complete school board member training in accordance with *N.J.S.A.* 18A:12-33. The Commission’s decision was forwarded to the Commissioner on July 28, 2017, pursuant to *N.J.S.A.* 18A:12-29, for the Commissioner’s final determination on the recommended penalty. The Commission recommended that the respondent receive a suspension of 30 days for violating the School Ethics Act. If the respondent fails to complete the online training program by the end of the 30 day period, the Commission recommends that the respondent be removed from her position. Respondent did not file exceptions, nor has she submitted proof that she completed the online training program. Respondent also did not appeal the Commission’s underlying finding of violation pursuant to *N.J.A.C.* 6A:4.

Upon review, the Commissioner concurs with the penalty recommended by the Commission and additionally admonishes respondent for failing to honor an obligation placed upon school officials by law, since such failure has resulted in unnecessary expenditure of administrative and adjudicative resources at both State and local levels. Accordingly, the respondent is suspended from her position as a school official for 30 days from the date of this decision and is hereby ordered to complete the requisite online training program within 30 days. If the respondent does not complete the online training program within 30 days from the date of

this decision, the respondent shall be removed from her position as a school official found to have violated the School Ethics Act.

IT IS SO ORDERED.*

COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION

Date of Decision: September 11, 2017

Date of Mailing: September 13, 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*)