

New Jersey Commissioner of Education
Final Decision

In the Matter of Richard Norris,
Board of Education of the City of Pleasantville,
Atlantic County.

The Commissioner has reviewed the record of this matter and the decision of the School Ethics Commission (SEC), finding that respondent violated the School Ethics Act for failure to timely complete board member training in accordance with *N.J.S.A.* 18A:12-33 and *N.J.A.C.* 6A:28-4.1. The SEC's decision was forwarded to the Commissioner for final determination on the recommended penalty pursuant to *N.J.S.A.* 18A:12-29(c). The SEC recommended a sanction of removal effective upon the adoption of the decision by the Commissioner. Alternatively, if the respondent completes the required training before the Commissioner issues his final decision, the SEC recommends that respondent be suspended for 30 days. Respondent has neither filed exceptions to the recommended penalty nor instituted an appeal of the SEC's underlying finding of violation, pursuant to *N.J.A.C.* 6A:4-1 *et seq.*

Upon review, the Commissioner concurs with the penalty recommended by the SEC for respondent's failure to timely honor an obligation placed upon 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 removed, as of the date of this decision, from his position as a school official for violating the School Ethics Act.

IT IS SO ORDERED.¹

COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION

Date of Decision: 6/30/2020

Date of Mailing: 7/1/2020

¹ 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*).