

New Jersey Commissioner of Education
Final Decision

In the Matter of Kenneth Saunders,
Board of Education of the City of
Asbury Park, Monmouth County.

The Commissioner¹ has reviewed the record of this matter and the decision of the School Ethics Commission (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 and *N.J.A.C.* 6A:28-4.1. The Commission'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 Commission advises that respondent ultimately completed the training after the issuance of its April 21, 2020 Order to Show Cause. Respondent has neither filed exceptions to the recommended penalty nor instituted an appeal, pursuant to *N.J.A.C.* 6A:4-1 *et seq.*, of the Commission's underlying finding of violation.

Upon review, the Commissioner concurs with the penalty recommended by the Commission 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.

¹ This matter has been delegated to the undersigned Assistant Commissioner pursuant to *N.J.S.A.* 18A:4-34.

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

IT IS SO ORDERED.²

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION

Date of Decision: 7/1/2020

Date of Mailing: 7/2/2020

² 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)*