

167-20SEC

SEC Dkt. No. T26-19 (<https://www.state.nj.us/education/legal/ethics/training/2020/T26-19.pdf>)
Agency Dkt. No. 150-6/20

New Jersey Commissioner of Education
Final Decision

In the Matter of Patricia Gerris,
Board of Education of the Borough of
Lake Como, Monmouth 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 completed the required training before the issuance of the Commissioner's final decision, the SEC recommended 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.

Accordingly, as of the date of this decision, respondent is removed from her position as a school official for violating the School Ethics Act.

IT IS SO ORDERED.¹

INTERIM COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION

Date of Decision: August 10, 2020

Date of Mailing: August 12, 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*).