

***Before the School Ethics Commission
OAL Docket No.: EEC-17427-24
SEC Docket No.: C22-24
Final Decision (Dismissal)***

***In the Matter of Bernadette Dalessandro,
Netcong Board of Education, Morris County,
Respondent***

I. Procedural History

The above-captioned matter arises from a Complaint that was filed with the School Ethics Commission (Commission) on February 23, 2024,¹ by Robert E. Hathaway, Jr. (Complainant), alleging that Bernadette Dalesandro (Respondent), a member of the Netcong Board of Education (Board), violated the School Ethics Act (Act), *N.J.S.A. 18A:12-21 et seq.* More specifically, the Complaint alleged that Respondent violated *N.J.S.A. 18A:12-24(b)* (Count 2) and *N.J.S.A. 18A:12-24(f)* (Count 2), as well as *N.J.S.A. 18A:12-24.1(c)* (Counts 1-2) and *N.J.S.A. 18A:12-24.1(e)* (Count 1) of the Code of Ethics for School Board Members (Code). Respondent filed a Written Statement on April 18, 2024.

At its meeting on November 26, 2024, the Commission adopted a decision finding that there were sufficient facts and circumstances pled in the Complaint and in the Written Statement to lead a reasonable person to believe that *N.J.S.A. 18A:12-24(b)* and *N.J.S.A. 18A:12-24.1(c)* were violated in Count 2 of the Complaint, but insufficient facts and circumstances to lead a reasonable person to believe that the remaining violations alleged in the Complaint were violated. Based on its finding of probable cause, the Commission voted to transmit the remaining allegations to the Office of Administrative Law (OAL) for a hearing.

Following discovery at the OAL, and based on the Deputy Attorney General's recommendation, the Commission voted to withdraw the Probable Cause Notice in this matter at its meeting on August 19, 2025, and adopted a resolution memorializing such at its meeting on September 23, 2025. Also, on September 23, 2025, the Commission requested that the file be returned from the OAL to the agency, in accordance with *N.J.A.C. 1:1-3.3(a)*, as no allegations remain in this matter.

Thereafter, at its meeting on October 28, 2025, the Commission discussed the above-captioned matter and voted to dismiss same.

¹ On February 23, 2024, Complainant filed a deficient Complaint; however, on February 28, 2024, Complainant cured all defects and filed an Amended Complaint that was deemed compliant with the requirements detailed in *N.J.A.C. 6A:28-6.3*.

II. Decision

Following its review, the Commission dismisses this matter, as the Probable Cause Notice has been withdrawn, and no further allegations remain.

Accordingly, the above-captioned matter is hereby dismissed.

Mailing Date: October 28, 2025

Robert W. Bender, Chairperson

***Resolution Adopting Final Decision (Dismissal)
in Connection with C22-24***

Whereas, at its meeting on November 26, 2024, the School Ethics Commission (Commission) voted to transmit the above-captioned matter to the Office of Administrative Law (OAL) for a hearing; and

Whereas, at its meeting on August 19, 2025, the Commission voted to withdraw the Probable Cause Notice in this matter; and

Whereas, on September 23, 2025, the Commission requested that the file be returned from the OAL to the agency as no allegations remain in this matter; and

Whereas, at its meeting on October 28, 2025, the Commission discussed dismissing the above-referenced matter as no allegations remain; and

Whereas, at its meeting on October 28, 2025, the Commission reviewed and voted to approve the within decision as accurately memorializing its actions/findings; and

Now Therefore Be It Resolved, the Commission hereby adopts the within decision as its Final Decision, and directs its staff to notify all parties to this action of its decision herein.

Robert W. Bender, Chairperson

I hereby certify that this Resolution was duly adopted by the School Ethics Commission at its meeting on October 28, 2025.

Brigid C. Martens, Director
School Ethics Commission