

SCHOOL ETHICS COMMISSION	:	BEFORE THE
	:	SCHOOL ETHICS COMMISSION
v.	:	DOCKET NO. T06-06
ILEANA CABALLERO	:	DECISION FOR FAILURE
Guttenberg Board of Education	:	TO ATTEND TRAINING
Hudson County	:	

WHEREAS, the School Ethics Act, N.J.S.A. 18A:12-21 et. seq. was enacted by the New Jersey State Legislature to ensure and preserve public confidence in school board members and school administrators and to provide specific ethical standards to guide their conduct; and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 18A:12-33 requires each newly elected or appointed board member to complete, during the first year of the member's first term, a training program offered by the New Jersey School Boards Association (NJSBA) regarding the skills and knowledge necessary to serve as a school board member or charter school trustee; and

WHEREAS, Ileana Caballero was newly elected or appointed in May 2005 to a local school board or charter school board and therefore, had until May 2006, to complete the training requirement; and

WHEREAS, the NJSBA mails correspondence to all new board members who have failed to register for or attend an orientation and did mail such correspondence to this board member on October 5, 2005, January 17, 2006 and February 6, 2006; and

WHEREAS, the NJSBA conducted eight training sessions between April 2005 and March 2006 at varying locations and continuously published the dates and times of the sessions in its publication, *School Board Notes*; and

WHEREAS, the last training session to fulfill the requirement was held on July 14-16, 2006; and

WHEREAS, the Commission issued an Order on August 4, 2006, directing Ileana Caballero to Show Cause why she had not attended training up until that time; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Caballero filed a response to the Order wherein she certified that she did attend the June 2-4, 2006 training session; and

WHEREAS, Mark Bonjavanni, Senior Consultant, Inservice for NJSBA certified that Ms. Caballero was assigned to small group #8 and on the first night of the training session, the group leader told Mr. Bonjavanni that Ms. Caballero's book and name tent were in his small group room, but that she never appeared; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Bonjavanni further certified that on Saturday morning, June 3, 2006, the group leader reported to him that Ms. Caballero's binder was gone and she did not appear for the session; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Bonjavanni further certified that he then called Ms. Caballero's room and left a message on the room answering machine asking Ms. Caballero to contact him after the large group session; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Bonjavanni further certified that Ms. Caballero did not contact him; and

WHEREAS, the attendance roster for the June 2-4, 2006 training session shows that Ms. Caballero did not attend any of the small group sessions; and

WHEREAS, the Commission notified Ms. Caballero that the Commission would discuss this matter at its September 26, 2006 meeting and requested her to attend; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Caballero submitted her resignation as a member of the Guttenberg Board of Education effective September 19, 2006; and

WHEREAS, the Commission finds that Ms. Caballero has failed to attend the required training program for the one year allowed; and

WHEREAS, the Commission finds that her failure to attend board member training from April 2005 to March 2006 constitutes a clear violation of N.J.S.A. 18A:12-33; and

WHEREAS, the Commission finds that the appropriate penalty for the violation is censure since Ms. Caballero is no longer a member of the Guttenberg Board of Education;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the School Ethics Commission finds that Ileana Caballero violated the N.J.S.A. 18A:12-33 of the School Ethics Act and recommends that the Commissioner of Education impose a penalty of censure.

Paul C. Garbarini, Chairman
School Ethics Commission

Dated: September 27, 2006

I certify that the within Resolution was duly adopted by the School Ethics Commission at its Public Meeting on September 26, 2006.

Lisa James-Beavers
Executive Director

This matter shall be transmitted to the Commissioner of Education for action on the Commission's recommendation for sanction pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:12-29. Within thirteen (13) days from the date on which the Commission's decision was mailed to the parties, any party may file written comments on the recommended sanction with the Commissioner of Education, c/o Bureau of Controversies and Disputes, 100 Riverview Plaza, CN 500, Trenton, NJ 08625, marked "Attention: Comments on Ethics Commission Sanction." A copy of any comments filed must be sent to the School Ethics Commission and all other parties.