

SCHOOL ETHICS COMMISSION	:	BEFORE THE
	:	SCHOOL ETHICS COMMISSION
v.	:	
	:	RESOLUTION
GEDDZAIDU RUIZ,	:	
Woodbine Board of Education	:	DOCKET NO. T12-04
Cape May 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 new board members to attend training within one year of election or appointment to the board to gain the skills and knowledge necessary to serve as a school board member; and

**WHEREAS**, Geddzaidu Ruiz was newly elected or appointed in April 2003 to the Woodbine Board of Education and, therefore, had until April 2004 to complete the training requirement; and

**WHEREAS**, the New Jersey School Boards Association (NJSBA) mails correspondence to all new board members who have failed to register for or attend an orientation and did mail such correspondence to Ms. Ruiz on December 3, 2003, and February 3, 2004; and

**WHEREAS**, the NJSBA conducted seven training sessions between April 2003 and March 2004 at varying locations and continuously published the dates and times of the sessions in its publication, *School Board Notes*; and

**WHEREAS**, the Commission issued an Order on April 30, 2004, directing Geddzaidu Ruiz to Show Cause why she had not attended training up until that time; and

**WHEREAS**, Ms. Ruiz replied that she could not attend training due to childcare issues and nursing problems with her son; and

**WHEREAS**, the Commission notified Ms. Ruiz that the Commission would discuss this matter at its July 27, 2004 meeting, that she had the right to attend, and she could be found in violation of the School Ethics Act and receive a penalty up to removal; and

**WHEREAS**, at its meeting on July 27, 2004, the Commission voted to extend the opportunity for Ms. Ruiz to attend training until October 2004, but if she failed to attend the October training the Commission would recommend to the Commissioner of Education that she be removed from the board; and

**WHEREAS**, Ms. Ruiz registered for the October 2004 training, but did not attend that training session; and

**WHEREAS**, at its October 26, 2004 meeting, the Commission voted to remove all school board members of local school districts who had failed to attend the October training pursuant to an extension; and

**WHEREAS**, Ms. Ruiz 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 2003 to October 2004 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 removal from the board;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the School Ethics Commission finds that Geddzaidu Ruiz 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 removal.

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Paul C. Garbarini, Chairman  
School Ethics Commission

Dated: November 8, 2004

I certify that the within Resolution  
was authorized by the School Ethics  
Commission.

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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, P.O. Box 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.