

IN THE MATTER OF : NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
THE CERTIFICATES OF : STATE BOARD OF EXAMINERS
SHAHMIR NADJMABADI : ORDER OF REVOCATION
_____ : DOCKET NO: 2122-110

At its meeting of September 17, 2021, the State Board of Examiners (Board) reviewed information the National Association of State Directors of Teacher Education and Certification (NASDTEC) and the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing provided information regarding Nadjmabadi. Nadjmabadi's California certificate(s) were revoked in July 2021 after allegations that he struck a student on the head, used profanity, inappropriately touched female students, talked about sex in class, referred to an African American student as Rasputia, talked about drug use in class, and contacted a former female student to tell her he was "horny" and wanted to smoke marijuana with her. The allegations and conduct in California are incorporated herein by reference.

In New Jersey, Nadjmabadi currently holds Teacher of Social Studies, Teacher of English as a Second Language Certificate of Eligibility and Teacher of English as a Second Language Standard Certificate.

The Board sent Nadjmabadi the Order to Show Cause by regular and certified mail on November 2, 2021. The Order provided that Nadjmabadi had 30 days to respond. The certified mail copy was delivered and the regular mail copy was not returned. Nadjmabadi did not respond. On February 11, 2022, the Board sent Nadjmabadi another notice by certified and regular mail providing him an additional 15 days to respond to the Order to Show Cause. The certified mail copy was returned was delivered and signed for and the regular mail copy was not returned. Nadjmabadi did not file a response.

Thereafter, pursuant to *N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-4.6(e)*, on March 25, 2022, the Board sent Nadjmabadi a hearing notice by regular and certified mail. The notice explained that the allegations in the Order to Show Cause were deemed to be admitted as a result of his failure to file an Answer. Thus, Nadjmabadi was offered an opportunity to submit written arguments on the issue of whether the conduct addressed in the Order to Show Cause constituted conduct unbecoming a certificate holder, as well as arguments with regard

to the appropriate sanction in the event that the Board found just cause to take action against his certificates. It also explained that, upon review of the charges against him and the legal arguments tendered in his defense, the Board would determine if Nadjmabadi's offense warranted action against his certificates. Thereupon, the Board would also determine the appropriate sanction, if any. Nadjmabadi was also offered the opportunity to appear before the Board to provide testimony on the sanction issue. The certified mail receipt was delivered and signed for and the regular mail copy was not returned. Once again, Nadjmabadi did not file a response.

The threshold issue before the Board in this matter is whether Nadjmabadi's conduct constitutes conduct unbecoming a certificate holder or other just cause. Since Nadjmabadi failed to respond to the Order to Show Cause, the allegations therein are deemed admitted. *N.J.A.C.* 6A:9B-4.6(c). Consequently, at its meeting of June 30, 2022, the Board considered only the allegations in the Order to Show Cause and the information received from NASDTEC and California. The Board concluded that no material facts related to Nadjmabadi's offense were in dispute since he never denied that he had engaged in the conduct alleged. Thus, the Board determined that summary decision was appropriate in this matter. *N.J.A.C.* 6A:9B-4.6(h). After reviewing the allegations, the Board found that Nadjmabadi had engaged in unbecoming conduct.

The Board must now determine whether Nadjmabadi's conduct, as set forth in the Order to Show Cause, provides just cause to act against his certificates pursuant to *N.J.A.C.* 6A:9B-4.4. The Board finds that it does.

The Board may revoke or suspend the certification of any certificate holder on the basis of demonstrated inefficiency, incapacity, conduct unbecoming a teacher or other just cause. *N.J.A.C.* 6A:9B-4.4. "Teachers... are professional employees to whom the people have entrusted the care and custody of ... school children. This heavy duty requires a degree of self-restraint and controlled behavior rarely requisite to other types of employment." *Tenure of Sammons*, 1972 *S.L.D.* 302, 321. Moreover, unfitness to hold a position in a school system may be shown by one incident, if sufficiently flagrant. *Redcay v. State Bd. of Educ.*, 130 *N.J.L.* 369, 371 (1943), *aff'd*, 131 *N.J.L.* 326 (E & A 1944). Nadjmabadi's actions in

striking a student in the head, using profanity, inappropriately touching a female student, talking about sex in class, referring to an African American student as Rasputia, talking about drug use in class, and contacting a former female student to tell her he was “horny” and wanting to smoke marijuana with her clearly demonstrates conduct that is unacceptable for a role model. Those actions coupled with the revocation of his California educator’s license leads the Board to therefore conclude that the appropriate response to his breach is the revocation of his New Jersey certificates.

Accordingly, on June 30, 2022, the Board voted to revoke Shahmir Nadjmabadi’s Teacher of Social Studies, Teacher of English as a Second Language Certificate of Eligibility and Teacher of English as a Second Language Standard Certificate. On this 5th day of August 2022, the Board voted to adopt its formal written decision and it is therefore ORDERED that Nadjmabadi’s certificates are revoked, effective immediately. It is further ORDERED that Nadjmabadi return his certificates to the Secretary of the State Board of Examiners, Office of Certification and Induction, P.O. Box 500, Trenton, NJ 08625-0500 within 30 days of the mailing date of this decision.

Rani Singh, Secretary
State Board of Examiners

Date of Mailing:
Via certified and regular mail

Appeals may be made to the Commissioner of Education pursuant to the provisions of *N.J.S.A.* 18A:6-38.4.