

IN THE MATTER OF : NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
THE CERTIFICATE OF : STATE BOARD OF EXAMINERS
GEORGE P. CHILMONIK : ORDER OF REVOCATION
_____ : DOCKET NO: 2122-156

At its meeting of April 7, 2022, the State Board of Examiners (Board) reviewed information the Clerk of the New Jersey Superior Court, Warren County Prosecutor's Office, and the Office of Student Protection (OSP) provided regarding George P. Chilmonik.

On or about February 1, 2022, Chilmonik waived indictment and was Accused of Conspiracy (2nd degree) after he allegedly conspired with another individual to release embarrassing information about an individual unless that individual asserted influence on a tenure matter before the Phillipsburg Board of Education. On February 2, 2022, Chilmonik received an Order of Postponement and was entered into the Pre-Trial Intervention program for a period of twelve (12) months, along with other requirements.

Chilmonik currently holds a Teacher of Mathematics standard certificate. Upon review of the above information, at its May 19, 2022 meeting, the Board voted to issue Chilmonik an Order to Show Cause as to why his certificate should not be revoked.

The Board sent Chilmonik the Order to Show Cause by regular and certified mail on May 22, 2022. The Order provided that Chilmonik had 30 days to respond. Chilmonik submitted an Answer and later, upon the Board's request, submitted clarification to that initial Answer. In those responses, Chilmonik states that he has taken responsibility for his actions, has been remorseful and apologized to those involved. *See* First Answer at ¶ 6. He completed his PTI obligations, and his record should be expunged in the future. *Id.* Chilmonik does not plan to teach again but does not wish for his certificate to be revoked. *Id.*

Thereafter, pursuant to *N.J.A.C.* 6A:9B-4.6(e), on September 21, 2022, the Board sent Chilmonik a hearing notice by regular and certified mail. The notice explained that it appeared that no material facts were in dispute. Thus, Chilmonik 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 certificate. It also explained that the Board would determine if Chilmonik's offense warranted action against his certificate. Thereupon, the Board would also determine the appropriate sanction, if any. Chilmonik was also offered the opportunity to appear before the Board to provide testimony on the sanction issue. The certified mail card was returned as "unclaimed", and the regular mail was not returned. Chilmonik did not file a response.

The threshold issue before the Board in this matter is whether Chilmonik's conduct constitutes conduct unbecoming a certificate holder or other just cause. At its meeting of January 26, 2023, the Board considered the allegations in the Order to Show Cause as well as Chilmonik's Answer. The Board concluded that no material facts related to Chilmonik's offense were in dispute since he did not deny that he engaged in the alleged conduct and admitted that he took responsibility for his actions and was remorseful. 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 Chilmonik engaged in unbecoming conduct.

The Board must now determine whether Chilmonik's conduct, as set forth in the Order to Show Cause, provides just cause to act against his certificate 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). Chilmonik’s actions of attempting to influence the outcome of a school board vote is unacceptable for a role model. The Board therefore concludes that the appropriate response to his breach is the revocation of his certificate.

Accordingly, on January 26, 2023, the Board voted to revoke George P. Chilmonik’s Teacher of Mathematics certificate. On this 3rd day of March 2023 that the Board voted to adopt its formal written decision and it is therefore ORDERED that Chilmonik’s certificate is hereby revoked, effective immediately. It is further ORDERED that Chilmonik return his certificate 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.