

IN THE MATTER OF : NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
THE CERTIFICATES OF : STATE BOARD OF EXAMINERS
AMY CZOP-BARTLEY : ORDER OF REVOCATION
_____ : DOCKET NO: 2223-108

At its meeting of September 16, 2022, the State Board of Examiners (Board) reviewed information received from the National Association of State Directors of Teacher Education and Certification and the Pennsylvania Professional Standards and Practices Commission regarding Amy Czop-Bartley (Czop-Bartley). Czop-Bartley currently holds a Teacher of Social Studies Certificate of Eligibility, issued in May 2002; a standard Teacher of Social Studies certificate, issued in August 2004; a School Library Media Specialist Certificate of Eligibility with Advanced Standing, issued April 2009; and a standard School Library Media Specialist certificate, issued May 2011.

On August 24, 2021, Czop-Bartley's Pennsylvania educator certificates were suspended indefinitely after she was charged with Solicitation of Minors to Traffic Drugs, Endangering the Welfare of Children, and Conspiracy and Manufacturing of Drugs. On April 22, 2022, Czop-Bartley pled guilty to Endangering the Welfare of Children. Upon review of the above information, the Board voted at its meeting of October 28, 2022 to issue Czop-Bartley an Order to Show Cause why her certificates should not be revoked.

The Board sent Czop-Bartley the Order to Show Cause by regular and certified mail on October 31, 2022. The Order provided that Czop-Bartley must file an Answer within 30 days. The certified mail copy was delivered and the regular mail copy was not returned. Czop-Bartley did not file a response. Thereafter, on April 4, 2023, the Board sent Czop-Bartley another notice by certified and regular mail providing her an additional 15 days to respond to the Order to Show Cause. The certified mail copy was unclaimed and the regular mail copy was not returned. Czop-Bartley did not respond to the second notice.

Thereafter, on July 13, 2023, the Board sent Czop-Bartley a hearing notice by certified and regular mail. The certified mail copy was delivered and the regular mail copy was not returned. The notice

explained that it appeared that no material facts were in dispute. Thus, Czop-Bartley 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 her certificates. Thereupon, the Board would also determine the appropriate sanction, if any. Czop-Bartley was also offered the opportunity to appear before the Board to provide testimony on the sanction issue. Czop-Bartley did not respond.

The threshold issue before the Board in this matter is whether Czop-Bartley's conduct, conviction and the suspension of her Pennsylvania certificates constitute conduct unbecoming a certificate holder. As Czop-Bartley failed to respond to the Order to Show Cause or the hearing notice, at its meeting of October 27, 2023 the Board considered only the allegations in the Order to Show Cause. The Board determined that no material facts related to Czop-Bartley's offense were in dispute since she never denied that she had been convicted of the offenses charged. Thus, the Board determined that summary decision was appropriate in this matter. *N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-4.6(c)*. It is therefore ORDERED that the charges in the Order to Show Cause are deemed admitted for the purpose of this proceeding.

The Board must now determine whether Czop-Bartley's conduct, as set forth in the Order to Show Cause, represents just cause to act against her 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). Czop-Bartley's conviction for endangering the welfare of children clearly undermines her fitness to be entrusted with the care and

custody of school children. Accordingly, the Board therefore concludes that the appropriate response to her conduct and conviction is the revocation of her certificates.

Accordingly, on October 27, 2023, the Board voted to revoke Amy Czop-Bartley's certificates. On this 8th day of December 2023, the Board voted to adopt its formal written decision and it is therefore ORDERED that the revocation of all certificates and credentials Czop-Bartley holds as of the date of this decision are hereby REVOKED, effective immediately. It is further ORDERED that Czop-Bartley return all of her paper certificates, if applicable, to the Secretary of the State Board of Examiners, Office of Certification, 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:

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