

IN THE MATTER OF : NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
THE CERTIFICATE OF : STATE BOARD OF EXAMINERS  
YOLANDE M. JEAN-PIERRE : ORDER OF REVOCATION  
\_\_\_\_\_ : DOCKET NO: 2122-201

The Office of Student Protection (OSP) and the Union County Superior Court provided information to the State Board of Examiners (Board) regarding Yolande M. Jean-Pierre. It was alleged that, on April 9, 2021, Jean-Pierre threatened a victim with a silver and brown machete and stated that she would kill him and his entire family. She then spit at an officer when placed in handcuffs for transportation to a hospital for evaluation. Jean-Pierre was charged with Terroristic Threats (3<sup>rd</sup> degree), N.J.S.A. 2C:12-3A, Possession of a Weapon for Unlawful Purpose (3<sup>rd</sup> degree), N.J.S.A. 2C:39-4D, and Throwing Bodily Fluid at a Law Enforcement Officer (4<sup>th</sup> degree), N.J.S.A. 2C:12-13. On May 18, 2022, Jean-Pierre pled guilty to, and was convicted of, Wandering/Prowling to Obtain/Sell CDS, a disorderly persons offense, and was sentenced to one year of probation and ordered to pay fines and undergo a mental health evaluation.

Jean-Pierre currently holds a School Nurse certificate, issued in July 2015. Upon review of the above information, at its September 16, 2022 meeting, the Board voted to issue Jean-Pierre an Order to Show Cause as to why her certificate should not be revoked as a result of the above conduct and her criminal conviction.

The Board sent Jean-Pierre the Order to Show Cause by regular and certified mail on September 20, 2022 and February 15, 2023. The Order provided that Jean-Pierre had 30 days to respond. The certified mail receipt was not returned, although the tracking showed delivery, and the regular mail copy was not returned. Jean-Pierre did not file a response.

Thereafter, on April 4, 2023, the Board sent Jean-Pierre another notice by certified and regular mail providing her an additional 15 days to respond to the Order to Show Cause. The certified mail receipt was signed for and returned, and the regular mail copy was not returned. Jean-Pierre did not file a response.

Thereafter, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-4.6(e), on May 12, 2023, the Board sent Jean-Pierre 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 her failure to file an Answer. Thus, Jean-Pierre 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 certificate. It also explained that, upon review of the charges against her and the legal arguments tendered in her defense, the Board would determine if her offense warranted action against her certificate. Thereupon, the Board would also determine the appropriate sanction, if any. Jean-Pierre was also offered the opportunity to appear before the Board to provide testimony on the sanction issue. The certified mail receipt was signed for and proof of delivery received, and the regular mail copy was not returned. Once again, Jean-Pierre did not file a response.

The threshold issue before the Board in this matter is whether Jean-Pierre's conduct constitutes conduct unbecoming a certificate holder or other just cause. Since Jean-Pierre 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 January 19, 2024, the Board considered only the allegations in the Order to Show Cause and the information received from the Union County Superior Court and the OSP. The Board concluded that no material facts related to Jean-Pierre's

offense were in dispute since she never denied that she had engaged in the alleged conduct and she pled guilty to the Wandering/Prowling charge. 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 Jean-Pierre had engaged in unbecoming conduct.

The Board must now determine whether Jean-Pierre's conduct, as set forth in the Order to Show Cause, provides just cause to act against her 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). Jean-Pierre's actions in threatening a victim with a machete while stating she would kill him and his entire family, and then spitting at an officer attempting to transport her, clearly demonstrate conduct that is unacceptable for a role model. The Board therefore concludes that the appropriate response to her breach is a revocation of her certificate.

Accordingly, on January 19, 2024, the Board voted to revoke Yolande M. Jean-Pierre's School Nurse certificate. On this 1<sup>st</sup> day of March 2024, the Board voted to adopt its formal written decision and it is therefore ORDERED that Jean-Pierre's certificate is hereby revoked, effective immediately. It is further ORDERED that Jean-Pierre return her 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.

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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.