

IN THE MATTER OF : NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
THE CERTIFICATES OF : STATE BOARD OF EXAMINERS
ROSA B. (DASILVA) TEIXEIRA : ORDER OF SUSPENSION
_____ : DOCKET NO: 2324-180

At its meeting of September 19, 2024, the State Board of Examiners (Board) reviewed information from the Department of Education (DOE) – Office of Legal Affairs, Accountability & Compliance (OLAAC), and DOE - Office of Student Protection (OSP) regarding Rosa B. (DaSilva) Teixeira, including documents received from the Monmouth County Prosecutor’s Office (MCPO), the Wall Police Department, and the Department of Children and Families (DCF). Teixeira currently holds a Teacher of Elementary School in Grades K-8 Certificate of Eligibility, issued in September 1996; a Teacher of Psychology Certificate of Eligibility, issued in December 1996; and a Standard School Social Worker certificate, issued in April 2000.

On or about December 10, 2022, Teixeira was charged with two counts of Endangering the Welfare of a Child (2nd degree), N.J.S.A. 2C:24-4a(2). It was alleged that she drove aggressively and while under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs while her two children were in the vehicle. On May 10, 2024, Teixeira received an Order of Postponement and was entered into the Pre-Trial Intervention (PTI) program for a period of twelve (12) months, and was ordered to submit to random drug/alcohol testing and/or counseling as determined by probation and to install an interlock device during the period of PTI.

DCF conducted an investigation and found that the allegations of Neglect-Risk of Harm and Neglect-Substance Abuse of Caregiver Threatening Minors against Teixeira were Not Established. However, DCF determined there was evidence that the children were harmed or placed at risk of harm during her aggressive driving and driving while under the influence of

alcohol and/or drugs while her children were in the car.

Upon review of the above information, the Board voted at its meeting of November 1, 2024, to issue Teixeira an Order to Show Cause as to why the certificates she holds should not be revoked. The Board sent Teixeira the Order to Show Cause by regular and certified mail, return receipt requested, on November 6, 2024. The Order provided Draus 30 days to respond pursuant to *N.J.A.C. 6A:9B- 4.6(b)*. On November 25, 2024, Teixeira submitted an Answer to the OTSC, including an Opposition to Revocation. *See Answer*.

In her Answer, Teixeira acknowledged she was indicted on two counts of Endangering the Welfare of a Child (2nd degree), *N.J.S.A. 2C:24-4a(2)*. *Id.* at ¶ 3. She admitted that she was entered into PTI and claimed that once she has completed PTI, the charges will be dismissed. *Id.* at ¶ 6. She further claimed that DCF did not make findings as to neglect or risk of harm by her towards her children. *Id.* at ¶ 5. She stated that as part of her plea, she was required to have an interlock device installed on her vehicle and attend the Intoxicated Driver Resource Center (IDRC) course, including an evaluation by a New Jersey licensed certified alcohol and drug counselor (LCADC), which she claimed was completed and no further treatment was required. *See Opposition for Revocation*, ¶ 4.

Teixeira also stated she accepted full responsibility immediately for her actions, which were a “terrible error in judgment[,]” has fully complied with the terms of PTI and expects to be released early from PTI. *Id.* at ¶ 5. She also stated that the DUI was a first-time offense, an isolated incident, she was not deemed to have any substance abuse issues, and she is a model citizen and employee, certified for nearly 30 years without incident. *Id.* at ¶ 6.

Pursuant to *N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-4.6(e)*, the Board sent Teixeira a hearing notice by regular and certified mail, return receipt requested, on August 15, 2025. The notice explained that there

appeared to be no dispute as to material facts in this matter. Thus, Teixeira 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. Teixeira was also offered the opportunity to appear before the Board to provide testimony on the sanction issue.

On September 17, 2025, Teixeira submitted a written response and requested to appear before the Board. *See Written Submission*. In her response, Teixeira “acknowledge[d] the seriousness of the underlying charges but maintain[ed] that a penalty is not required given the isolated nature of the incident, the absence of any nexus to [her] professional duties, substantial evidence of rehabilitation, and mitigating circumstances surrounding the incident.” *Id.* at 1. She indicated that she has been employed by the same school district “since May 2006, with an exemplary record of service, free of prior disciplinary actions or allegations of unbecoming conduct.” *Ibid.* She also indicated that she was released from PTI on April 10, 2025 and the charges were dismissed. *Id.* at 2. Further, she indicated that “DCF found no basis for a finding of abuse and neglect. *Ibid.*

Teixeira argued that because she has accepted full responsibility for her actions, the incident was not school related, the mitigation she presented, and “the small likelihood of any recurrence[,]” the Board could determine that her actions do not rise to the level of conduct unbecoming of an educator. *Ibid.* She also argued that, in the event the Board does find that her actions amounted to unbecoming conduct, revocation of her certificates was not warranted based on past decisions of the Board and the facts of this matter. *Id.* at 2-3. Further, she argued that she had “demonstrated a commitment to rehabilitation”. *Id.* at 3. Specifically, she complied with all

terms of her DUI sentencing, had the interlock device on her vehicle for one year with no issue, and sought therapy in connection with the incident. *Ibid.*

Further, Teixeira argued that “[t]he Board must consider mitigating factors, such as the isolated nature of the incident and [her] exemplary professional record[,]” and that she is “highly regarded by her administration, peers and the students and parents that she works with.” *Ibid.* Lastly, she argues that revocation would be an unduly harsh penalty, given the circumstances, and that a “lesser sanction, such as a stayed suspension and continued documentation of therapy/continued lack of a substance disorder diagnosis, would adequately address the Board’s concerns while allowing Respondent to continue contributing to education.” *Ibid.* On December 12, 2025, Teixeira appeared before the Board with her counsel and provided testimony.

The Board has the authority to “issue appropriate certificates to teach or to administer” and “may revoke the same under rules and regulations prescribed by the State board.” *N.J.S.A.* 18A:6-38; *see also N.J.A.C.* 6A:9B-3.2 and -4.4; *Morison v. Willingboro Bd. of Educ.*, 478 N.J. Super. 229 (App. Div. 2024), *cert. denied* 258 N.J. 143 (July 11, 2024). The Board may take action against a 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; *see also Morison*, 478 N.J. Super. at 246, 248 (explaining the Board is responsible for protecting schoolchildren from improper teacher conduct and may suspend or revoke an educator’s continued ability to serve as a teacher at any public school based on unbecoming conduct).

The threshold issue before the Board in this matter is whether Teixeira’s actions here constitute conduct unbecoming a certificate holder or other just cause. Teixeira did not dispute the allegations in the Order to Show Cause. Consequently, at its meeting of January 22, 2026, the Board considered only the allegations in the November 1, 2024 Order to Show Cause and the

information received from the OSP, OLAAC, MCPO, Wall Police Department and DCF. Because the allegations were not disputed, the Board concluded that no material facts related to Teixeira's offenses were in dispute. And because no material facts related to Teixeira's conduct were in dispute, the Board determined that summary decision was appropriate in this matter. *N.J.A.C.* 6A:9B-4.6(h).

The Board finds that Teixeira engaged in conduct unbecoming of an educator. Unbecoming conduct is defined as "conduct 'which adversely affects the morale or efficiency of the [department]' or 'has a tendency to destroy public respect for [government] employees and confidence in the operation of [public] services.'" *Bound Brook Bd. of Educ. v. Ciripompa*, 228 N.J. 4, 13 (2017) (quoting *In re Young*, 202 N.J. 50, 66 (2010) (citing *Karins v. Atl. City*, 152 N.J. 532, 554 (1998))). "[A] finding of unbecoming conduct 'need not be predicated upon the violation of any particular rule or regulation, but may be based merely upon the violation of the implicit standard of good behavior which devolves upon one who stands in the public eye as an upholder of that which is morally and legal correct.'" *Id.* at 13-14 (quoting *Karins*, 152 N.J. at 555). "It focuses on the morale, efficiency, and public perception of an entity, and how those concerns are harmed by allowing teachers to behave inappropriately while holding public employment." *Id.* at 14. "The touchstone of the determination lies in the certificate holder's 'fitness to discharge the duties and functions of one's office or position.'" *Young*, 202 N.J. at 66 (quoting *In re Grossman*, 127 N.J. Super. 13, 29 (App. Div. 1974)).

Here, the Board finds that driving while under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol with minor children in the vehicle clearly demonstrates violations of the implicit standard of good behavior expected of public-school teachers and has the tendency to destroy public respect for teachers and confidence in the public school system. Further, DCF found that the minor children

were placed at risk of harm as a direct result of her actions. Thus, the Board finds that Teixeira engaged in conduct unbecoming an educator and provides the basis for the Board's finding.

Having found that Teixeira engaged in unbecoming conduct, the Board must now determine the appropriate penalty to be applied. In doing so, the Board considers the "nature and gravity of the offenses under all the circumstances involved, any evidence as to provocation, extenuation or aggravation," and any "harm or injurious effect" on the maintenance of discipline and the proper administration of the school system. *In re Fulcomer*, 93 N.J. Super. 404, 422 (App. Div. 1967). Central to this evaluation is the understanding that "[t]eachers... 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. Fitness to teach depends on a broad range of factors, including the teacher's impact and effect upon the students, because a "teacher works in a sensitive area in a schoolroom" and "shapes the attitude of young minds toward the society in which they live." *Grossman*, 127 N.J. at 30 (quoting *Adler v. Bd. of Educ. of City of New York*, 342 U.S. 485 (1952)). Importantly, unfitness to hold a position in a school system may be shown by one incident if sufficiently flagrant. *Fulcomer*, 93 N.J. Super. at 421; *Redcay v. State Bd. of Educ.*, 130 N.J.L. 369, 371 (1943), *aff'd*, 131 N.J.L. 326 (E & A 1944).

In this instance, the Board concludes that the appropriate response to Teixeira's breach in conduct of an educator is a suspension of her certificates. Teixeira admitted she drove while under the influence of alcohol with her two children in the vehicle, which is a serious offence. However, based on the information and evidence she provided in her Answer and Written Submission and the attached documentation, the Board finds that a revocation of her certificates is not warranted.

Specifically, Teixeira demonstrated that she successfully completed her PTI resulting in

the criminal charges being dismissed. Further, she demonstrated mitigation evidence of remorse for her actions, a long career with no prior disciplinary record, and that she has taken specific steps to ensure her conduct is not repeated, including attending therapy. For these reasons, the Board finds that a one-year suspension of Teixeira's certificates is the appropriate response in this matter.

Accordingly, on January 22, 2026, the Board voted to suspend Rosa B. (DaSilva) Teixeira's certificates. On this 6th day of March 2026, the Board voted to adopt its formal written decision, and it is therefore ORDERED that Teixeira's Teacher of Elementary School in Grades K-8 Certificate of Eligibility, Teacher of Psychology Certificate of Eligibility, and Standard School Social Worker certificate are hereby SUSPENDED for a period of one year, effective immediately. It is further ORDERED that Teixeira return her paper certificates, if issued, 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:
By 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.