

IN THE MATTER OF : NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
THE CERTIFICATES OF : STATE BOARD OF EXAMINERS
ANSELMO GIRIMONTE : ORDER OF REVOCATION
_____ : DOCKET NO: 2425-227

At its meeting of June 26, 2025, 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 Anselmo Girimonte, including documentation obtained from the United State District Court for the District of New Jersey (USDSNJ). Girimonte currently holds an Elementary School Teacher in Grades K-8 Certificate of Eligibility (CE), issued December 2001; a Standard Elementary School Teacher in Grades K-8 certificate, issued August 2003; a Teacher of Middle School with Subject-Matter Specialization: Italian in Grades 5-8 CE, issued August 2009; and a Standard Teacher of Middle School with Subject-Matter Specialization: Italian in Grades 5-8 certificate, issued September 2012.

On March 3, 2022, Girimonte was charged by federal authorities with one count of Distribution of Child Pornography, 18 U.S.C. § 2252A(a)(2)(A). It was alleged that Girimonte shared nine (9) images and/or video files containing child pornography through a publicly available peer-to-peer (P2P) software application program by placing them in a shared folder on the P2P network. It was also alleged that he had sixty-two (62) video files containing child pornography on his Samsung Galaxy S5 that was seized, of which four (4) matched the videos that were in the publicly shared folder on the P2P network.

On January 13, 2023, Girimonte was indicted on one count of Possession of Prepubescent

Child Pornography, 18 U.S.C. §§ 2252A(a)(5)(B) and 18 U.S.C. §§ 2252A(b)(2); and one count of Distribution of Child Pornography, 18 U.S.C. §§ 2252A(a)(2)(A) and 18 U.S.C. §§ 2252A(b)(1).

On April 17, 2024, Girimonte pled guilty to one count of Possession of Prepubescent Child Pornography, 18 U.S.C. §§ 2252A(a)(5)(B) and 18 U.S.C. §§ 2252A(b)(2); and one count of Distribution of Child Pornography, 18 U.S.C. §§ 2252A(a)(2)(A) and 18 U.S.C. §§ 2252A(b)(1). On September 16, 2024, Girimonte was sentenced to eighty-four (84) months in federal prison and ten years of supervised release, along with other special conditions, including, but not limited to, restitution of \$68,000.

On September 18, 2024, OSP notified the Board that as a result of his convictions for Possession of Prepubescent Child Pornography, 18 U.S.C. §§ 2252A(a)(5)(B) and 18 U.S.C. §§ 2252A(b)(2), and Distribution of Child Pornography, 18 U.S.C. §§ 2252A(a)(2)(A) and 18 U.S.C. §§ 2252A(b)(1), Girimonte is permanently disqualified from continued employment with any school or institution under the supervision of the Department of Education.

Upon review of the above information, the Board voted at its meeting of June 26, 2025, to issue Girimonte an Order to Show Cause as to why the certificates he holds should not be revoked. On August 12, 2025, the Board sent Girimonte the Order to Show Cause by regular and certified mail, return receipt requested. The Order provided that Girimonte had thirty (30) days to respond pursuant to *N.J.A.C. 6A:9B- 4.6(b)*. The certified mail copy was signed and returned, and the regular mail copy was not returned. Girimonte did not file a response.

On December 9, 2025, the Board sent Girimonte a second notice by regular and certified mail, providing him with an additional fifteen (15) days to respond. The certified mail copy was

signed and returned, and the regular mail copy was not returned. Again, Girimonte did not file a response.

Thereafter, pursuant to *N.J.A.C.* 6A:9B-4.6(e), the Board sent Girimonte a hearing notice by regular and certified mail, return receipt requested, on February 5, 2026. The notice explained that because no answer was filed, there appeared to be no dispute as to material facts in this matter. Thus, Girimonte 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. Girimonte was also offered the opportunity to appear before the Board to provide testimony on the sanction issue. The certified mail copy was signed and returned, and the regular mail copy was not returned. Girimonte did not file a response or request to appear before the Board.

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(a); *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).

Because Girimonte failed to respond to the Order to Show Cause, the allegations are

deemed admitted. *N.J.A.C.* 6A:9B-4.6(c). Consequently, at its meeting of June 25, 2026, the Board considered only the allegations in the June 26, 2025 Order to Show Cause and the information received from the OSP, OLAAC, and USDCNJ. Because the allegations were deemed admitted, the Board concluded that no material facts related to Girimonte's offenses were in dispute. And because no material facts related to Girimonte'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 threshold issue before the Board in this matter is whether Girimonte's actions here constitute conduct unbecoming a certificate holder or other just cause. Based on the undisputed facts in this matter, the Board finds that Girimonte 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 sharing images and video files of child pornography on a publicly available peer-to-peer application program violates the implicit standard of good behavior expected of public school teachers. Further, in enacting the Criminal History Review statute, *N.J.S.A.* 18A:6-7.1 *et seq.*, the Legislature sought to protect public school pupils from contact with individuals whom it deemed to be a danger. The strong legislative policy statement is also in accord with the Commissioner's long-standing belief that teachers must serve as role models for their students. OSP determined that Girimonte's convictions for Possession of Prepubescent Child Pornography, 18 U.S.C. §§ 2252A(a)(5)(B) and 18 U.S.C. §§ 2252A(b)(2), and Distribution of Child Pornography, 18 U.S.C. §§ 2252A(a)(2)(A) and 18 U.S.C. §§ 2252A(b)(1) disqualify him from public school employment. *See N.J.S.A.* 18A:6-7.1(c)(2) and (d). Thus, the Board finds that Girimonte engaged in conduct unbecoming an educator and provides the basis for the Board's finding.

Having found that Girimonte 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." *IMO Tenure of Sammons*, 1972 *S.L.D.* 302, 321 (Comm'r. Decision, June 12, 1972). 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 Girimonte’s breach in conduct of an educator is revocation of his certificates. Girimonte’s conduct of sharing child pornography, as outlined above, is not conduct of a role model for children. Rather, his conduct demonstrates he is unfit to discharge the duties and functions as a public-school teacher, and demonstrates strong evidence that revocation is appropriate. Allowing him to maintain certification to teach in a public school would have a negative impact on the proper administration of the school system. Further, the record established that, as a result of his convictions for Possession of Prepubescent Child Pornography, 18 U.S.C. §§ 2252A(a)(5)(B) and 18 U.S.C. §§ 2252A(b)(2), and Distribution of Child Pornography, 18 U.S.C. §§ 2252A(a)(2)(A) and 18 U.S.C. §§ 2252A(b)(1), Girimonte is disqualified from public school employment. An educator who is not qualified for public school employment should not be able to hold herself out as a public educator. Thus, revocation of his certificates is the appropriate response in this matter.

Accordingly, on June 25, 2026, the Board voted to revoke Girimonte’s certificates. On this 7th day of August 2026, the Board voted to adopt its formal written decision, and it is therefore ORDERED that Anselmo Girimonte’s Elementary School Teacher in Grades K-8 CE, Standard Elementary School Teacher in Grades K-8 certificate, Teacher of Middle School with Subject-

Matter Specialization: Italian in Grades 5-8 CE, and Standard Teacher of Middle School with Subject-Matter Specialization: Italian in Grades 5-8 certificate are hereby REVOKED, effective immediately. It is further ORDERED that Girimonte return his 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.



Kimberly A. Gatti, Acting 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.