

***Before the School Ethics Commission
OAL Docket No.: EEC-06738-20
Agency Docket No. 399-12/24
SEC Docket No.: C75-19
Resolution of Censure***

***In the Matter of Regina Discenza,
Lacey Township Board of Education, Ocean County***

Whereas, the above-captioned matter arises from a Complaint that was filed with the School Ethics Commission (Commission) on December 26, 2019, by Shawn Giordano, Frank Palino, Linda Downing, Harold Peters, Nicholas Mirandi and Donna McAvoy (Complainants) alleging that Regina Discenza (Respondent) violated multiple provisions of the School Ethics Act (Act); and

Whereas, at its meeting on July 21, 2020, the Commission adopted a decision finding probable cause for the alleged violations of *N.J.S.A. 18A:12-24(b)*, *N.J.S.A. 18A:12-24.1(e)* and *N.J.S.A. 18A:12-24.1(f)* in Count 3 and *N.J.S.A. 18A:12-24(b)* and *N.J.S.A. 18A:12-24.1(e)* in Count 4, and transmitting the above-captioned matter to the Office of Administrative Law (OAL) for a hearing; and

Whereas, the Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) issued an Order on Partial Summary Decision dated February 27, 2023, and an Initial Decision dated August 22, 2024, concluding that Respondent violated *N.J.S.A. 18A:12-24(b)*, *N.J.S.A. 18A:12-24.1(e)* and *N.J.S.A. 18A:12-24.1(f)* in Count 3, but did not violate *N.J.S.A. 18A:12-24(b)* and *N.J.S.A. 18A:12-24.1(e)* in Count 4 and recommending a penalty of reprimand; and

Whereas, Petitioner filed exceptions to the Initial Decision, and Respondent filed a reply thereto; and

Whereas, at its meeting on December 17, 2024, and after thoroughly reviewing and considering the full record, the Commission voted to adopt the ALJ's findings of fact and legal conclusions that Respondent violated *N.J.S.A. 18A:12-24(b)*, *N.J.S.A. 18A:12-24.1(e)* and *N.J.S.A. 18A:12-24.1(f)* in Count 3, but did not violate *N.J.S.A. 18A:12-24(b)* and/or *N.J.S.A. 18A:12-24.1(e)* in Count 4, and voted to modify the recommended penalty of reprimand in favor of a censure; and

Whereas, pursuant to *N.J.S.A. 18A:12-29(c)*, the Commission's decision was forwarded to the Commissioner of Education for final determination on the recommended penalty; and

Whereas, Respondent filed exceptions with the Commissioner of Education as to the Commission's recommended penalty of censure, and Petitioner filed a reply thereto; and

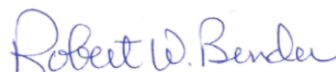
Whereas, the Commissioner of Education issued a final decision on March 3, 2025, concurring with the Commission's recommended penalty of censure; and

Whereas, N.J.A.C. 6A:28-9.11(d) provides that for a penalty of censure, suspension or removal, a Resolution shall be adopted at the Commission's next meeting following the Commissioner's imposition of the sanction, and the Resolution shall be read at the Board's next public meeting following adoption by the Commission, shall be posted in such places as the Board posts its public notices for no less than thirty (30) days, shall be published online on the District's website, if available, for no less than thirty (30) days, and the reading of the resolution shall be memorialized in the Board's meeting minutes, and once approved, a copy of the minutes shall be forwarded to the Commission; and

Now Therefore Be It Resolved, that the Commission adopts this Resolution stating that Respondent is hereby **CENSURED** as a penalty for having violated the Act as set forth herein; and

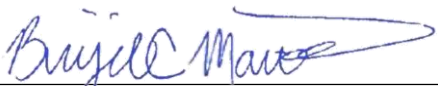
Be It Further Resolved, that the Board is ordered to read this Resolution at its next regularly scheduled public meeting, to post it in such places as the Board posts its public notices for a period of no less than thirty (30) days, and to publish it online on the District's website, if available, for no less than thirty (30) days; and

Be It Further Resolved, that the Board shall provide the Commission with the minutes, once adopted, from the meeting at which it reads the within Resolution.



Robert W. Bender, Chairperson
School Ethics Commission

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the School Ethics Commission at its meeting on March 25, 2025.



Brigid C. Martens, Director
School Ethics Commission