

AGENCY DKT. NO. 685-11/10

IN THE MATTER OF HENRIETTA COOMBS, :
CHESILHURST BOARD OF EDUCATION, : COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION
CAMDEN COUNTY. : DECISION
_____:

The record of this matter and the decision of the School Ethics Commission – finding that respondent violated the School Ethics Act for failure to attend board member training in accordance with *N.J.S.A.* 18A:12-33 – forwarded to the Commissioner pursuant to *N.J.S.A.* 18A:12-29 for final determination on the Commission’s recommended penalty, have been reviewed. The Commission recommends that respondent be suspended from the Chesilhurst Board until she has completed the online web-based NJQSAC training program, and further recommends that she be removed from the board if this online web-based training program is not completed by December 15, 2010. Should respondent complete the web-based training program by this date, the Commission recommends that respondent be censured for failing to timely complete the program. On December 16, 2010, the Commission advised the Commissioner that respondent had not completed the requisite program.

By letter dated November 18, 2010, addressed to the Executive Director of the School Ethics Commission, respondent stated “I’m writing this letter to inform you that I have been seriously ill since July 2010 to the present. It’s been an honor and a privilege being a member of the Chesilhurst Board of Education. I would like to continue being a member when my health problems improve.”

Upon review, the Commissioner is compelled to concur with the penalty recommended by the Commission. The statutory provision which directs the training required

for board members, *N.J.S.A.* 18A:12-33, makes no exception – for any reason – to its stated requisites. Absent satisfaction of this statutory edict, respondent cannot be permitted to continue to serve on the Chesilhurst Board of Education.

Accordingly, respondent is hereby removed from office, as of the filing date of this decision, as a school official found to have violated the School Ethics Act.

IT IS SO ORDERED.*

ACTING COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION

Date of Decision: January 10, 2011

Date of Mailing: January 11, 2011

* This decision may be appealed to the Appellate Division of the Superior Court pursuant to *P.L.* 2008, *c.* 36. (*N.J.S.A.* 18A:6-9.1)