

IN THE MATTER OF : NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
THE CERTIFICATES OF : STATE BOARD OF EXAMINERS
ANA FERREIRA : ORDER OF REVOCATION
_____ : DOCKET NO: 0809-221

At its meeting of June 22, 2009, the State Board of Examiners (Board) reviewed a report the Office of Fiscal Accountability and Compliance (OFAC) had forwarded regarding Ana Ferreira. Pursuant to a request by the Board, which had received information that Ferreira had used another individual's Social Security number to obtain her teaching certificates, OFAC conducted an investigation into the matter. The OFAC investigation revealed that the Statement of Assurance of Position to Teach submitted by the Newark Board of Education on Ferreira's behalf contained two Social Security numbers. One number, which was printed on the form and had a line drawn through it, ended in 8090; the other number, written above it, ended in 0900. Ferreira was not issued either of those numbers by the Social Security Administration; their number on record for Ferreira ends in 6845. The number that Ferreira provided to the Department of Education on her certification application ends in 0900. That number belonged to the individual who had notified the Board of the identity theft initially. Ferreira had used a different number when she completed her employment application with Newark Office of Early Childhood Education; that number ended in 8090. Ferreira currently holds a Teacher of Preschool Through Grade 3 Certificate of Eligibility With Advanced Standing, issued in May 2003 and a Teacher of Preschool Through Grade 3 certificate, issued in September 2006. Upon review of the above information, at its July 28, 2009 meeting, the Board voted to issue Ferreira an Order to Show Cause.

The Board sent Ferreira the Order to Show Cause by regular and certified mail several times but all copies were returned as "Unable to Forward." The Board could not secure a current

address for Ferreira and, accordingly, the Order was published in the New Jersey Star Ledger on July 12 and 13, 2010. Ferreira did not file a response to that notice. Thereafter a second notice was published in the Star Ledger on August 30 and September 6, 2013. Ferreira did not file a response to the second notice.

Thereafter, pursuant to *N.J.A.C. 6A:9-17.7(e)*, on February 13 and 14, 2014, the Board published a hearing notice in the Star Ledger, allowing Ferreira 30 days to respond. Once again, Ferreira did not respond.

The threshold issue before the Board in this matter is whether Ferreira's conduct constitutes conduct unbecoming a certificate holder. Since Ferreira failed to respond to the Order to Show Cause or the hearing notice, at its meeting of July 15, 2014, the Board considered only the allegations in the Order to Show Cause. The Board determined that no material facts related to Ferreira's offense were in dispute since she never denied that she had engaged in the alleged behavior. Thus, the Board determined that summary decision was appropriate in this matter. *N.J.A.C. 6A:9-17.7(h)*. It is therefore ORDERED that the charges in the Order to Show Cause are deemed admitted for the purpose of this proceeding.

The Board must now determine whether Ferreira's conduct, as set forth in the Order to Show Cause, provides just cause to act against her certificates pursuant to *N.J.A.C. 6A:9-17.5*. 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:9-17.5*. "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). In this matter, Ferreira used the Social Security number of another individual in order to obtain a teaching certificate. Ferreira's dishonesty is evidence of conduct that falls so far short of a role model that the Board believes that the only appropriate sanction in this case is the revocation of Ferreira's certificates.

Accordingly, on July 15, 2014, the Board voted to revoke Ferreira's Teacher of Preschool Through Grade 3 Certificate of Eligibility With Advanced Standing and her Teacher of Preschool Through Grade 3 certificate. On this 24th day of July 2014 the Board voted to adopt its formal written decision and it is therefore ORDERED that the revocation of Ana Ferreira's certificates be effective immediately. It is further ORDERED that Ferreira return her certificates to the Secretary of the State Board of Examiners, Office of Licensure, P.O. Box 500, Trenton, NJ 08625-0500 within 30 days of the mailing date of this decision.

Robert R. Higgins, Secretary
State Board of Examiners

Date of Mailing:

Appeals may be made to the Commissioner of Education pursuant to the provisions of *N.J.S.A.* 18A:6-38.4.

RRH:MZ:th