

IN THE MATTER OF : NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
THE CERTIFICATE OF : STATE BOARD OF EXAMINERS  
TYRONE DINKINS : ORDER OF REVOCATION  
\_\_\_\_\_ : DOCKET NO: 1314-147

At its meeting of November 1, 2013, the State Board of Examiners (Board) reviewed information the Bucks County, PA Court of Common Pleas had forwarded regarding Tyrone Dinkins. In July 2013, Dinkins was convicted of two counts of Corruption of Minors. Dinkins currently holds a Teacher of Music Certificate of Eligibility With Advanced Standing, issued in June 1997. Upon review of the above information, at its December 6, 2013 meeting, the Board voted to issue Dinkins an Order to Show Cause.

The Board sent Dinkins the Order to Show Cause by regular and certified mail on December 12, 2013. The Order provided that Dinkins had 30 days to respond. The certified mail receipt was signed and returned and the regular mail copy was not returned. Dinkins did not respond. Thereafter, on January 27, 2014, the Board sent Dinkins another notice by certified and regular mail providing him an additional 15 days to respond to the Order to Show Cause. The certified mail receipt was signed and returned and the regular copy was not returned. Dinkins did not respond.

Thereafter, pursuant to *N.J.A.C. 6A:9-17.7(e)*, on February 14, 2014, the Board sent Dinkins a hearing notice by regular and certified mail. The notice explained that it appeared that no material facts were in dispute. Thus, Dinkins 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 determined to take action against his certificate. It also explained that upon review of the charges against him and the legal arguments tendered in his

defense, the Board would determine if Dinkins' offenses warranted action against his certificate. Thereupon, the Board would also determine the appropriate sanction, if any. Dinkins was also offered the opportunity to appear before the Board to provide testimony on the sanction issue. The certified mail receipt was signed and returned and the regular mail copy was not returned. Once again, Dinkins did not respond.

The threshold issue before the Board in this matter is whether Dinkins' conduct constitutes conduct unbecoming a certificate holder. Since Dinkins failed to respond to the Order to Show Cause or the hearing notice, at its meeting of May 22, 2014, the Board considered only the allegations in the Order to Show Cause. The Board determined that no material facts related to Dinkins' offense were in dispute since he never denied that he had been convicted. 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 Dinkins' conduct, as set forth in the Order to Show Cause, provides just cause to act against his certificate 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, Dinkins' has a conviction for a crime against children, an egregious act. His conduct demonstrates behavior 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 Dinkins' certificate.

Accordingly, on May 22, 2014, the Board voted to revoke Dinkins' Teacher of Music Certificate of Eligibility With Advanced Standing. On this 15th day of July 2014 the Board voted to adopt its formal written decision and it is therefore ORDERED that the revocation of Tyrone Dinkins' certificate be effective immediately. It is further ORDERED that Dinkins return his certificate 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