

IN THE MATTER OF : NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
THE CREDENTIAL OF : STATE BOARD OF EXAMINERS
COLLIN M. ADKISSON : ORDER OF REVOCATION
_____ : DOCKET NO: 2122-161

At its meeting of April 7, 2022, the State Board of Examiners (Board) reviewed information the Ocean County Prosecutor's Office and the Office of Student Protection (OSP) forwarded regarding Collin M. Adkisson. On or about September 24, 2020, Adkisson waived indictment and was Accused of Terroristic Threats (3rd degree), Possession of a Weapon for Unlawful Purpose (3rd degree), Unlawful Possession of a Weapon (4th degree), and Criminal Mischief (4th degree). Adkisson is accused of pushing a victim down a set of stairs, threatening to kill the victim with a knife, using a knife to shatter the victim's vehicle windshield, and pouring bleach over a pile of the victim's clothing. On September 30, 2020, Adkisson received Pretrial Intervention (PTI) for a period of 24 months as a result of the Accusation, along with other requirements.

Adkisson currently holds a substitute credential which expires July 2023. Upon review of the above information, at its May 19, 2022 meeting, the Board voted to issue Adkisson an Order to Show Cause as to why his credential should not be revoked.

The Board sent Adkisson the Order to Show Cause by regular and certified mail on May 22, 2022. The Order provided that Adkisson had 30 days to respond. The certified mail copy was received and signed for and the regular mail copy was not returned. Adkisson did not respond. Thereafter, on August 3, 2022, the Board sent another notice providing Adkisson an additional 15 days to respond to the Order to Show Cause. The certified mail copy was received and signed for and the regular mail copy was not returned. Once again, Adkisson did not respond.

Thereafter, pursuant to *N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-4.6(e)*, on September 22, 2022, the Board sent Adkisson a hearing notice by regular and certified mail. The notice explained that the allegations in the Order to Show Cause were deemed to be admitted as a result of his failure to file an Answer. Thus, Adkisson 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. It also explained that, upon review of the charges against him and the legal arguments tendered in his defense, the Board would determine if Adkisson's offense warranted action against his certificates. Thereupon, the Board would also determine the appropriate sanction, if any. Adkisson was also offered the opportunity to appear before the Board to provide testimony on the sanction issue. The certified mail copy was marked "unclaimed" and the regular mail copy was not returned. Once again, Adkisson did not file a response.

The threshold issue before the Board in this matter is whether Adkisson's conduct constitutes conduct unbecoming a certificate holder or other just cause. Since Adkisson failed to respond to the Order to Show Cause, the allegations therein are deemed admitted. *N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-4.6(c)*. Consequently, at its meeting of January 26, 2023, the Board considered only the allegations in the Order to Show Cause and the information received from the Prosecutor's Office and the OSP. The Board concluded that no material facts related to Adkisson's offense were in dispute since he never denied that he had engaged in the alleged conduct. Thus, the Board determined that summary decision was appropriate in this matter. *N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-4.6(h)*. After reviewing the allegations, the Board found that Adkisson engaged in unbecoming conduct.

The Board must now determine whether Adkisson's conduct, as set forth in the Order to Show Cause, provides just cause to act against his certificates pursuant to *N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-4.4*. 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:9B-4.4*. "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). Adkisson's actions of pushing

someone down the stairs, threatening to kill them, using a knife to shatter a vehicle windshield, and bleaching another's clothing is clearly conduct that is unacceptable for a role model. The Board therefore concludes that the appropriate response to his breach is the revocation of his credential.

Accordingly, on January 26, 2023, the Board voted to revoke Collin M. Adkisson's substitute credential. On this 3rd day of March 2023, the Board voted to adopt its formal written decision and it is therefore ORDERED that Adkisson's credential is hereby revoked, effective immediately. It is further ORDERED that Adkisson return his credential 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.

Rani Singh, Secretary
State Board of Examiners

Date of Mailing:
Via 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.