



Before the Education Practices Commission of the State of Florida

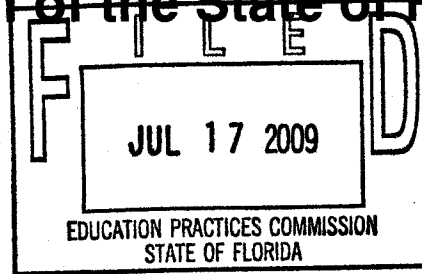
JEANINE BLOMBERG
Commissioner of Education,

Petitioner,

vs.

PATTI WITHERS,

Respondent



EPC CASE N° 08-0589-RT
DOAH CASE N° 08-5205PL
EPC INDEX N° 09-397-FOF
PPS N° 067-0102-H
CERTIFICATE N° 795790

2009 JUL 20 4 10P 45
FILED
ADMINISTRATIVE
SERVICES

Final Order

This matter was heard by a Teacher Panel of the Education Practices Commission pursuant to Sections 1012.795, 1012.796 and 120.57(1), Florida Statutes, on June 11, 2009 in Tallahassee, Florida, for consideration of the Recommended Order entered in this case by R. Bruce McKibben, Administrative Law Judge dated March 25, 2009. Respondent was not present but was represented by counsel.

After reviewing the complete record accompanying the Recommended Order, the Recommended Order, and being fully advised in the premises, the Commission hereby adopts the findings of fact, (paragraphs 1-26), conclusions of law, (paragraphs 27-45), and the recommendation contained in the Recommended Order. A copy of the Recommended Order, attached to and made a part hereof, is hereby adopted in full and becomes the Final Order of the Education Practices Commission.

It is therefore **ORDERED** that:

1. Respondent is hereby issued a letter of reprimand.
2. Upon employment in any public or private position requiring a Florida educator's

certificate, Respondent shall be placed on 2 employment years of probation with the conditions that during that period, (s)he shall:

A. Immediately notify the investigative office in the Department of Education upon employment or termination of employment in the state in any public or private position requiring a Florida educator's certificate.

B. Have Respondent's immediate supervisor submit annual performance reports to the investigative office in the Department of Education.

C. Pay to the Commission during the first 6 months of each probation year the administrative costs (\$150) of monitoring probation assessed to the educator.

D. Violate no law and shall fully comply with all district school board policies, school rules, and State Board of Education rules.

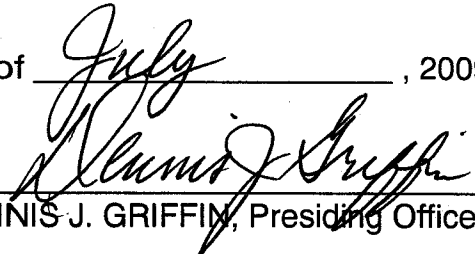
E. Satisfactorily perform all assigned duties in a competent, professional manner.

F. Bear all costs of complying with the terms of a final order entered by the Commission.

G. Engage in counseling with a Recovery Network Program (RNP) approved licensed Florida provider until discharged from treatment. If, to fulfill this requirement, Respondent must now engage in such counseling, Respondent must have the professional submit quarterly reports to the EPC.

This Order takes effect upon filing with the Clerk of the Education Practices Commission.

DONE AND ORDERED, this 13 day of July, 2009.


DENNIS J. GRIFFIN, Presiding Officer

COPIES FURNISHED TO:

Bureau of Professional Practices

Bureau of Teacher Certification

Florida Administrative Law Reports

Superintendent,
Pasco County Schools
7227 Land O' Lakes Blvd.
Land O' Lakes, FL 34639-2899

Director, Instructional Employee
Relations
Pasco County Schools
7227 Land O' Lakes Blvd.
Land O' Lakes, FL 34639-2899

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Daniel Biggins
Assistant Attorney General

R. Bruce McKibben
Administrative Law Judge
Division of Administrative Hearings
1230 Apalachee Parkway
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1550

Ann Cole, Clerk
Division of Administrative Hearings

NOTICE OF RIGHT TO JUDICIAL REVIEW

A PARTY WHO IS ADVERSELY AFFECTED BY THIS FINAL ORDER IS ENTITLED TO JUDICIAL REVIEW PURSUANT TO SECTION 120.68, FLORIDA STATUTES. REVIEW PROCEEDINGS ARE GOVERNED BY THE FLORIDA RULES OF APPELLATE PROCEDURE. SUCH PROCEEDINGS ARE COMMENCED BY FILING ONE COPY OF A NOTICE OF APPEAL WITH THE EDUCATION PRACTICES COMMISSION AND A SECOND COPY, ACCOMPANIED BY FILING FEES PRESCRIBED BY LAW, WITH THE DISTRICT COURT OF APPEAL, FIRST DISTRICT, OR WITH THE DISTRICT COURT OF APPEAL IN THE APPELLATE DISTRICT WHERE THE PARTY RESIDES. THE NOTICE OF APPEAL MUST BE FILED WITHIN THIRTY (30) DAYS OF RENDITION OF THIS ORDER.

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Recovery Network Program

Probation Office

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that a copy of the foregoing Order was furnished to Patti Withers, 37810 Lake Gilbert Circle, Dade City, Florida 33552; and Melissa Mihok, Kelly and McKee, P.A., 1718 E. 7th Avenue, Suite 301, Tampa, Florida 33675-0638 by Certified U.S. Mail this 17 day of July, 2009.



DON D. SHIELDS
Education Practices Commission



EDUCATION PRACTICES COMMISSION
STATE OF FLORIDA

KATHLEEN RICHARDS
Executive Director

DANIEL BIGGINS
Assistant Attorney General

DENNIS J. GRIFFIN
Chairperson

BRIAN T. DONOVAN
Co-Chairperson

July 14, 2009

Patti Withers
37810 Lake Gilbert Circle
Dade City, Florida 33552

Re: Jeanine Blomberg vs. Patti Withers
EPC No.: 08-0589-RT; DOE No.: 795790

Dear Ms. Withers:

As you know, the teacher panel of the Education Practices Commission reviewed the matter pending against you. The panel concluded that you violated the Principles of Professional Conduct for the Education Profession prescribed by the State Board of Education rules and hereby reprimands you for the conduct alleged in the Administrative Complaint which is incorporated herein.

This panel, composed of your peers, believes that, as a teacher, you are required to exercise a measure of leadership beyond reproach. By your actions, you have lessened the reputation of all who practice our profession. The profession cannot condone your actions, nor can the public who employ us.

The Education Practices Commission sincerely hopes it is your intention to never allow this situation to occur again or indeed, to violate any professional obligation in fulfilling your responsibilities as an educator. To violate the standards of the profession will surely result in further action being taken against you.

This letter of reprimand is being placed in your state certification file, and a copy is being sent to the Pasco County School Board for placement in your personnel file.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dennis J. Griffin".

Dennis J. Griffin
Presiding Officer