



Before the Education Practices Commission of the State of Florida

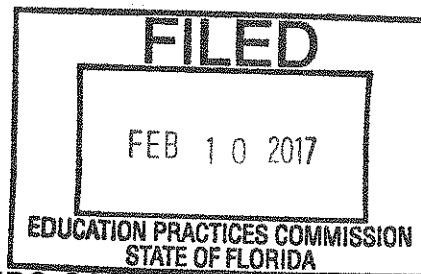
PAM STEWART,
Commissioner of Education,

Petitioner,

vs.

KENNETH ATKINSON,

Respondent.



EPC CASE N^o 16-0315-RT
DOAH CASE N^o 16-3077PL
PPS N^o 134-3089
CERTIFICATE N^o 962539
EPC INDEX N^o 17-061-FOF

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 January 20, 2017 in Tallahassee, Florida, for consideration of the Recommended Order entered in this case by E. GARY EARLY, Administrative Law Judge. Respondent was not present, but was represented. Petitioner was represented by J. David Holder, Esq.

Findings of Fact

1. The findings of fact set forth in the Recommended Order are approved and adopted and incorporated herein by reference.
2. There is competent substantial evidence to support the findings of fact.

Conclusions of Law

1. The Education Practices Commission has jurisdiction of this matter pursuant to Section 120.57(1), Florida Statutes, and Chapter 1012, Florida Statutes.

2. The conclusions of law set forth in the Recommended Order are approved and adopted and incorporated herein by reference.

Penalty

Upon a complete review of the record in this case, the Commission determines that the penalty recommended by the Administrative Law Judge be ACCEPTED. It is therefore **ORDERED** that:

Respondent is hereby issued a letter of reprimand.

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

DONE AND ORDERED, this 7th day of February, 2017.



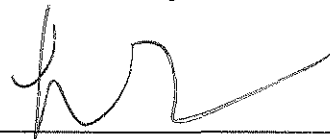
JILLIAN ROSE, Presiding Officer

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.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that a copy of the foregoing Order was mailed to KENNETH ATKINSON, 4028 Berry Circle, Pace, FL 32571 and Ronald G. Stowers, Esq., 245 East Virginia Street, Tallahassee, FL 32301 by Certified U.S. Mail and by electronic mail to Bonnie Wilmot, Deputy General Counsel, Suite 1232, Turlington Building, 325 West Gaines Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0400 and J. David Holder, Esq., 387 Lakeside Drive, DeFuniak Springs, Florida 34235 this 10 day of February, 2017.



Lisa Forbess, Clerk
Education Practices Commission

COPIES FURNISHED TO:

Office of Professional Practices Services

Bureau of Educator Certification

Superintendent,
Santa Rosa County Schools
603 Canal St.
Milton, FL 32570-6726

Assistant Superintendent for Personnel
Santa Rosa County Schools

Lee Ann Gustafson
Senior Assistant Attorney General

E. GARY EARLY
Administrative Law Judge
Division of Administrative Hearings
1230 Apalachee Parkway
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1550

Claudia Llado, Clerk
Division of Administrative Hearings



EDUCATION PRACTICES COMMISSION
STATE OF FLORIDA

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Legal Counsel
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Clerk of Court

CHRISTIE GOLD
Chairperson
NICHOLAS PIETKIEWICZ
Co-Chairperson

February 7, 2017

Kenneth Atkinson
4028 Berry Circle
Pace, Florida 32571

Re: Pam Stewart vs. Kenneth Atkinson
EPC No.: 16-0315-RT; DOE No.: 962539

Dear Mr. Atkinson:

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 Recommended Order 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 Santa Rosa County School Board for placement in your personnel file.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jillian Rose", with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Jillian Rose
Presiding Officer