

IN THE MATTER

OF

Diana R. Williams

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BEFORE THE NEW
BALTIMORE CITY BOARD OF
SCHOOL COMMISSIONERS

Case No.: 99-17

ORDER

Having considered the evidence presented at the hearing held on August 26, 1999, the findings of fact, conclusions of law and recommendation of the Hearing Examiner, as well as any exceptions filed in this matter by the Respondent, Diana R. Williams, and the Chief Executive Officer, the New Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners rejects the recommendation of the Hearing Examiner and affirms the recommendation of the Chief Executive Officer that Respondent be dismissed for misconduct in office. Our reasons follow.

We find that the Respondent committed misconduct in office by failing to follow the chain of command when she disseminated information regarding alleged potential health hazards at three Baltimore City public schools. We also find that Respondent did not get permission to obtain the home addresses of approximately 500 students at Southeast Middle School. We find that confidential student information was wrongfully acquired by Respondent to further her own personal goals and objectives. We believe Respondent violated the Ethics Laws and Codes of Conduct of Baltimore City by attaching her personal business card to the communication mailed to students' home.

Contrary to the Hearing Examiner's conclusions of law, we find Respondent's repeated failure to follow proper procedure when addressing alleged health and safety concerns has a

direct bearing upon her fitness to teach, such that it would undermine her future classroom performance and overall impact on students. Resetar v. State Board of Education 284 Md. 537 (1979), *Maryland Annotated Code, Education Article, §6-202(a)*. For the foregoing reasons, it is hereby

ORDERED that the recommendation of the Hearing Officer is rejected; and it is further

ORDERED that the recommendation of the Chief Executive Officer to terminate Diana R. Williams as a teacher with the Baltimore City Public School System be, and is hereby, affirmed.

FOR THE BOARD:



Judith Donaldson
Board Executive
New Baltimore City
Board of School Commissioners
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