



State of New Jersey
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
PO Box 500
TRENTON, NJ 08625-0500

PHILIP D. MURPHY
Governor

SHEILA Y. OLIVER
Lt. Governor

LAMONT O. REPOLLET, ED.D.
Commissioner

SCHOOL ETHICS COMMISSION

September 24, 2018

Walter L. Fields
135 Oakview Avenue
Maplewood, NJ 07040

AMENDED NOTICE OF HEARING

Derlys Mara Gutierrez, Esq.
Adams, Gutierrez & Lattiboudere, LLC
1037 Raymond Blvd., Suite 900
Newark, NJ 07102

SUBJECT: WALTER FIELDS v. STEPHANIE LAWSON-MUHAMMAD, SOUTH ORANGE-MAPLEWOOD BOARD OF EDUCATION, ESSEX COUNTY, SCHOOL ETHICS COMMISSION DOCKET #C34-18

Dear Parties:

By correspondence dated September 21, 2018, counsel for Respondent requested an adjournment of the hearing currently scheduled for Tuesday, October 30, 2018, at 9:30 a.m., in connection with the above-referenced matter. Counsel advised that, on October 30, 2018, she will be "out of the office on a pre-planned and prepaid vacation," and will not be returning until November 12, 2018; therefore, she is unavailable for the hearing. Ms. Gutierrez also noted that Complainant did not consent to her request for an adjournment.

Although Complainant objects to the request for an adjournment, based on good cause shown, the School Ethics Commission (Commission) hereby *grants* Respondent's request for an adjournment based on her attorney's unavailability. The hearing in connection with the above-referenced matter will now take place on **Tuesday, November 27, 2018**. As a reminder, at this hearing, which will take place at approximately **9:30 a.m.** at the **New Jersey Department of Education, 100 Riverview Plaza, First Floor Conference Room, Trenton, New Jersey**, **Complainant** will have the burden to prove the alleged violations of N.J.S.A. 18A:12-24.1(e) and (f) of the Code of Ethics for School Board Members (Code), within the standards set forth in N.J.A.C. 6A:28-6.4.

Also as a reminder, because the Complaint solely alleges violations of the Code, proceedings shall take place in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:28-10.8, and in accordance with the rules of the Office of Administrative Law, N.J.A.C. 1:1-1.1 et seq. In preparation for the hearing, the parties **must**:

- 1) **By no later than Friday, October 26, 2018**, complete the enclosed Verification of Attendance form, and submit it to the Commission.¹ The completed Verification of Attendance can either be faxed to the Commission at (609) 633-0279, or e-mailed to schoolethics@doe.nj.gov. *Each party shall provide a copy of this filing on his or her adversary, along with proof of service in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:28-1.7.*
- 2) **By no later than Friday, November 9, 2018**, provide the Commission with copies of *any and all* documents, Exhibits, videos, etc., that are intended to be introduced as evidence at the hearing, even if this information has already been provided to the Commission. *Each party shall provide a copy of this filing on his or her adversary, along with proof of service in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:28-1.7.*

To the extent that the parties may wish to submit a joint stipulation of facts and/or issues, such a joint stipulation should be submitted to the Commission by no later than **Friday, November 16, 2018**.

If you have questions about the scheduling of this matter, or need additional information, please contact our office at (609) 376-9115 to schedule a conference call.

Sincerely,



Kathryn A. Whalen, Director
School Ethics Commission

Enclosure

¹ The Commission is in receipt of Complainant and Respondent's Verification of Attendance forms. Neither Complainant nor Respondent is required to submit another Verification of Attendance unless he or she wishes to do so.

**SCHOOL ETHICS COMMISSION
VERIFICATION OF ATTENDANCE**

DOCKET NUMBER: C34-18

1. Name: _____ (printed)

2. Telephone Number(s): _____

3. Address: _____

4. Fax Number: _____

5. Email address: _____

6. I am the () Complainant () Respondent or () an attorney appearing on behalf of

7. _____ I will attend the hearing on October 30, 2018. The following witness(es) will be present to give testimony to the Commission (**please include each witness's name, address, telephone number, title, and a summary of the subject area of his/her testimony**):

8. _____ I will not attend the hearing on October 30, 2018.

NOTE: Because Complainant has the burden to factually establish a violation of the Code of Ethics for School Board Members, if Complainant does not appear for the hearing, Respondent may make a Motion to Dismiss the complaint, which will be considered by the Commission at that time.

Signature

**PLEASE FAX THIS INFORMATION TO THE SCHOOL ETHICS COMMISSION
AT (609) 633-0279, or E-MAIL IT SCHOOLETHICS@DOE.NJ.GOV. THIS
INFORMATION MUST BE RECEIVED BY SEPTEMBER 21, 2018.**