



Before the Education Practices Commission of the State of Florida



PAM STEWART as the
Commissioner of Education,

Petitioner,

vs.

LAKEISHA M EDWARDS,

Respondent.

EPC CASE N^o: 18-0344-TC

Index N^o: 19-005-FOI

PPS N^o: 167-3656

Certificate No.: 913133

Final Order

This matter appeared before the Education Practices Commission (“Commission”) at a duly-noticed public meeting on December 13, 2018 in Tallahassee, Florida. Petitioner has filed an Administrative Complaint seeking suspension, revocation, permanent revocation or other disciplinary action against the certificate. A copy of the Administrative Complaint is attached to and made a part of this Order.

Service of the Administrative Complaint was made upon Respondent by certified mail. Respondent has failed to respond to the Administrative Complaint and has not requested a hearing or any other proceeding. Respondent was not present.

FINDING OF FACTS

The Commission finds that Respondent was properly served with the Administrative Complaint, has failed to respond timely, and has waived any right to be heard.

The Commission adopts as its finding of facts the facts alleged in the Administrative Complaint.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Based upon the Findings of Fact, the Commission concludes the Respondent has violated Section 1012.795(1)(j), Florida Statutes.

The Commission is empowered by Sections 1012.795(1) and 1012.796(7), Florida Statutes, to impose a penalty against the Respondent.

Therefore, it is ORDERED that:

1. Respondent's is hereby issued a letter of reprimand.
2. Respondent is assessed an administrative fine of \$750.00 to be paid within two (2) years of the date of the Final Order.

DONE AND ORDERED, this 8th day of January, 2019.


CHRISTIE GOLD, Presiding Officer

COPIES FURNISHED TO:

Office of Professional Practices
Services

Bureau of Educator Certification

Superintendent
Orange County Schools
P.O. Box 271
Orlando, FL 32802-0271

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

Director of Personnel
Orange County Schools
P.O. Box 271
Orlando, FL 32802-0271

Lawrence Harris
Assistant Attorney General

Claudia Llado, Clerk
Division of Administrative Hearings

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 Lakeisha M Edwards, [REDACTED], Port Saint Lucie, FL 34953 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 this 8th day of January, 2019.



Lisa Forbess, Clerk
Education Practices Commission

**STATE OF FLORIDA
EDUCATION PRACTICES COMMISSION**

**PAM STEWART, as
Commissioner of Education,**

Petitioner,

vs.

CASE NO. 167-3656

LAKEISHA M. EDWARDS,

Respondent.

_____ /

ADMINISTRATIVE COMPLAINT

Petitioner, Pam Stewart, as Commissioner of Education, files this Administrative Complaint against LAKEISHA M. EDWARDS. The Petitioner seeks the appropriate disciplinary sanction of the Respondent's educator's certificate pursuant to sections 1012.315, 1012.795, and 1012.796, Florida Statutes, and pursuant to Rule 6A-10.081, Florida Administrative Code, Principles of Professional Conduct for the Education Profession in Florida, said sanctions specifically set forth in sections 1012.795(1) and 1012.796(7), Florida Statutes.

The Petitioner alleges:

JURISDICTION

1. The Respondent holds Florida Educator's Certificate 913133, covering the area of Chemistry, which is valid through June 30, 2018.
2. At all times pertinent hereto, the Respondent was employed as a Science Teacher at Memorial Middle School in the Orange County School District.

MATERIAL ALLEGATIONS

3. At all times pertinent hereto, Respondent was subject to the Orange County Public Schools Management Directive B-7 Guidelines for use of Copyrighted Materials including the use of pre-recorded videotapes. Management Directive B-7 states that showing a video must be "part of a systematic course of instruction and not for entertainment, recreation or cultural value."

4. On or about May 3, 2017, Respondent failed to protect her middle school students and violated Management Directive B-7 by showing parts of or all of the R-rated movie, *House of Wax*, for entertainment purposes and not in connection with a lesson plan.

The Petitioner charges:

STATUTE VIOLATIONS

COUNT 1: The Respondent is in violation of section 1012.795(1)(j), Florida Statutes, in that Respondent has violated the Principles of Professional Conduct for the Education Profession prescribed by State Board of Education rules.

RULE VIOLATIONS

COUNT 2: The allegations of misconduct set forth herein are in violation of Rule 6A-10.081(2)(a)1, Florida Administrative Code, in that Respondent has failed to make reasonable effort to protect the student from conditions harmful to learning and/or to the student's mental health and/or physical health and/or safety.

WHEREFORE, based on the reasons set forth herein and in accordance with the Explanation of Rights and Election of Rights forms attached to and made a part of this Administrative Complaint, Petitioner respectfully recommends that the Education Practices Commission impose an appropriate sanction against the Respondent's educator's certificate pursuant to the authority provided in sections 1012.795(1) and 1012.796(7), Florida Statutes. The sanctions imposed by the Education Practices Commission may include, but are not limited to, any one or a combination of the following: issuing the Respondent a written reprimand; placing the Respondent on probation for any period of time; restricting the Respondent's authorized scope of practice; assessing the Respondent an administrative fine; directing the Respondent to enroll in the Recovery Network Program; suspending the Respondent's educator's certificate for a period of time not to exceed five years; revoking the Respondent's educator's certificate for a period of time up to 10 years or permanently; determining the Respondent to be ineligible for certification; or barring the Respondent from reapplying for an educator's certificate for a period of time up to 10 years or permanently.

EXECUTED on this 19th day of June, 2018.



PAM STEWART, as
Commissioner of Education
State of Florida



EDUCATION PRACTICES COMMISSION
STATE OF FLORIDA

GRETCHEN KELLEY BRANTLEY

Executive Director

LAWRENCE HARRIS

Legal Counsel

LISA FORBESS

Clerk of Court

CHRISTIE GOLD

Chairperson

NICHOLAS PIETKIEWICZ

Co-Chairperson

January 8, 2019

Lakeisha Edwards

████████████████████
Port Saint Lucie, Florida 34953

Re: Pam Stewart vs. Lakeisha Edwards

EPC No.: 18-0344-TC; DOE No.: 913133

Dear Ms. Edwards:

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, which includes fellow educators, 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 and have diminished your position as an educational leader. The profession cannot condone your actions, nor can the public who employ us.

The Education Practices Commission sincerely hopes it is your intention never 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.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Christie Gold".

Christie Gold
Presiding Officer