

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

STATE OF GEORGIA

WILLIAM GEORGE,	:	
	:	
Appellant,	:	CASE NO. 1989-37
	:	
v.	:	
	:	DECISION
WALTON COUNTY	:	
BOARD OF EDUCATION,	:	
	:	
Appellee.	:	

This is an appeal by William George (“Appellant”) from a decision by the Walton County Board of Education to accept the recommendation of a Professional Practices Commission Tribunal to terminate Appellant’s teaching contract based upon a finding of unprofessional conduct sufficient to constitute other good and sufficient cause for dismissal under the provisions of O.C.G.A. § 20-2-940(a). The appeal was made on the grounds that there was insufficient evidence to sustain the charges, and that his conduct was not sufficient grounds for termination of his teaching contract. The decision of the Local Board is sustained.

Appellant did not submit a brief or appear for oral arguments. Appellant, therefore, has not shown any basis for claiming that there was insufficient evidence to support the charges, or that his conduct did not provide sufficient grounds for termination of his teaching contract.

Appellant was charged with making sexual advances against several female teachers while he was serving as assistant principal in the school where they worked. A tribunal from the Professional Practices Commission heard evidence over a two-day period. Appellant was represented by counsel at the hearing. Several teachers presented testimony during the hearing that Appellant had made advances against them, or touched them in ways they found uncomfortable or disturbing. One teacher testified that Appellant had kissed her against her will.

The Professional Practices Commission Tribunal found that Appellant had made numerous inappropriate and offensive comments to various female faculty members that constituted sexual harassment. The Tribunal also found that Appellant had kissed another female teacher on March 21, 1989, even though she had struggled to avoid his advances.

The standard for review by the State Board of Education is that if there is any evidence to support the decision of the local board of education, then the local board's decision will stand unless there has been an abuse of discretion, or the decision is so arbitrary and capricious as to be illegal. See, Ransum v. Chattooga County Bd. of Educ., 144 Ga. App. 783 (1978); Antone v. Greene County Bd. of Educ., Case No. 1976-11. As set forth above, the findings of the Professional Practice Commission Tribunal are supported by the record in this case.

Based upon the foregoing, the State Board of Education concludes that there was evidence to support the decision of the Local Board. The Local Board's decision, therefore, is

SUSTAINED.

This 12th day of April, 1990.

Mr. Bobby Carrell was not present.

Larry M. Foster, Sr.
Vice chairman For Appeals