

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

STATE OF GEORGIA

LANCELOT M. THORNTON,	:	
	:	
Appellant,	:	
	:	CASE NO. 1994-16
vs.	:	
	:	DECISION
ATLANTA BOARD OF EDUCATION,	:	
	:	
Appellee.	:	

This is an appeal by Lancelot Thornton (Appellant) from a decision by the Atlanta Board of Education (Local Board) to accept the recommendation of a Professional Practices Commission Tribunal that his contract as an elementary music teacher should be terminated because he engaged in inappropriate and unprofessional behavior with a female student of the Atlanta Public Schools when he attempted to withdraw the student from a school by posing as the student's guardian. Appellant claimed during the hearing before the Tribunal that a student-teacher relationship did not exist because the student was not enrolled in Appellant's school and Appellant had acted as a surrogate godfather for the student since the student was in the fourth grade and he was simply trying to assist the student because of a bad home situation. The Local Board claimed that Appellant failed to exercise professional judgment because he did not use the proper channels to obtain help for the student. As a result, the Local Board claimed that Appellant could not be effective as a music instructor where he has to chaperon students on trips. Appellant failed to file a brief with the State Board of Education or request oral arguments. Because Appellant failed to pursue his appeal, the appeal is dismissed.

This 12th day of May, 1994.

Mr. Billingslea, Mrs. King, Mr. present. Mr. Lathem's seat is vacant due to his resignation effective December 31, 1993.

Robert M. Brinson
Vice Chairman for Appeals