

CITY OF NEW YORK CONFLICTS OF INTEREST BOARD

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 27, 2014

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ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL PAYS \$7,000 FINE FOR CHANGING HIS SON'S GRADES FROM FAILING TO PASSING SCORES

The New York City Conflicts of Interest Board (“Board”) and the New York City Department of Education (“DOE”) concluded a settlement with a DOE Assistant Principal who, without the knowledge of or authorization from anyone at DOE, changed eleven of his son’s course and exam grades from failing to unearned passing scores.

The Assistant Principal acknowledged that, by giving unearned passing grades to his son, he used his City position to benefit his son, a person with whom he is “associated,” in violation of the City’s conflicts of interest law.

For this violation, the Assistant Principal agreed to pay a \$7,000 fine to the Board. Scroll down or click [here](#) to view the public disposition in this case. All of the Board’s dispositions are available free of charge, in full-text searchable form, on the website for the Center for New York City Law at New York Law School (www.CityAdmin.org).

Assistant Counsel Jeff Tremblay handled the case for the Board. The Board gratefully acknowledges the work of its investigative arm, the New York City Department of Investigation (“DOI”), DOI Commissioner Mark G. Peters, Special Commissioner of Investigation for the New York City School District (“SCI”) Richard J. Condon, and SCI Investigator Joseph Piwowarski, who handled the investigation.

The Conflicts of Interest Board is the City’s ethics board and is charged with interpreting and enforcing the City’s conflicts of interest, annual disclosure, and lobbyist gift laws. For more information about the Board, visit: <http://nyc.gov/ethics>. Anyone with questions about the law is urged to contact the Board through its website or by calling (212) 442-1400.

The Board does not comment on its dispositions, except as set forth above. For additional public information about the Board's enforcement activities—including summaries of all prior enforcement dispositions and fines imposed—visit the Board's website: www.nyc.gov/html/conflicts/html/units/enforcement.shtml.

THE CITY OF NEW YORK
OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE TRIALS AND HEARINGS

-----X	
	<u>DISPOSITION</u>
NEW YORK CITY	:
CONFLICTS OF INTEREST BOARD,	:
	:
Petitioner,	:
	:
- against -	:
	:
ABDURRAHIM ALI,	:
	:
Respondent.	:
-----X	

WHEREAS, the New York City Conflicts of Interest Board (the “Board”) commenced an enforcement action pursuant to Section 2603(h)(1) of Chapter 68 of the New York City Charter (“Chapter 68”) against Abdurrahim Ali (“Respondent”); and

WHEREAS, the Board and Respondent wish to resolve this matter on the following terms; and

WHEREAS, Respondent wishes to make his employer, the New York City Department of Education (“DOE”) a party to this resolution; and

WHEREAS, DOE agrees to be a party to this resolution,

IT IS HEREBY AGREED by and between the parties as follows:

1. In full satisfaction of the above-captioned matter, Respondent admits to the following:
 - a. Since October 10, 1989, I have been employed by the New York City Department of Education (“DOE”). As such, during this time I have been and am a “public servant” within the meaning of and subject to Chapter 68.
 - b. At all relevant times mentioned herein, I have been an Assistant Principal at Bread and Roses Integrated Arts High School in Manhattan (“Bread and Roses”).
 - c. My son attended Bread and Roses from 2009 to 2013.

- d. Between June 22, 2012, and January 14, 2013, without the knowledge of or authorization from any Bread and Roses teacher or administrator, I used my Bread and Roses administrator identification and password to log into the Bread and Roses student grading program and changed eleven of my son's exam and course grades from failing to passing scores.
- e. Despite a Bread and Roses policy requiring that grade change requestors fill out and sign handwritten grade change forms for all grade changes, I did not fill out any such forms for the changes I made to my son's grades.
- f. I acknowledge that, by using my access to the Bread and Roses student grading system to improve my son's grades, I used my City position to benefit a person "associated" with me, in violation of Chapter 2604(b)(3) of Chapter 68. City Charter § 2604(b)(3) states:

No public servant shall use or attempt to use his or her position as a public servant to obtain any financial gain, contract, license, privilege or other private or personal advantage, direct or indirect, for the public servant or any person or firm associated with the public servant.

- 2. In recognition of the foregoing, Respondent agrees to the following:
 - a. I agree to pay a fine of Seven Thousand Dollars (\$7,000.00) to the Board by money order or by cashier check, bank check, or certified check, made payable to the "New York City Conflicts of Interest Board," at the time of my signing of this Disposition.
 - b. I agree that this Disposition is a public and final resolution of the Board's action against me.
 - c. I knowingly waive, on my behalf and on behalf of my successors and assigns, any rights to commence any judicial or administrative proceeding or appeal before any court of competent jurisdiction, administrative tribunal, political subdivision, or office of the City or the State of New York or the United States, and to contest the lawfulness, authority, jurisdiction, or power of the Board or DOE in imposing the penalty which is embodied in this Disposition, and I waive any right to make any legal or equitable claims or to initiate legal proceedings of any kind against the Board or DOE, or any members or employees thereof relating to or arising out of this Disposition or the matters recited therein.
 - d. I confirm that I have entered into this Disposition freely, knowingly, and intentionally, without coercion or duress and after having been represented by the attorney or union representative of my choice; that I accept all terms and conditions contained herein without reliance on any other

promises or offers previously made or tendered by any past or present representative of the Board or DOE; and that I fully understand all the terms of this Disposition.

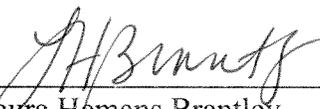
- e. I agree that any material misstatement of the facts of this Chapter 68 matter, including of the Disposition, by me or by my attorney or agent shall, at the discretion of the Board, be deemed a waiver of confidentiality of this matter.

3. The Board and DOE accept this Disposition and the terms contained herein as a final Disposition of the above-captioned matter only, and affirmatively state that other than as recited herein, no further action will be taken by the Board or DOE against Respondent based upon the facts and circumstances set forth herein, except that the Board and DOE shall be entitled to take any and all actions necessary to enforce the terms of this Disposition.

4. This Disposition shall not be effective until all parties have affixed their signatures below.

Dated: 7/22, 2014 
Abdurrahim Ali
Respondent

Dated: July 23, 2014 
David Grandwetter
General Counsel
Council of School Supervisors & Administrators
Attorney for Respondent

Dated: 08/13, 2014 
Laura Hemans Brantley
Deputy Counsel to the Chancellor
NYC Department of Education

Dated: 8/20, 2014 
Richard Briffault
Chair
NYC Conflicts of Interest Board