

STATE BOARD MEETING DATE

January 28, 2013

SUBJECT: Consideration of Settlement Agreement for **Laurette Cuda**, Case No. **C-2012-018**

SUBMITTED BY: Charles Easaw, Chief Investigator, Investigative Unit, State Board of Education

MANAGEMENT TEAM REVIEW: January 10, 2013

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Laurette Cuda holds a Standard Career and Technical Education Certificate, valid through December 16, 2013, and a Standard Secondary Education Certificate, valid through December 16, 2017.

On January 24, 2012, Principal Kimberly Franz observed that Ms. Cuda's speech was slurred, her eyes were constricted, and she smelled of alcohol. Ms. Cuda admitted to Principal Franz that she had been drinking. At 10:36 a.m., Ms. Cuda submitted to a blood alcohol test which showed her blood alcohol level was at .225. Ms. Cuda submitted to a second test at 10:55 a.m. Her blood alcohol level was at .216.

Ms. Cuda was placed on administrative leave and subsequently resigned, citing health reasons.

A Negotiated Settlement Agreement was reviewed and discussed by the Professional Practices Advisory Committee ("PPAC") on November 13, 2012. The PPAC agreed that the terms of the agreement were reasonable and consistent with parameters of past cases with similar conduct.

By a vote of 5 to 0, the PPAC recommended that the State Board of Education ("Board") accept the settlement agreement which includes a suspension through September 30, 2013, with the conditions that Ms. Cuda submit to an assessment by a qualified professional and successfully complete an alcohol treatment or rehabilitation program.

BOARD ACTION REQUESTED: [] INFORMATION [X] ACTION/DESCRIBED BELOW:

That the Board **accept** findings of fact, conclusions of law, and the recommendation of the PPAC to approve the Settlement Agreement for a **suspension of certification with conditions** held by **Laurette Cuda** and, that all states and territories be so notified.

ATTACHMENTS: YES [X] NO []