

**SUBJECT:** Consideration of Review Case No. C-2012-040 R, Sherece Tobias

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

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**MANAGEMENT TEAM REVIEW:** January 10, 2013

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**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

**Sherece Tobias** applied for a Hearing Impaired Special Education teaching certificate on July 2, 2012. On her Arizona application for certification, she answered “yes” to the following question.

1. Have you ever had any professional certificate or license, revoked or suspended?

The Investigative Unit received a NASDTEC disciplinary action report from the state of Oregon on July 1, 2011. Ms. Tobias’ license to teach was suspended for 30 days beginning on May 16, 2011 by the Oregon Teacher Standards and Practices Commission, (“the Commission”).

The Commission’s stipulation of facts and final order of suspension showed:

- Ms. Tobias hugged students despite warnings to the contrary from her administrators.
- When another teacher at the school where she was employed was directed to have no contact with a student, Ms. Tobias passed correspondence between that teacher and a student. She then failed to immediately report this to the administration.
- Ms. Tobias did not follow directives regarding computer security which allowed a student to gain access to a student computer to view internet pornography.
- Allowed some students to call her by first name or “mommy” and changed the name sign of some students.

Sherece Tobias was notified that her application required a review by the Professional Practices Advisory Committee (“PPAC”) of the State Board of Education (“State Board”).

On November 13, 2012, the PPAC conducted a review of Sherece Tobias’s application. During the review Ms. Tobias disclosed that she was dismissed from the Oregon School for the Deaf in 2007 and that her teaching license was suspended for 6 months. Her Oregon license has since been restored and in addition, she holds a New Mexico teaching certificate.

The PPAC found the following mitigating factors:

- Holds a valid New Mexico teacher certification
- Length of time that has elapsed since the incidents occurred in Oregon
- Oregon certification has been reinstated
- The suspension was relatively brief
- Currently employed with an employer who is aware of her past and has provided a positive teaching evaluation.
- Candor in acknowledging past conduct

The PPAC found the following aggravating factors:

- None

By a vote of 5 to 0, the PPAC recommended that the State Board **grant Sherece Tobias's** application for certification.

**BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:**  INFORMATION  ACTION/DESCRIBED  
**BELOW:**

That the Board accepts the findings of fact, conclusions of law and recommendation to **grant Sherece Tobias's** application for certification.

**ATTACHMENTS: YES**  **NO**