

STATE BOARD MEETING DATE

February 25, 2013

SUBJECT: Consideration of Certificate Surrender of **Mindy Arlene Leighton**, Case No. **C-2011-106**

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

MANAGEMENT TEAM REVIEW: February 7, 2013

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Mindy Arlene Leighton holds a Standard Secondary Education, 7-12 certificate valid May 23, 2011 through May 23, 2017 and a Standard Elementary Education, K-8 certificate valid December 12, 2007 through February 12, 2013.

On October 12, 2011, Tolleson Union School District (“District”) notified the Investigative Unit of the State Board of Education (“Board”) of an allegation that Ms. Leighton falsified her employment application. On her employment application to the District, Ms. Leighton failed to disclose that she resigned in lieu of being terminated from her previous District. Separately, Ms. Leighton falsely claimed to be high qualified in reading. During the District’s investigation it was discovered that Ms. Leighton had a friend pose as her former Assistant Principal when employer references were conducted. Subsequently, Ms. Leighton resigned in lieu of facing disciplinary action by the District.

During its investigation, the Investigative Unit learned that in or about November 2011, Ms. Leighton provided the same contact information for her former Assistant Principal when employer references were conducted by Phoenix Union High School District.

On November 8, 2012, the Investigative Unit notified Ms. Leighton of the intent of the State Board of Education to file a complaint seeking disciplinary action against her teaching certificates. After discussing the matter with Ms. Leighton, she chose to surrender her teaching certificates.

On December 3, 2012, the Investigative Unit received Ms. Leighton’s notarized affidavit surrendering her teaching certificates.

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

That the Board **accepts the voluntary surrender** of Mindy Arlene Leighton’s teaching certificates and that all states and territories be so notified.

ATTACHMENTS: YES [X] NO []