

SUBJECT: Consideration of Review for **Mary Lowell**, Case No. **C-2012-069-R**

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

MANAGEMENT TEAM REVIEW: March 7, 2013

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Mary Lowell applied for a Speech Language Pathologist Certificate on June 1, 2012.

Ms. Lowell answered “yes” to having any professional certificate or license revoked or suspended. Her Speech Pathology License was revoked by the North Carolina Board of Examiners for Speech and Language Pathologists and Audiologists in 2005.

Ms. Lowell was advised that her application required a review by the Professional Practices Advisory Committee (“PPAC”) of the State Board of Education (“State Board”).

On February 12, 2013, the PPAC conducted a review of Ms. Lowell’s application. During her first week at school in North Carolina, Ms. Lowell introduced herself to the grandparent of one of the students. The grandparent was talking about “stranger danger” with the student. Ms. Lowell role-played with them to reinforce the training. She repeated the grandparent’s statement to the student which was “You tell people to keep their damn hands off you.”

The PPAC found that the following conduct occurred:

- Repeated a grandparent’s directive to a student regarding stranger danger training, in the presence of the grandparent and student, to the effect of telling people to “keep their damn hands off me.”
- Ms. Lowell’s North Carolina Speech Pathologist Certificate was subsequently revoked in 2007, by the North Carolina Board of Examiners for Speech and Language Pathologists and Audiologists for using the word “damn” in the presence of a student.

The PPAC found no aggravating factors.

The PPAC found the following mitigating factors:

- The severity of the consequences relative to the conduct.
- Length of time since the conduct
- Successful employment as a Speech Pathologist working with children during the intervening period
- Length of successful career
- Letters of recommendation

By a vote of 4 to 0, the PPAC recommended that the State Board **grant Mary Lowell’s** application for certification.

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

That the Board accept(s) the findings of facts, conclusions of law, and the recommendation of the PPAC to **grant Mary Lowell’s** application for certification.

ATTACHMENTS: YES [X] NO []