

STATE BOARD MEETING DATE

March 25, 2013

SUBJECT: Consideration of Negotiated Settlement Agreement Case No. C-2012-052, Ruthe J. Thursby

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

MANAGEMENT TEAM REVIEW: March 7, 2013

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Ruthe J. Thursby holds a Standard Elementary Education (K-8) Certificate, which expires on August 9, 2013.

On May 5, 2011, Double Adobe Elementary School District (“District”) notified the Investigative Unit of the State Board of Education (“Board”) of an allegation that Ms. Thursby violated security for the AIMS testing. The District reported it obtained a notebook containing a handwritten copy of the questions and answers of the 2010 AIMS test, in its entirety, and a portion of the 2011 AIMS test. It is alleged that Ms. Thursby copied the questions and answers. Ms. Thursby did not help her students cheat by providing answers to them.

On December 26, 2012, the Investigative Unit notified Ms. Thursby of the intent of the State Board of Education to file a complaint seeking disciplinary action against her teaching certificate. After discussing the matter with Ms. Thursby and her legal counsel, a settlement agreement was proposed.

The Professional Practices Advisory Committee (“PPAC”) reviewed the settlement agreement on February 12, 2013. The terms of the settlement agreement include the following:

- A suspension of certification through August 9, 2013.
- Successful completion of a course in ethics and professionalism, subject to Board-staff approval, prior to the completion of the suspension.
- PPAC review of any future applications for certification or renewal of certification.

The PPAC voted 4 to 0 to approve the Settlement Agreement for a Suspension with Conditions against any and all teaching certificates held by Ms. Thursby and that it be maintained as part of her permanent record.

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

That the Board **accepts** the recommendation of the PPAC and **issue a suspension with conditions of Ruthe J. Thursby’s teaching certificate through August 9, 2013**, and that all states and territories be so notified.

ATTACHMENTS: YES [X] NO []