

**STATE BOARD MEETING DATE**

May 20, 2013

**SUBJECT:** Consideration of Certificate Surrender of **Jeffrey G. Lawrence**, Case No. **C-2012-012**

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

**MANAGEMENT TEAM REVIEW:** May 2, 2013

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

**Jeffrey G. Lawrence** holds a Standard Secondary Education (7-12) certificate valid December 3, 2008 through March 19, 2015.

On March 9, 2012, Santa Cruz Valley Unified School District (“District”) notified the Investigative Unit of the State Board of Education (“Board”) of an allegation that Mr. Lawrence reached out and grabbed the buttock of a female student while passing behind her.

During an investigation conducted by law enforcement, additional students were identified as having been victims of inappropriate touching on the part of Mr. Lawrence. Subsequently, Mr. Lawrence was arrested for and charged with five counts of sexual abuse and four counts of aggravated assault – offenses that allegedly involved six seventh-grade female students.

On March 4, 2013, in the Superior Court of Arizona for Santa Cruz County, Mr. Lawrence pled guilty to two counts of aggravated assault, each a class 6 undesignated felony. He was sentenced to three years of standard supervised probation and ninety (90) days in the county jail. The conditions of probation included a counseling program, a cognitive thinking program, one hundred (100) hours of community service, and restitution. Mr. Lawrence was ordered not to have contact with the victims.

On March 26, 2013, the Investigative Unit notified Mr. Lawrence of the intent of the State Board of Education to file a complaint seeking disciplinary action against his teaching certificate. After discussing the matter with Mr. Lawrence, he chose to surrender his teaching certificate.

On April 8, 2013, the Investigative Unit received Mr. Lawrence’s notarized affidavit surrendering his teaching certificate.

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

That the Board **accepts the voluntary surrender** of Jeffrey G. Lawrence’s teaching certificate and that all states and territories be so notified.

**ATTACHMENTS: YES [X] NO [ ]**