

STATE BOARD MEETING DATE

May 20, 2013

SUBJECT: Consideration of Certificate Surrender of **Ruthe J. Thursby**, Case No. **C-2012-052**

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

MANAGEMENT TEAM REVIEW: May 2, 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 provide answers to her students.

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.

On March 25, 2013, the State Board considered a motion to accept the recommendation of the PPAC and issue a suspension with conditions. The Board rejected the recommendation of the PPAC and referred the matter back to the committee, finding that the proposed sanction was too lenient.

On April 19, 2013, the Investigative Unit received Ms. Thursby’s notarized affidavit surrendering her teaching certificate.

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

That the Board **accepts the voluntary surrender** of Ruthe J. Thursby’s teaching certificate and that all states and territories be so notified.

ATTACHMENTS: YES [] NO []