

SUBJECT: Consideration of Settlement Agreement Case No. C-2011-104, Lindsay D. Ireland

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

MANAGEMENT TEAM REVIEW: September 5, 2013

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Lindsay D. Ireland holds a Provisional Career and Technical Education (Business and Marketing) certificate valid November 4, 2010 through November 4, 2013 and a Standard Secondary Education (7-12) certificate valid March 12, 2009 through February 2, 2015.

On October 5, 2011, Tucson Unified School District (“District”) notified the Investigative Unit of the State Board of Education (“Board”) of an allegation that Ms. Ireland reported to work while under the influence of drugs. Lab results revealed the presence of marijuana, cocaine, benzodiazepines, and alprazolam¹ in her system.

On January 3, 2013, the Investigative Unit notified Ms. Ireland 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. Ireland, a settlement agreement was proposed.

The Professional Practices Advisory Committee (“PPAC”) reviewed the settlement agreement on May 14, 2013. The terms of the settlement agreement include the following:

- A suspension of certification through September 30, 2014.
- Successful completion of counseling, therapy, or a treatment program which addresses substance abuse issues.

The PPAC voted 5 to 0 to approve the settlement agreement for suspension with conditions against any and all teaching certificates held by Ms. Ireland and that it be maintained as part of her permanent record.

On June 24, 2013, the State Board considered a motion to adopt the PPAC’s findings of facts, conclusions of law, and recommendation to issue a suspension, with conditions, of Ms. Ireland’s teaching certificates through September 30, 2014. No action was taken by the Board. The matter was remanded to the Investigative Unit for additional information regarding Ms. Ireland’s efforts at rehabilitation and a determination of whether she had a criminal record.

On August 26, 2013, the Investigative Unit presented the requested information which addressed Ms. Ireland’s efforts at rehabilitation, and noted Ms. Ireland does not have a criminal record. The State Board considered the additional information, but expressed a concern as to what might happen if Ms. Ireland “fell off the wagon” during the period of suspension. After a discussion, the State Board remanded the matter to the Investigative Unit to revise the Settlement Agreement to address the issuance of a sanction in the event that Ms. Ireland should revert to illegal drug usage during the period of suspension.

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

That the Board **accepts** the recommendation of the PPAC and **issue a suspension, with conditions, of Lindsay D. Ireland’s teaching certificates through September 30, 2014**, and that all states and territories be so notified.

ATTACHMENTS: YES [X] NO []

¹ Alprazolam is a type of benzodiazepine (psychoactive drugs) classified as a Schedule IV drug of the Controlled Substances Act by the Drug Enforcement Administration for having a medically accepted use in treatment with a risk of abuse. 21 C.F.R. § 1308.14(c)(1)