



## JOY HOFMEISTER

STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION  
OKLAHOMA STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

### MEMORANDUM

**TO:** The Honorable Members of the State Board of Education

**FROM:** Joy Hofmeister

**DATE:** June 23, 2016

**SUBJECT:** Recommendation to Dismiss Application to Revoke Teaching Certificate of Tara Hill

On May 28, 2015, the State Department of Education (the "SDE") presented an Application to Revoke the Oklahoma Teaching Certificate and Teacher Number (the "Application to Revoke") of Tara Hill surrounding her criminal charges for possession of a controlled substance (pain pills). At the May 28, 2015, meeting, the State Board of Education (the "Board") deferred decision on this matter until June 2016, and ordered that Ms. Hill be placed on that meeting agenda. Furthermore, it is my understanding that the Board requested Ms. Hill to regularly be assessed drug tests. Additionally, Ms. Hill has entered into a plea agreement whereby she received a deferred sentence on the criminal charges and is allowed to maintain her employment as a teacher with Guymon Public Schools.

Enclosed, please find two letters relating to Ms. Hill. The first, from the superintendent of Guymon Public Schools states that Ms. Hill has passed all drug tests over the course of the last year and that she has been rehired for the 2016-2017 school year. The second letter is from the nurse that administered all of the drug tests and more specifically sets forth details relating to Ms. Hill being administered the drug tests.

The State Department of Education requests that action be taken on this request to dismiss the Application to Revoke.

MAR 1 2015

OKLAHOMA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
ADMINISTRATIVE COMPLAINT

State Dept. of Education

STATE OF OKLAHOMA, ex. rel.  
STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION,  
Applicant

vs.

TARA B. HILL,  
Respondent

**ORDER OF THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

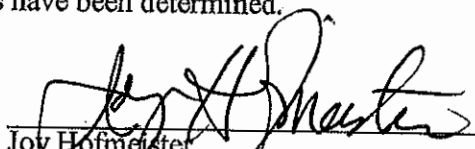
On the 28<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2015, the Application to Revoke the Oklahoma Teaching Certificate and Teacher Number of the Respondent, Tara B. Hill, filed by the Oklahoma State Department of Education came on for hearing before the State Board of Education. The Application was presented to the Board by Yolanda Downing, Assistant General Counsel for the Oklahoma State Department of Education. The Respondent, Tara B. Hill was present and represented by counsel, Jim D. Dowell.

The Oklahoma State Board of Education after due consideration of the evidence and matters officially presented, hereby deferred decision on this matter until June 2016, and ordered that this matter be placed on the board agenda at that time unless circumstances dictate that revocation of Respondent's teaching certification be placed on the Board agenda at an earlier time pursuant to the statutory powers granted to the Board in 70 O.S. § 3-104(6):

*"The supervision of the public school system of Oklahoma shall be vested in the State Board of Education and, subject to limitations otherwise provided by law, the State Board of Education shall:... [h]ave authority in matters pertaining to the licensure and certification of persons for instructional, supervisory and administrative positions and services in the public schools of the state...and shall formulate rules governing the issuance and revocation of certificates..."*

The Oklahoma State Board of Education further Orders the State Department of Education to send notice of the June 2016, State Board of Education meeting date to counsel for Respondent as soon as the State Board of Education 2016 Meeting dates have been determined.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

  
Joy Hofmeister  
Chairperson of Oklahoma State Board of Education