

IN THE MATTER OF : NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
THE CERTIFICATES OF : STATE BOARD OF EXAMINERS
LAURIE WESSELY-BALDWIN : ORDER OF SUSPENSION
_____ : DOCKET NO. 1011-128

This matter was opened by the Board of Examiners (Board) by way of an Order to Show Cause issued to Laurie Wessely-Baldwin as to why her teaching certificates should not be revoked or suspended. Wessely-Baldwin currently holds a Teacher of Speech Arts & Dramatics Certificate of Eligibility, issued in September 2002, Teacher of Elementary School and Teacher of English Certificates of Eligibility, both issued in January 2003 and Teacher of Speech Arts & Dramatics, Teacher of Elementary School and Teacher of English certificates, all issued in August 2004. Pursuant to *N.J.A.C. 6A:9-17.4*, the Watchung Hills Regional High School district had notified the Board that Wessely-Baldwin, a teacher in the district, had resigned following allegations that she had inappropriate discussions of a sexual nature with students, discussed her prior marijuana use in class, met with students away from school on a one-to-one basis and taught a theater class in which she condoned and/or facilitated students preparing and presenting monologues which contained sexually explicit content. After the teaching certification matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for hearing, Wessely-Baldwin presented a settlement proposal to the Board in which her certificates would be suspended for two years. After reviewing the settlement proposal, at its meeting of September 22, 2011, the Board of Examiners voted to accept the proposal. Accordingly, on this 22nd day of September 2011, Laurie Wessely-Baldwin's Teacher of Speech Arts & Dramatics, Teacher of Elementary School and Teacher of English Certificates of Eligibility, and Teacher of Speech Arts & Dramatics, Teacher of Elementary School and Teacher of English certificates are hereby suspended for two years effective immediately.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Robert R. Higgins, Secretary
State Board of Examiners

Date of Decision:

Date of Mailing: