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## CALDWELL POLICE DEPARTMENT PRESS RELEASE

DATE: February 17, 2023

On the afternoon of February 14, Lincoln Elementary School administrators informed the Caldwell Police School Resource Officer assigned to that school that they were concerned about several preschool aged children being abused by their special education teacher, Ms. Kerry Black.

Ms. Black allegedly abused her students by hitting, spanking and forcefully turning their heads. The abuse was witnessed by several aides (staff) assigned to the classroom between January 17, 2023 and February 10, 2023.

A criminal investigation began immediately into these allegations and the Caldwell School District placed Black on administrative leave, pending their administrative investigation. Through interviews with parents and staff, Caldwell Police detectives determined there was probable cause to believe Ms. Black committed said acts.

This evening, an arrest warrant was issued by a Canyon County Magistrate for the immediate arrest of Ms. Black. She was subsequently arrested by the Ada County Sheriff's Office at her home without incident. She was booked into the Ada County Jail and is charged with (5) counts of Injury to a Child and (5) counts of Battery.

We appreciate the community's patience as we worked diligently through this sensitive investigation. We are thankful for our partnership with the Ada County Sheriff's Office and their immediate assistance with apprehending Ms. Black, an Ada County resident.

"Our first priority at the Caldwell School District is to provide a safe learning environment for all students. We were made aware of a situation involving Ms. Black, which violated this expectation and we immediately took action. Ms. Black was placed on leave pending the outcome of the investigation and will not be returning to the classroom. We appreciate our partnership with the Caldwell Police Department. Our administrative team has reached out to all the families involved. Counselors will be available for the families," said Dr. French, Superintendent - Caldwell School District.

"When I first learned about this incident, I was in utter disbelief to hear that the most vulnerable population of students - our children with disabilities - were allegedly being abused by the very person who should have been protecting them. This type of behavior is outright repulsive and disheartening. Ms. Black's behavior in the classroom was abhorrent at best and inexcusable. Let this be an example for anyone else who even thinks about laying a hand on our children at school. I empathize with each child and their respective family, as this will leave an indelible mark in their life," said Rex Ingram, Caldwell Chief of Police.