



SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

RANDY I. DORN OLD CAPITOL BUILDING • PO BOX 47200 • OLYMPIA WA 98504-7200 • <http://www.k12.wa.us>

IN THE MATTER OF THE EDUCATION)
CERTIFICATE OF)
Tricia Hecker)
Certificate No. 299709F)

OPP No. D14-09-077
AGREED ORDER
OF SUSPENSION

COMES NOW the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction, under the authority granted by the laws of the state of Washington, having reviewed the file of the above-referenced case, and having considered the entire evidence contained therein, does hereby stipulate by and between the Office of Professional Practices (OPP), Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI), and Tricia Hecker, that the Washington Education Certificate, No. 299709F, of Tricia Hecker, shall be suspended, based on the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law set forth below:

FINDING OF FACTS

1. Tricia Hecker was issued a Washington Education Certificate, No. 299709F, on July 2, 1990. That certificate expired on June 30, 2014. The actions listed in the following Findings of Fact occurred while Washington Education Certificate No. 299709F was valid.
 2. Tricia Hecker was employed by the Cheney Public Schools.
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3. On September 25, 2014, the Office of Professional Practices, within OSPI, received a complaint letter from the superintendent of the Cheney Public Schools alleging a lack of good moral character or personal fitness, or a violation of the Code of Professional Conduct, Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 181-87, by Tricia Hecker.

4. In September 2009, OPP received a complaint letter from the Superintendent of the Federal Way Public Schools alleging a lack of good moral character or personal fitness, or a violation of the Code of Professional Conduct, Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 181-87, by Tricia Hecker.

5. On June 5, 2007, while taking a personal day off from work, Tricia Hecker came to Illahee Middle School and during a discussion with Stacy Lucas, Illahee Middle School principal, admitted to drinking an alcoholic beverage before arriving at the school. Ms. Lucas drove Tricia Hecker home and directed her to the Employee Assistance Program (EAP). As directed by the principal, Tricia Hecker completed EAP Counseling.

6. On the morning of May 13, 2008, Tricia Hecker left the school campus during the school day without notifying her principal. Ms. Lucas spoke with Tricia Hecker, by phone, in the afternoon and Tricia Hecker was intoxicated at the time. Stacy Lucas and other school district staff went to Ms. Hecker's location and took her to Highline Community Hospital detox center. Tricia Hecker was in an in-patient treatment facility at Highline Medical Center from May 12, 2008 to May 28, 2008.

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7. On June 13, 2008, Principal Stacy Lucas found empty alcohol bottles in Tricia Hecker's classroom.
8. On November 4, 2008, Kristi Denton, Illahee Middle School teacher, smelled alcohol on Tricia Hecker's breath. Tricia Hecker told Ms. Denton that she had gone home during the school day and had been drinking alcohol.
9. On November 4, 2008, Stacy Lucas found empty wine bottles in Tricia Hecker's classroom desk drawer.
10. On November 5, 2008, Tricia Hecker was placed on administrative leave.
11. On January 7, 2009, a staff member notified Stacey Lucas that a student had found wine bottles in a cupboard outside Tricia Hecker's classroom.
12. On March 3, 2009, Tricia Hecker entered an intensive inpatient treatment program through Sundown Ranch, which she completed March 24, 2009.
13. On March 25, 2009, Tricia Hecker entered into a Stipulation and Agreed Condition of Continuation of Employment in Lieu of Termination with the Federal Way Public Schools. As part of the Agreement, Tricia Hecker was suspended without pay for ten (10) days.
14. On April 1, 2009, as a condition of the last chance agreement, Tricia Hecker entered into a treatment program through Lakeside Milan Recovery Center.

15. On September 22, 2009, Lakeside Milan Recover Center notified Federal Way Public that Tricia Hecker had admitted to drinking alcohol for the past seven days. This was a violation of the last chance agreement between Tricia Hecker and the district.

16. On September 24, 2009, Tricia Hecker submitted her resignation to the Federal Way Public Schools; effective immediately.

17. On September 29, 2009, Tricia Hecker falsely answered questions on an application for employment with Prosser School District.

18. On April 27, 2010, Tricia Hecker entered into a one (1) year treatment program at The Salvation Army Depot Family Crisis Center.

19. On September 28, 2010, Tricia Hecker agreed to a two year suspension with OPP.

20. On September 6, 2011 Tricia Hecker entered into a six month in house treatment program at the Salvation Army. On March 3, 2012 Tricia Hecker successfully completed the Salvation Army's treatment program.

21. On March 21, 2013, Tricia Hecker's Washington Education Certificate was fully reinstated.

22. On October 31, 2013, Tricia Hecker and Cheney Public Schools entered into a substitute Teacher Agreement.

23. On May 9, 2014, Secretary Jeanne March, Westwood Middle School smelled alcohol on Tricia Hecker's breath. While escorted down the hallway, Tricia Hecker told Jeanne March that she was an alcoholic and she had been drinking during lunch.

24. On May 9, 2014, School Resource Officer Kelly Hembach and Assistant Principal Tami Skillingsstad, Westwood Middle School, found two quart size cardboard containers of white wine under Tricia Hecker's desk. One of the cardboard containers was $\frac{3}{4}$ empty and the other was full.

25. On May 9, 2014, Cheney Public Schools removed Tricia Hecker, from her substitute position.

26. On December 10, 2014, Tricia Hecker participated in an interview with an OPP investigator. During the interview, Tricia Hecker admitted she brought wine into her classroom and drank it while she taught her classes throughout the day.

27. Good moral character and personal fitness is a continuing requirement to maintain a Washington Education Certificate.

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CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. OSPI has jurisdiction over Tricia Hecker and over the subject matter of this action.

2. OSPI has shown by clear and convincing evidence that the Washington Education Certificate No. 229709F, of Tricia Hecker, should be suspended for unprofessional conduct and/or lack of good moral character or personal fitness. RCW 28A.410.090, WAC 181-86-070, WAC 181-87-050; WAC 181-86-013; WAC 181-86-014.

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ORDER

THEREFORE, it is hereby ordered and agreed that the Washington Education Certificate, No.299709F, of Tricia Hecker, be suspended for 60 months from the date of entry of this Order.

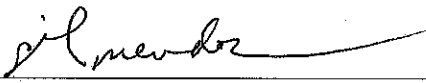
REINSTATEMENT will require: (1) successfully completion an alcohol dependency evaluation by a provider mutually agreed upon between Tricia Hecker and OPP; (2) successful completion of a recommended alcohol treatment program mutually agreed upon between Tricia Hecker and OPP; (2) that Tricia Hecker provide written consent for OPP to release documents to the evaluation provider and the treatment provider for purposes of completing the evaluation and treatment; (3) that Tricia Hecker will provide OPP with evidence of her successful completion of or continued compliance in her treatment program; (3) that within six (6) months of submission of an application for renewal/reissuance of her education certificate, Tricia Hecker satisfactorily completes an alcohol assessment and any recommended treatment; (4) if requested, Tricia Hecker will sign consent forms authorizing OPP to have access to all records pertaining to her treatment and to discuss any and all treatment undertaken with the providers administering treatment; (5) and, if requested, prior to final decision on issuance of an education certificate, Tricia Hecker agrees to satisfactorily complete an alcohol dependency evaluation. The cost of conformance to all reinstatement requirements will be the responsibility of Tricia Hecker.

AND Reinstatement shall also require (1) submission of a new application for certification, including Character and Fitness Supplement, (2) submission of Tricia Hecker's fingerprints to be checked by both the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and the Washington State Patrol (WSP); and Tricia Hecker will show that she meets all academic requirements for renewal/reinstatement of her education certificate. Reinstatement shall also be contingent upon Tricia Hecker's fingerprint background check returning with no criminal convictions, occurring after date of Order that are listed in WAC 181-86-013 and RCW 28A.410.090; (2) no criminal incidents or convictions involving alcohol or controlled substances; and (3) and no felony convictions.

DATED This 13th day of January, 2015.

RANDY I. DORN
Superintendent of Public Instruction
State of Washington

Stipulated to and approved
For entry; notice of presentation
waived:

By: 
Gil Mendoza, Ed. D.
Deputy Superintendent
K-12 Education


Tricia Hecker, Respondent

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