



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)	OPP No. D09-10-070
)	
)	AGREED ORDER
Tricia Hecker)	OF SUSPENSION
Certificate No. 299709F)	
)	

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 currently remains valid.

2. Tricia Hecker was employed by the Federal Way Public Schools.

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TRICIA HECKER
 AGREED ORDER OF SUSPENSION



3. On October 7, 2009, the Office of Professional Practices, within OSPI, 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.

4. The Federal Way Public School Policy #5258 Drug-Free Schools, Community and Workplace, states that the board declares the following behaviors will not be tolerated: (B) Using, possession, transmitting alcohol, illegal substances...in any manner on district property at any time...

5. Tricia Hecker was provided a copy of FWPS Policy #5258 upon commencement of her employment August 12, 2003.

6. On June 5, 2007, Tricia Hecker took a wellness day from Illahee Middle School. At the end of the regular school day, Tricia Hecker came to the school to pick up flowers. Tricia Hecker admitted to Stacy Lucas, Principal, Illahee Middle School, that she had been drinking an alcoholic beverage. Ms. Lucas transported Tricia Hecker home and directed her to the Employee Assistance Program (EAP). Tricia Hecker verbally agreed with Ms. Lucas to provide documentation of completion of counseling through EAP over the summer months. Tricia Hecker did comply.

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7. On March 25, 2008, Tricia Hecker was arrested for Driving a Motor Vehicle While Under the Influence of Intoxicating Liquors, Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 46.61.502, by the Federal Way Police Department; Report 08-4020. The citation was filed in Federal Way Municipal Court on March 26, 2008; Case #CA0048545FW.

8. During the 2007-2008 school year, Tricia Hecker borrowed the vehicles of fellow staff members to leave campus during the school day. Tricia Hecker's driver's license was suspended at the time.

9. On the morning of May 13, 2008, Tricia Hecker left school campus during the school day without notifying her principal. Stacy 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.

10. Tricia Hecker was in an in-patient treatment facility at Highline Medical Center from May 12, 2008 to May 28, 2008.

11. On June 11, 2008, Tricia Hecker requested a leave of absence for medical reasons from May 14, 2008 to June 14, 2008.

12. On June 13, 2008, Principal Stacy Lucas found empty alcohol bottles in Tricia Hecker's classroom.

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13. On June 16, 2008, a Stipulated Order of Continuance was filed in the Federal Way Municipal Court, amending the charge of Driving a Motor Vehicle While Under the Influence of Intoxicating Liquors to Reckless Driving, RCW 46.51.500; Federal Way Municipal Court #CA48545FW.

14. On June 17, 2008, while operating her motor vehicle, Tricia Hecker collided with another vehicle in Seattle, WA. Tricia Hecker left the collision scene without exchanging information. Tricia Hecker's Washington driver's license status was Revoked 2nd Degree at the time. After investigation by a Washington State Patrol trooper, Tricia Hecker was issued criminal citation #C0735133 for Hit and Run, Attended, RCW 46.52.020, and Driving While License Revoked 2nd Degree, RCW 46,20.342.1B; Washington State Patrol case #08-009590.

15. On November 4, 2008, Kristi Denton, an 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.

16. On November 4, 2008, Stacy Lucas found empty wine bottles in Tricia Hecker's classroom desk drawer.

17. On November 5, 2008, Tricia Hecker was placed on administrative leave.

18. On November 7, 2008, Tricia Hecker participated in a meeting with Marion Leach, Director of Employee Relations for the Federal Way Public Schools.

19. 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.
20. On March 3, 2009, Tricia Hecker entered an intensive inpatient treatment program through Sundown Ranch, which she completed March 24, 2009.
21. 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.
22. On March 25, 2009, Tricia Hecker was given a letter of direction from the Federal Way Public Schools.
23. On April 1, 2009, as a condition of the last chance agreement, Tricia Hecker entered into a treatment program through Lakeside Milan Recovery Center.
24. On April 6, 2009, Tricia Hecker was removed from administrative leave and was reassigned to a new position at Olympic View Elementary School.
25. On July 27, 2009, a Criminal Complaint was filed in King County District Court charging Tricia Hecker with Hit and Run, Attended Vehicle, RCW 46.52.020; King County District Court case #C00735133.

26. On August 3, 2009, Tricia Hecker requested a one-year leave of absence. That request was denied by the Federal Way Public Schools.

27. 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.

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

29. On September 29, 2009, Tricia Hecker signed an application for employment with the Prosser School District. In the application, Tricia Hecker falsely answered no to the questions of "Have you ever been arrested, pleaded guilty, been convicted, fined or imprisoned or placed on probation for any violation of law, police regulation or ordinance?" and "Have you entered into any settlement agreement with any former employing school district involving your employment at that school district?"

30. On February 24, 2010, Tricia Hecker was stopped by Grandview Police Department officers for a traffic offense. Tricia Hecker was issued criminal citation #C30555 for Driving Under the Influence of Alcohol or Drugs, RCW 46.61.502, criminal citation #C30556, Resisting Arrest, RCW 9A.76.040, Notice of Infraction #I10006, Notice of Infraction #I10005, booked and incarcerated into jail; Grandview Police Department report #10-V0882.

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

32. On June 16, 2010, Tricia Hecker participated in an interview with an OPP investigator. On June 25, 2010, OPP received Tricia Hecker's signed statement.

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

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 Washington Education Certificate, No. 299709F, of Tricia Hecker, should be suspended as provided for in WAC 181-86-070.
3. Tricia Hecker has violated RCW 28A.410.090, WAC 181-87-050, WAC 181-86-013, and/or 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 twenty four (24) months from the date of entry of this Order.


REINSTATEMENT will require: (1) successful completion of, or continued compliance in an alcohol treatment program through The Salvation Army Depot Family Crisis Center, Marysville, California and any recommended follow-up treatment; (2) that Tricia Hecker will provide OPP with evidence of her successful completion of or continued compliance in her treatment program and; (3) 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. (4) if Tricia Hecker changes treatment programs, she must immediately notify OPP. The cost of conformance to all reinstatement requirements will be the responsibility of Tricia Hecker.


Reinstatement shall (also) require submission of a new application, including Character and Fitness Supplement, provided by OPP and having Tricia Hecker's fingerprints be checked by both the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and the Washington State Patrol (WSP). Reinstatement shall be also contingent upon Tricia Hecker's fingerprint background check returning with no criminal convictions that are listed in WAC 181-86-013, RCW 28A.410.090, any felony convictions, and/or any convictions for offenses involving alcohol or controlled substances.

DATED This 8th day of September, 2010.

RANDY I. DORN
Superintendent of Public Instruction
State of Washington

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

By: 
Martin T. Mueller
Assistant Superintendent
Student Support


Tricia Hecker, Respondent

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