BEFORE THE TEACHER STANDARDS AND PRACTICES COMMISSION

OF THE STATE OF OREGON

3	In the Matter of the)	STIPULATION OF FACTS	
4	Licensure of)	AND	
5	BETTYE S. HITCHKO)	FINAL ORDER OF REPRIMAND	
6				
7	On or about December 23,	, 2005, the Tead	cher Standards and Practices Commis	ssion
8	(Commission) received a report on behalf of Ben Bergreen, Superintendent, Phoenix-Talent			
9	School District indicating that Bettye S. Hitchko (Hitchko) may have violated Standards on or			
10	about November 3, 2005, when s	he made inappr	opriate comments about a student in a	a class

and later verbally confronted the attendance clerk in an angry out of control manner.

Ms. Hitchko fully cooperated with the Commission's investigation. After review of the matters alleged, Ms. Hitchko and the Commission agree that their respective interests, together with the public interest, are best served by a stipulation to certain facts and a public reprimand.

This document sets forth the facts upon which the parties have agreed and the stipulated sanction to be imposed. Ms. Hitchko stipulates that there is sufficient evidence in the Commission's files and records to support the findings of fact, conclusions of law, and order set forth below.

By signing below, Ms. Hitchko acknowledges, understands, stipulates, and agrees to the following: (i) she has been fully advised of her rights to notice and a hearing to contest the findings of fact, conclusions of law, and order set forth below, and fully and finally waives all such rights and any rights to appeal or otherwise challenge this Stipulation of Facts and Final Order of Reprimand (Stipulation and Final Order); (ii) this Stipulation and Final Order is a public document and disclosed to the public upon request by the Commission; (iii) this Stipulation and Final Order is contingent upon and subject to approval and adoption by the Commission. If the Commission does not approve and adopt this Stipulation and Final Order, then neither Ms. Hitchko nor the Commission are bound by the terms herein; (iv) she has fully read this Stipulation and Final Order, and understands it completely; (v) she voluntarily, without any force

or duress, enters into this Stipulation and Final Order and consents to issuance and entry of the Stipulated Final Order below; (vi) she states that no promises or representation has been made to induce her to sign this Stipulation and Final Order; and (vii) she has consulted with an attorney regarding this Stipulation and Final Order and has been fully advised with regard to her rights thereto, or waives any and all rights to consult with an attorney prior to entering into this Stipulation and Final Order and issuance and entry of the Stipulated Final Order below.

STIPULATION OF FACTS

- 1. Ms. Hitchko has been licensed by the Commission since May 16, 1990. Ms. Hitchko currently holds a Standard Teaching License issued August 26, 2004, valid through May 29, 2009, with Endorsements in, Basic Mathematics, Advanced Mathematics and Standard General Business. The Commission granted a Conditional Assignment Permit in Student Services to allow Ms. Hitchko to serve as an academic advisor at the high school level on September 1, 2004.
- 2. Ms. Hitchko has served as licensed educator for the Phoenix-Talent School District since 1991. The District assigned Ms. Hitchko to Phoenix High School from 1998 until November 22, 2005. Ms. Hitchko served as an Academic Advisor during the 2004-2005 school year and the first part of the 2005-2006 school year. Ms. Hitchko is currently assigned to teach mathematics at the middle school level.
- 3. There is no record of a complaint or discipline during the past 16 years of Ms. Hitchko's employment as a licensed educator. The performance evaluations for Ms. Hitchko during her employment with the District are very positive.
- 4. On or about November 3, 2005, Ms. Hitchko was in the classroom of another teacher when her son, a student in the class, was requested to participate in peer mediation. Ms. Hitchko objected to the request that her son participate in mediation as it involved a member of a group of students accused of assaulting him. Ms. Hitchko_made inappropriate comments about the behavior of the other student to the teacher and who was also the peer mediation

supervisor. The comments were made in the class and heard by some of the students. Later, in the high school office, Ms. Hitchko verbally confronted the attendance clerk, regarding his role in the mediation and the District's failure to address the assault of her son. Ms. Hitchko was angry and used profanity in the high school office. 5. Ms. Hitchko takes full responsibility for her behavior on November 3, 2005, and has expressed great remorse and embarrassment regarding this event. IT IS SO STIPULATED AND AGREED TO: 7/13/06 Date Teacher Standards and Practices Commission **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW** Ms. Hitchko failed to demonstrate a commitment to use professional judgment on November 3, 2005, at Phoenix High School when she made inappropriate comments about a student during class and a few minutes later when she angrily confronted the attendance clerk using profanity in the school office. This misconduct constitutes Gross Neglect of Duty in violation of OAR 584-020-0040(4)(n) as it incorporates OAR 584-020-0010(5). The Commission has the authority to impose discipline in this matter under ORS 342.120 through 342.430 and OAR Chapter 584.

ORDER The Commission hereby adopts and incorporates herein the above findings of fact, conclusions of law and imposes a Public Reprimand upon the licensure of Bettye S. Hitchko. 3 This order shall serve as the Public Reprimand. 4 Issued and dated this _____ day of August, 2006. 5 6 TEACHER STANDARDS AND PRACTICES COMMISSION 7 STATE OF OREGON 8 9 10 11 12 Approved as to form: 13 14 15 16 Elizabeth McKanna, OSB# 89306 Attorney for Bettye S. Hitchko 17 [062906]