

BEFORE THE TEACHER STANDARDS AND PRACTICES COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF OREGON

In the Matter of the Teaching
License of

LORNA DEE HOCKETT,

DOJ No. 583-001-GE0002-96

SURRENDER OF TEACHING
LICENSE, STIPULATION OF
FACTS, AND ORDER OF
REVOCATION

On or about September 30, 1996, the Teacher Standards and Practices Commission (Commission) issued a notice of opportunity for hearing to Lorna Dee Hockett (Hockett) in which the Commission proposed to suspend or revoke the teaching license of Ms. Hockett, or otherwise impose discipline under ORS 342.177 based upon alleged misconduct, including conviction of felony theft. Ms. Hockett requested a hearing through her attorney, Harlan Bernstein, on October 7, 1996. A hearing had been scheduled to begin December 10, 1996 to consider the above-identified matter.

The Commission and Ms. Hockett have now reviewed the matter alleged and have agreed that their respective interests, together with the public interest, are best served by a surrender of Ms. Hockett's teaching license and a stipulation to certain facts. In entering this stipulation, Ms. Hockett waives her right to hearing. This agreement sets forth the facts upon which the parties have agreed and the Commission's order accepting Ms. Hockett's surrender of her teaching license and the revoking of her license.

STIPULATED FACTS

Ms. Hockett agrees and stipulates that substantial evidence exists in the record to support the following findings of fact by the Commission:

1. Ms. Hockett commenced her teaching career in 1978 and has been a teacher for approximately 18 years. Ms. Hockett was employed by the Lincoln County school District and served as treasurer of the Lincoln County Education Association (LCEA) from 1986 until her resignation in February 1996. Ms. Hockett has been an above average teacher and an effective classroom teacher for approximately 18 years.

2. From approximately September 1992 to January 1996, Ms. Hockett took approximately \$47,000 from the LCEA treasury and spent the funds for her personal use.

3. On February 9, 1996, LCEA President Richard Weisner learned of a deficit in the LCEA checking account. On the same day, Mr. Weisner contacted Ms. Hockett about the apparent deficit. Ms. Hockett initially attributed the deficit to a bookkeeping error and did not acknowledge that she had removed funds from the account for her own purposes.

4. After being contacted by Weisner, Ms. Hockett attempted to avoid discovery by trying to borrow money from a friend to make up the deficit and by falsifying bank records of the LCEA.

5. Ms. Hockett subsequently admitted that she had removed over \$45,000 in funds from the LCEA accounts.

6. In April 1996 Ms. Hockett repaid \$43,478 to the LCEA.

7. Based on the above, Ms. Hockett was indicted for the crime of Theft in the First Degree, a Class C felony, and on May 24, 1996, she entered a plea of guilty to this crime.

8. On August 30, 1996 the Lincoln County Circuit Court sentenced Ms. Hockett to 60 months probation subject to conditions that she serve 60 days of electronic county home detention, that she pay assessments and restitution in the sum of \$3,507 and that she perform 960 hours of community service.

9. Significant family, medical and psychological problems contributed to Ms. Hockett's unprofessional behavior.

10. Ms. Hockett has no prior criminal history.

11. Ms. Hockett has successfully completed the 60 days of electronic county home detention.

12. Ms. Hockett is in the process of paying the assessments and restitution and is currently performing community service.

13. This stipulation and the proposed order are contingent upon approval by the full Commission at the Commission's next meeting. If the Commission does not approve this stipulation, the matter will be returned for a hearing, neither the Commission nor Ms. Hockett shall be bound by the matters in this stipulation.

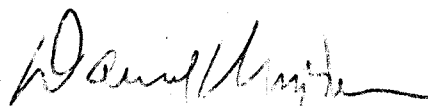
SURRENDER OF LICENSE AND ORDER

The Commission accepts Ms. Hockett's voluntary surrender of her Oregon teaching license. The Commission also revokes Ms. Hockett's teaching license as provided under OAR 584-50-027(2).

Under ORS 342.175(3), any person whose license has been revoked may apply to the Commission for reinstatement after one

year from the date of revocation. If Ms. Hockett should apply for reinstatement at some future date, the decision would lie within the discretion of the Commissioners who consider the matter at that time. Without limiting the discretion of future Commissioners, it is expected that Ms. Hockett would demonstrate, at a minimum, that she has completed her 60 days of electronic county home detention, the payment of all court ordered assessments and restitution, the 960 hours of community service; that she has violated no other laws and has committed no acts which would constitute a violation of professional standards under OAR 584, Division 20, and that she has shown evidence of having successfully completed counseling and/or mental health treatment related to her unprofessional conduct.

TEACHER STANDARDS AND PRACTICES COMMISSION


By: 
David V. Myton, Executive Secretary


IT IS SO STIPULATED:

12/12/96


Lorna Dee Hockett

Approved as to form:


Harlan Bernstein
Of Attorneys for Lorna Hockett


Joe G. McKeever
Assistant Attorney General

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that I served the foregoing Order by mailing a true copy thereof, certified by me as such, by U. S. Certified Mail, with Return Receipt Requested addressed to attorney for Lorna Dee Hockett:

HARLAN BERNSTEIN
JOLLES, BERNSTEIN & GARONE, P.C.
721 SW OAK STREET
PORTLAND OR 97205-3791

Dated this 12th day of December, 1996.

By: 
Charlene A. Smith
Secretary to the Commission