

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

7 **STIPULATION OF FACTS**

8 1. Ms. Hitchko has been licensed by the Commission since May 16, 1990. Ms. Hitchko
9 currently holds a Standard Teaching License issued August 26, 2004, valid through May 29,
10 2009, with Endorsements in, Basic Mathematics, Advanced Mathematics and Standard General
11 Business. The Commission granted a Conditional Assignment Permit in Student Services to
12 allow Ms. Hitchko to serve as an academic advisor at the high school level on September 1,
13 2004.

14 2. Ms. Hitchko has served as licensed educator for the Phoenix-Talent School District
15 since 1991. The District assigned Ms. Hitchko to Phoenix High School from 1998 until
16 November 22, 2005. Ms. Hitchko served as an Academic Advisor during the 2004-2005 school
17 year and the first part of the 2005-2006 school year. Ms. Hitchko is currently assigned to teach
18 mathematics at the middle school level.

19 3. There is no record of a complaint or discipline during the past 16 years of Ms.
20 Hitchko's employment as a licensed educator. The performance evaluations for Ms. Hitchko
21 during her employment with the District are very positive.

22 4. On or about November 3, 2005, Ms. Hitchko was in the classroom of another teacher
23 when her son, a student in the class, was requested to participate in peer mediation. Ms.
24 Hitchko objected to the request that her son participate in mediation as it involved a member of
25 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

1 supervisor. The comments were made in the class and heard by some of the students. Later,
2 in the high school office, Ms. Hitchko verbally confronted the attendance clerk, regarding his role
3 in the mediation and the District's failure to address the assault of her son. Ms. Hitchko was
4 angry and used profanity in the high school office.

5 5. Ms. Hitchko takes full responsibility for her behavior on November 3, 2005, and has
6 expressed great remorse and embarrassment regarding this event.

7 **IT IS SO STIPULATED AND AGREED TO:**

8
9 Betty A. Hitchko 7/13/06
10 Betty S Hitchko Date

11
12 Victoria Chamberlain 7-17-06
13 Victoria Chamberlain, Executive Director Date
14 Teacher Standards and Practices Commission

15 **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

16 Ms. Hitchko failed to demonstrate a commitment to use professional judgment on
17 November 3, 2005, at Phoenix High School when she made inappropriate comments about a
18 student during class and a few minutes later when she angrily confronted the attendance clerk
19 using profanity in the school office. This misconduct constitutes Gross Neglect of Duty in
20 violation of OAR 584-020-0040(4)(n) as it incorporates OAR 584-020-0010(5). The
21 Commission has the authority to impose discipline in this matter under ORS 342.120 through
22 342.430 and OAR Chapter 584.

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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.

This order shall serve as the Public Reprimand.

Issued and dated this 4 day of August, 2006.

**TEACHER STANDARDS AND PRACTICES COMMISSION
STATE OF OREGON**

By: *Victoria Chamberlain*
Victoria Chamberlain, Executive Director

Approved as to form:

Elizabeth McKanna
Elizabeth McKanna, OSB# 89306
Attorney for Bettye S. Hitchko

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