

Subcommittee for the Commission on Teacher and Administrator Education,  
Certification and Licensure and Development  
Woolfolk Building, Room 117  
501 North West Street, Jackson, MS 39201  
February 2, 2023

In accordance with Miss. Code Ann. Section 37-3-2(1) and Section 25-41-5, a Subcommittee of the members of the Commission on Teacher and Administrator Education, Certification and Licensure and Development met at 9:00 a.m. on February 2, 2023 in Room 117 of the Woolfolk Building, 501 North West Street, Jackson, MS 39201.

Members in Attendance: Etta Taplin, Dr. Shelly Simmons, and William Hamilton  
Commission Counsel: Kim Turner, Assistant Attorney General  
OEM Counsel: Joseph Runnels, Esq.

MS Department of Education Personnel Attending:

Scott DeJong, Director for OEM  
Tilla Tate, Licensure Investigator for the Office of Educator  
Misconduct

Matters before the Subcommittee:

**I. In the Matter of Mississippi Educator License No. 271278, Jeremy Delandrick Jernigan**

Etta Taplin, serving as presiding officer for the Commission Hearing Subcommittee (Subcommittee), called the hearing to order at 9:02 a.m.

After all exhibits were received into evidence and testimony heard, William Hamilton moved to close the session to determine whether the Subcommittee should enter into an Executive Session. Upon a second to the motion by Dr. Shelly Simmons, the Subcommittee voted unanimously to close the session.

William Hamilton made a motion for the Subcommittee to enter into an Executive Session to consider the evidence presented and to deliberate with regard to the license of the above-identified educator. Upon a second to the motion by Dr. Shelly Simmons, the Subcommittee voted unanimously to enter into an Executive Session. Subcommittee members Etta Taplin, William Hamilton, and Dr. Shelly Simmons, and Subcommittee counsel, Kim Turner, remained in the room during Executive Session.

During Executive Session, the Subcommittee found the Office of Educator Misconduct (OEM) failed to meet its burden of proof and did not establish by the clear and convincing evidence the educator's violation of Miss. Code Ann. Section 37-3-2(12) (f) or Standard 4 of the Mississippi Educator Code of Ethics and Standards of Conduct. Upon motion by William Hamilton and a second by Dr. Shelly Simmons, the Subcommittee voted unanimously to dismiss OEM's Complaint against Respondent/Educator Jeremy Delandrick Jernigan, Educator License No. 271278.

On motion by William Hamilton, seconded by Dr. Shelly Simmons, the Subcommittee voted unanimously to return to an open meeting. In open session, counsel read the decision of the Subcommittee to those remaining present at the meeting.

Presiding Officer Etta Taplin pronounced the conclusion of the hearing at 12:45 p.m.

## **II. In the Matter of Mississippi Educator License No. 212209, Valinda K. Pullen**

Upon Motion of OEM, the Subcommittee voted unanimously to grant a continuance of the above-identified matter following a motion made by William Hamilton, seconded by Dr. Shelly Simmons.

## **III. In the Matter of Mississippi Educator License Application No. 338013, Kimberly Smith**

Etta Taplin called the hearing to order at 1:35 p.m.

After all exhibits were received into evidence and testimony heard, William Hamilton moved to close the session to determine whether the Subcommittee should enter into an Executive Session. Upon a second to the motion by Dr. Shelly Simmons, the Subcommittee voted unanimously to close the session.

William Hamilton made a motion for the Subcommittee to enter into an Executive Session to consider the evidence presented and to deliberate with regard to the license application of Kimberly Smith. Upon a second to the motion by Dr. Shelly Simmons, the Subcommittee voted unanimously to enter into an Executive Session. Subcommittee members Etta Taplin, William Hamilton, and Dr. Shelly Simmons, and Subcommittee counsel, Kim Turner, remained in the room during Executive Session.

During Executive Session, the Subcommittee found Ms. Smith had sustained her burden of proof by the clear and convincing evidence, having established her rehabilitation and fitness to perform the duties required of an educator, all in accordance with Miss. Code

Ann. Section 37-3-2(14)(a). William Hamilton moved to grant Ms. Smith's request for processing of her Licensure Application. Upon a second to the motion by Dr. Shelly Simmons, the Subcommittee voted unanimously to approve the processing of Ms. Smith's Licensure Application No. 338013.

On motion by William Hamilton, seconded by Dr. Shelly Simmons, the Subcommittee voted unanimously to return to an open meeting. In open session, counsel read the decision of the Subcommittee to those remaining present at the meeting.

Presiding Officer Etta Taplin adjourned the hearing at 2:10 p.m.


**IV. Adjournment.**

On motion by William Hamilton, and seconded by Dr. Shelly Simmons, the Subcommittee unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 2:15 p.m.

Approved:

---

Etta Taplin, Subcommittee Chair  
Commission on Teacher and Administrator  
Education, Certification and Licensure  
and Development



---

Cory Murphy, Ph.D., Executive Secretary  
Commission on Teacher and  
Administrator Education, Certification  
and Licensure and Development