

**Commission on Teacher and Administrator Education, Certification  
And Licensure and Development  
Central High Building  
Fourth Floor Conference Room  
10:00 A.M.  
September 6, 2013**

**Members Attending:**

Doris Perkins	Pamela Manners	Cindy Melton
Dr. Angela Rutherford	Kelly Fuller	Robin Herrington
Donna Loden	Kenny Goza	Brian Pearse
Liz Michael		

**Members Absent:**

Shannon Doughty	Marilyn McMillan
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**MDE Personnel:**

Daphne Buckley	Beebe Garrard	Gail Gettis
Amy Daniel	Mike Mulvihill	Cerissa Neal
Tracey Miller		

The meeting was called to order by Pamela Manners, chair. A quorum was announced by Dr. Daphne Buckley. On a motion by Brian Pearse, seconded by Dr. Angela Rutherford, the minutes were approved from May 11, 2013, and July 12, 2013. Dr. Buckley discussed revising the agenda to modify item eight and replace item ten with a new item. On a motion by Dr. Angela Rutherford, seconded by Doris Perkins, the Commission approved the revised agenda.

**Item 1. MDE Update**

Dr. Buckley presented the item. The Commission actions from the Praxis CASE test and the regenerated Praxis tests for Math, Middle School Math, English, Middle School English, and Special Education went to the Board for final approval.

The teacher evaluation system is in the pilot year for all districts and has two components: M-STAR observation tool and school-wide growth. The discussion of school wide growth is on the Board agenda for September. No labels will be assigned to teachers this year.

The Mississippi Department of Education received a grant from the Gates Foundation in the amount of thirty thousand dollars to support World Class sites for mentoring and recruiting teachers into the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards process.

**Item 2. Discussion on National Board Teacher Licensure Renewal Requirements**

Cerissa Neal presented this item, which was also discussed at July's Commission meeting. The National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS) has requested that the Licensure Commission review the current renewal criteria for NBPTS certified teachers and consider implementing a renewal period that correlates to the ten year certification period of the NBPTS

certification. The request presented for consideration is to extend the validity period from five years to ten years for educators that are National Board certified. Concerns were raised about the verification of continued growth, tracking the progress of educators and having a check and balance system. Ms. Manners expressed the idea of forming a subcommittee. There will be a review of how other states manage their National Board teacher licensure renewal. This information will be brought back to the Commission for further review.

**Item 3. Discussion of Proposed License for Teacher Leader**

Dr. Daphne Buckley presented this item. During the January 6, 2012, Commission meeting Dr. Buckley requested a subcommittee be reestablished to research a license for master teachers wanting to mentor, but not necessarily move into administration. At that time, a subcommittee was established to include Renee Moore, Shannon Doughty, Doris Perkins, Pamela Manners, and Liz Michael.

The teacher leader licenses were previously discussed but currently there is no forward movement. Other states' programs were considered, including Ohio. The responsibilities will include serving as a coach, mentor and encouraging teachers to take on additional leadership roles. Completion of the program would lead to a certificate to verify additional training in leadership. Specific standards would have to be adopted. Clarification was requested on how it would add value to a leadership, not administrative, role. Dr. Buckley stated that a 2009 Blue Ribbon Committee was part of the discussion. At this time, there is no fiscal research, nor has a decision has been made. The item will be brought back for further discussion and research.

**Item 4. Discussion of Mississippi Valley State University's Request to Modify its Supplement Endorsement in Mathematics Added to Elementary Education**

Dr. Robie Greene presented this item. Mississippi Valley State University proposes to modify its supplemental math endorsement program to align with the recommendation of the Mississippi Association of Mathematics Teacher Educators (MAMTE) for endorsement math programs. The proposed 21 hours of coursework will provide a pathway for elementary teachers seeking a math endorsement to obtain advanced mathematics preparation and content knowledge to effectively teach mathematics at the high school level. Dr. Green recommended six hours of Calculus, along with two concentrations. Dr. Green expressed that her concerns are graduation and finishing on time. Dr. Buckley inquired about any potential revisions. Dr. Green stated that the revisions were made, based on the reviewers' comments. Revisions included adding Common Core, Calculus III, and Euclidean Geometry. A motion to approve the item was made by Liz Michael and seconded by Doris Perkins. The motion was approved.

**Item 5. Discussion of University of Mississippi's Request for Approval of a Supplemental Endorsement Program in Secondary Mathematics**

Dr. Alice Steimle and Dr. Julie James presented this item. The University of Mississippi proposes to add a secondary mathematics endorsement program to its current initial certification programs. The proposed endorsement program will provide the advanced mathematics preparation and content knowledge to effectively teach mathematics at the high school level as

outlined by the *Common Core State Standards for Mathematics*. The 21-hour coursework aligns with the recommendations of the Mississippi Association of Mathematics Teacher Educators (MAMTE) and with other southern states. Both stated that the courses through this program are rigorous. Ms. Manners proposed approving both items four and five. A motion to approve was made by Donna Loden and seconded by Cindy Melton. The motion was approved.

**Item 6. Discussion of William Carey University’s Proposal for a Master of Education Degree in Interscholastic Athletic Administration**

Dr. Barry Morris and Dr. Greg Bullock presented this item. William Carey University proposes to add an Interscholastic Athletic Administration master’s degree program that is a 33-hour program focusing on building applied capabilities for effectively planning, organizing, and managing quality interscholastic sports. An integral part of the curriculum will focus on understanding research-based leadership models. The program will help meet demands for effective management of sports programs and will serve as professional development for those pursuing careers as interscholastic athletic directors. Dr. Buckley asked if Athletic Directors supervise teachers or are in the classrooms. It was clarified that Athletic Directors deal with the athletic programs and coaches, not instruction. Dr. Morris added that some Educational Leadership courses were placed into the program after reading the reviews.

**Item 7. Approval of William Carey University’s Proposal to Modify its Master of Arts in Teaching Program to Include a Special Education Track**

Ms. Gail Gettis presented this item. William Carey’s School of Education proposes to add a third track in the Master’s of Art of Teaching program (MAT) that will allow a special education teacher candidate to earn 21 hours in Mild and Moderate Disabilities Education. The proposal was reviewed by MDE’s Office of Special Education, external reviewers and was discussed by the Commission during the May 2013, meeting. A motion to approve the item was made by Liz Michaels and seconded by Doris Perkins. The motion was approved.  
(See attached program.)

**Item 8. Discussion and Approval of Six Revised Educator Licensure Codes from the Office of Career and Technical Education and Updates to Two Business Education Endorsements**

Mike Mulvihill presented this item. The Office of Career and Technical Education is requesting six new and updated educator endorsements and two Business Education requirements for academic year 2014-2015. The following changes were licenses and updates were proposed:

- Endorsement 914 Career Pathway: Forestry to replace 307
- Endorsement 925 Career Pathway: Food Products (Meats) to replace 377
- Endorsement 993 Career Pathway: Agriculture Power and Machinery to replace 305
- Endorsement 916 Keystone added to introduce students to careers in career and technical education and educational requirements and expectations of such career choices
- Endorsement 962 Career Pathway: Sports Medicine to be added to the curriculum
- Endorsement 963 Career Pathway: Dental Assisting to be added to the curriculum

- Endorsement 405 Business Management to be required to teach Business and Technology Education
- Endorsement 411 Business Technology to be required to teach Business and Technology Education

A motion to approve the item was made by Kenny Goza and seconded by Robin Herrington. The motion was approved

**Item 9. Approval of 2013-2014 Licensure Commission Meeting Dates**

Cerissa Neal presented this item. The Commission calendar dates are being proposed for the 2013-14 year. A motion to approve the item was made by Doris Perkins and seconded by Liz Michael. The motion was approved.

**Item 10. Discussion of Revisions to the Administrator Alternate Route Requirements for Entry Level Certification (Non-Renewable)**

Dr. Buckley presented this item. A suggestion was made to consider the existing guideline for alternate route administrator certification. The guideline from the MS Alternate Path to Quality School Leadership (MAPQSL) was included with the revised agenda. The main concern is that candidates are having difficulty obtaining the six hours of educational leadership courses to meet requirements for Entry Level certification, as some IHLs require candidates to enroll in a degree-seeking program.

Cerissa Neal suggested candidates should be able to take the two courses as non-degree seeking students to obtain the Entry Level administrator license. Dr. Buckley has heard from roughly 30 candidates in reference to this problem. Dr. Rutherford suggested that universities need to come together to work with this program. Pamela Manners suggested that a check and balance system should be in place to regulate the program. Dr. Buckley will work with the universities in reference to this concern.

**Item 11. Report on Hearings held August 8, 2013, September 5, 2013, and Appeals Heard August 15-16, 2013**

Amy Daniel presented this item. On **August 8, 2013**, the Commission's Hearing Subcommittee comprised of Pamela Manners, Brian Pearse, and Marilyn McMillan conducted the following disciplinary hearings:

1. No action was taken again license no. 154204, issued to Tiffany Lewis. The evidence was clear and convincing and undisputed that the Respondent did violate Section 37-3-2(12)(h) of the Mississippi Code of 1972, Annotated as amended, relating to an educator/student relationship as identified by the Mississippi Board of Education, in its Rules, Board Policy 1717, Standard 4.1d, which requires educators to provide an environment that does not needlessly expose students to unnecessary embarrassment or disparagement. The Subcommittee strongly cautioned Ms. Lewis to carefully consider the seriousness and impact of comments made to students beforehand.

2. License No. 242749, issued to Shaquana Stephenson was suspended for one (1) year after the Respondent was found to have violated sections 37-9-57 and 37-3-2(12)(a) of the Mississippi Code of 197, annotated as amended, having breached her contract and abandoned her employment with the Moss Point School District by not returning from leave during the 2012-2013 school year.
3. Application No. 256516, submitted by Angela Brooks was approved for processing after finding Petitioner presented evidence of good character, good mental and emotional health to establish rehabilitation and fitness to perform the duties authorized by a Mississippi Educator license after being convicted of reckless endangerment, a felony, on 12/6/90.
4. License No. 137852, issued to Lillian Diane Campbell, was suspended for a period of thirty (30) days, with the license to be reinstated automatically at the end of the suspension period, after the Respondent was found to have violated the Mississippi Board of Education Code of Ethics/Standards of Conduct: Standard 4, in violation of Section 37-3-2(12)(h) of the Mississippi Code by engaging in unethical conduct relating to an educator/student relationship. Specifically, on or about April 3, 2013, Ms. Campbell engaged in a conversation about personal religious beliefs with four (4) students for approximately 45 minutes to one hour during school instructional time.

On **September 5, 2013**, the Commission's Hearing Subcommittee comprised of Pamela Manners, Brian Pearse, and Shannon Doughty conducted the following disciplinary hearings:

1. License No. 154558, issued to Danny Burcham, was revoked for five years in that the respondent was terminated in compliance with Section 37-3-2(13)(a) of the Mississippi Code of 1972 and due to a violation of Standard Four of the Code of Ethics/Standards of Conduct. Mr. Burcham was terminated from his employment with the Alcorn School District effective March 28, 2013, and violated Standard 4 by using a cell phone to photograph, video and/or view female employees and students in an inappropriate manner.

On **August 15-16, 2013**, a quorum of the Mississippi Board of Education conducted an appeal hearing for Byron Garner who appealed the decision rendered by the Commission of Teacher and Administrator Education, Certification and Licensure and Development. Mr. Byron Garner appealed the June 6, 2013, decision of the Commission. After carefully considering and reviewing the complete record of the hearing proceedings, the brief submitted by Byron Garner and the brief submitted on behalf of the Mississippi Department of Education, Office of Educator Misconduct, The Board found no basis to disturb the decision of the Commission and affirmed the decision of the Commission to suspend Mr. Garner's license #193606 for one year. Mr. Garner was advised that he has the right to appeal the action of the Mississippi Board of Education in accordance with Section 37-3-2(16) of the Mississippi Code of 1972 Annotated.

**Item 12. Ratifications of Voluntary Surrender**

Amy Daniel presented this item. Carla Desmond, license number 194668, was served a Complaint charging her with termination from the Meridian Public School District, as well as violating Test Security/Confidentiality Agreement: Appendix F, Standard 22, Section X, 19 of the Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards, and Standard 9 of the Mississippi Educator Code of Ethics and Standards of Conduct. Ms. Desmond has signed a voluntary surrender for one year and waived the hearing. The Commission is being asked to approve the surrender of this license.

Amanda M. Thrash, license number 206790, was served a Complaint charging her with termination by the Rankin County School District, as well as a violation of Standard Four of the Mississippi Educator Code of Ethics and Standards of Conduct. Ms. Thrash has signed a voluntary surrender for two years and waived the hearing, but maintains her innocence in response to the charge of engaging in inappropriate personal contact with students and transporting students in personal vehicle off campus with no other adults or school personnel present. The Commission is being asked to approve the surrender of this license. A motion to approve the item was made by Dr. Angela Rutherford and seconded by Doris Perkins. The motion was approved.

**Item 13. Other Business**

Pamela Manners requested volunteers for hearings. The following members volunteered:

- October 4, 2013- Robin Herrington; Doris Perkins; and Pam Manners, if needed
- November 7, 2013 - Donna Loden; Angela Rutherford; and Kenny Goza

**Adjourn**

On a motion made by Dr. Angela Rutherford and seconded by Doris Perkins, the meeting was adjourned.