# Subcommittee for the Commission on Teacher and Administrator Education, Certification and Licensure and Development 4th Floor Board Room, Central High School 359 N. West Street, Jackson, MS 39201 9:00 a.m.

#### October 17, 2018

In accordance with Miss. Code Ann. §§ 37-3-2(10) and 25-41-5, a subcommittee of the members of the Commission on Teacher and Administrator Education, Certification and Licensure and Development ("Commission") met at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, October 17, 2018 in 4<sup>th</sup> Floor Board Room located at Central High School, 359 N. West Street, Jackson, MS 39201.

Members in Attendance:

Cindy Melton, Etta Taplin, and Susan McClelland

**Commission Counsel:** 

Leah Kathryn Anzenberger, Special Assistant Attorney General

## Mississippi Department of Education (MDE) Personnel Attending:

Michael C. Martin, Interim Director Office of Educator Misconduct (OEM) Joseph A. Runnels, Special Assistant Attorney General, Counsel to OEM Ken Stamps, Staff Officer II, Accreditation Whitney Young, Special Projects Officer II Lakisha Walker, Special Projects Officer II Lisa Pike, Court Reporter

#### Other Individuals Attending:

Julian Miller, Counsel for Sharon Summers Rosevelt Taylor, Educator Kevin Horan, Counsel for Rosevelt Taylor Elliott Anderson, Educator Heather Fayard, Educator Anthony Woolfolk, Educator

# I. Agreed Orders

Cindy Melton, serving as presiding officer for the Commission Hearing Subcommittee called the hearing to order at 9:05 a.m.

A. Michael C. Martin presented the Commission Hearing Subcommittee with an executed Agreed Order from the educator, Sharon Summers, (License No. 147826), in which the educator admits that she was terminated pursuant to Miss. Code Ann. § 37-9-59 and terminations pursuant to said code section may result in suspension/revocation of a teacher or administrator license pursuant to Miss. Code Miss. Code Ann. § 37-3-2(13)(a). However, Ms. Summers contends that her termination under Miss. Code Ann. § 37-9-59 was not warranted and continues to pursue relief in other forums. Mr. Martin requested the Commission Hearing Subcommittee accept and ratify the Agreed Order, upon which Ms. Summers' license will immediately be deemed surrendered from the date of ratification through June 30, 2019. Notwithstanding the foregoing, in the event that prior to June 30,

2019, the United States District Court, Northern District of Mississippi issues a final judgement reversing or setting aside the termination of the educator or the educator and educator's local school board reaches a favorable settlement wherein the school board expresses no objection to the immediate reinstatement of the educator's license; the educator may immediately petition for reinstatement of the educator's license without further order or action of the Commission.

- B. Michael C. Martin presented the Commission Hearing Subcommittee with an executed Agreed Order from the educator, Vonda Hudson, (License No. 137182), in which the educator admits to violating Miss. Code Ann. §§ 37-3-2(12)(a) and 37-9-57. Mr. Martin requested the Commission Hearing Subcommittee accept and ratify the Agreed Order, upon which Ms. Hudson's license will immediately be deemed surrendered from the date of ratification through March 31, 2019.
- C. Michael C. Martin presented the Commission Hearing Subcommittee with an executed Agreed Order from the educator, Aundrea High, (License No. 208929), in which the educator admits to violating Miss. Code Ann. §§ 37-3-2(12)(a) and 37-9-57. Mr. Martin requested the Commission Hearing Subcommittee accept and ratify the Agreed Order, upon which Ms. Highs' license will immediately be deemed surrendered from the date of ratification through March 15, 2019.
- D. Michael C. Martin presented the Commission Hearing Subcommittee with an executed Agreed Order from the educator, Janna Travis, (License No. 271867), in which the educator admits to violating Miss. Code Ann. §§ 37-3-2(12)(a) and 37-9-57. Mr. Martin requested the Commission Hearing Subcommittee accept and ratify the Agreed Order, upon which Ms. Travis' license will immediately be deemed surrendered from the date of ratification through April 17, 2019.
- E. Michael C. Martin presented the Commission Hearing Subcommittee with an executed Agreed Order from the educator, Helen Lafitte, (License No. 203152), in which the educator admits to violating Miss. Code Ann. §§ 37-3-2(12)(a) and 37-9-57. Mr. Martin requested the Commission Hearing Subcommittee accept and ratify the Agreed Order, upon which Ms. Lafitte's license will immediately be deemed surrendered from the date of ratification through April 17, 2019.
- F. Michael C. Martin presented the Commission Hearing Subcommittee with an executed Agreed Order from the educator, Minnie Harris, (License No. 150804), in which the educator admits to violating Miss. Code Ann. §§ 37-3-2(12)(a) and 37-9-57. Mr. Martin requested the Commission Hearing Subcommittee accept and ratify the Agreed Order, upon which Ms. Harris' license will immediately be deemed surrendered from the date of ratification through April 17, 2019.
- G. Michael C. Martin presented the Commission Hearing Subcommittee with an executed Agreed Order from the educator, Meagan Bartlett, (License No. 310543), in which the educator admits to violating Miss. Code Ann. §§ 37-3-2(12)(a) and 37-9-

- 57. Mr. Martin requested the Commission Hearing Subcommittee accept and ratify the Agreed Order, upon which Ms. Bartlett's license will immediately be deemed surrendered from the date of ratification through April 17, 2019.
- H. Michael C. Martin presented the Commission Hearing Subcommittee with an executed Agreed Order from the educator, Michael Guidry, (License No.194030), in which the educator acknowledges violating Standard 4.2.f of the Mississippi Educator Code of Ethics Standards of Conduct. Mr. Martin requested the Commission Hearing Subcommittee accept and ratify the Agreed Order, upon which Mr. Guidry's license will immediately be deemed surrendered for a minimum of two (2) years and nine (9) months from the date of ratification.
- I. Michael C. Martin presented the Commission Hearing Subcommittee with an executed Agreed Order from the educator, Jenna Ladner, (License No.192863), in which the educator admits to violating Miss. Code Ann. § 37-3-2(12)(h) and (13)(a) and Standard Four of the Mississippi Educator Code of Ethics Standards of Conduct. Mr. Martin requested the Commission Hearing Subcommittee accept and ratify the Agreed Order, upon which Ms. Ladner's license will immediately be deemed surrendered for a minimum of five (5) years from the date of ratification.
- J. Michael C. Martin presented the Commission Hearing Subcommittee with an executed Agreed Order from the educator, Janet Roberts, (License No.103712), in which the educator acknowledges violating Standard 4.2.b. of the Mississippi Educator Code of Ethics Standards of Conduct. Mr. Martin requested the Commission Hearing Subcommittee accept and ratify the Agreed Order, upon which Ms. Roberts' license will immediately be deemed surrendered from the date of ratification through April 17, 2019.
- K. Michael C. Martin presented the Commission Hearing Subcommittee with an executed Agreed Order from the educator, Cory Keyes, (License No.175854), in which the educator acknowledges violating Standard 6 of the Mississippi Educator Code of Ethics Standards of Conduct. Mr. Martin requested the Commission Hearing Subcommittee accept and ratify the Agreed Order, upon which Mr. Keyes' license will immediately be deemed surrendered for a minimum of three (3) years from the date of ratification.
- L. Michael C. Martin presented the Commission Hearing Subcommittee with an executed Agreed Order from the educator, Ashley Thomas, (License No. 238302), in which the educator admits to violating Miss. Code Ann. §§ 37-3-2(12)(a) and 37-9-57. Mr. Martin requested the Commission Hearing Subcommittee accept and ratify

the Agreed Order, upon which Ms. Thomas' license will immediately be deemed surrendered from the date of ratification through April 17, 2019.

M. Michael C. Martin presented the Commission Hearing Subcommittee with an executed Agreed Order from the educator, Nancy Strittman, (License No. 207788). in which the educator admits to violating Miss. Code Ann. §§ 37-3-2(12)(a) and 37-9-57. Mr. Martin requested the Commission Hearing Subcommittee accept and ratify the Agreed Order, upon which Ms. Strittman's license will immediately be deemed surrendered from the date of ratification through April 17, 2019.

On a Motion by Etta Taplin, seconded by Susan McClelland, the Commission Hearing Subcommittee unanimously voted to accept and ratify the thirteen (13) Agreed Orders presented by the Office of Educator Misconduct.

On a Motion by Etta Taplin, seconded by Susan McClelland, the Commission Hearing Subcommittee unanimously voted to conclude the hearing at 9:25 a.m.

## II. Case of Rosevelt Taylor, Educator License No.: 166315

Cindy Melton, serving as presiding officer for the Commission Hearing Subcommittee, called the hearing to order at 9:29 a.m.

After all exhibits were received into evidence and testimony heard. Etta Taplin moved to consider going into executive session. Susan McClelland seconded the motion, and the Commission Hearing Subcommittee unanimously voted to consider going into executive session.

Etta Taplin moved that the Commission Hearing Subcommittee go into executive session for deliberation and findings concerning the License of Educator, Rosevelt Taylor. Susan McClelland seconded the motion and the Commission Hearing Subcommittee unanimously voted to go into executive session. The following individuals remained in the room: Leah Kathryn Anzenberger, Cindy Melton, Etta Taplin, and Susan McClelland.

On a motion by Etta Taplin, seconded by Susan McClelland, the Commission Hearing Subcommittee unanimously voted to come out of executive session.

During Executive Session, the Commission Hearing Subcommittee took the following action:

Etta Taplin moved that the Commission Hearing Subcommittee grant the Petitioner's request for reinstatement of Educator License No.: 166315. As a condition of his reinstatement, the Petitioner, at his own expense, shall complete and submit evidence of successful completion of a three-hour Ethics course or Continuing Education Unit (CEU)

Ethics in Education equivalent. The Petitioner shall provide proof of successful completion to the Office of Educator Misconduct within one (1) year specifically by October 17, 2019. The failure of the Petitioner to comply with the aforementioned requirements shall automatically result in the immediate suspension of the Petitioner's license. Susan McClelland seconded the motion and the Commission Hearing Subcommittee unanimously voted to grant the Petitioner's request for reinstatement of Educator License No.: 166315 with conditions.

On a motion by Etta Taplin, seconded by Susan McClelland, the Commission Hearing Subcommittee unanimously voted to conclude the hearing at 10:37 a.m.

#### III. Case of Elliott Anderson, Educator License No.: 162256

Cindy Melton, serving as presiding officer for the Commission Hearing Subcommittee. called the hearing to order at 10:50 a.m.

After all exhibits were received into evidence and testimony heard, Etta Taplin moved to consider going into executive session. Susan McClelland seconded the motion, and the Commission Hearing Subcommittee unanimously voted to consider going into executive session.

Etta Taplin moved that the Commission Hearing Subcommittee go into executive session for deliberation and findings concerning the License of Educator, Elliott Anderson. Susan McClelland seconded the motion and the Commission Hearing Subcommittee unanimously voted to go into executive session. The following individuals remained in the room: Leah Kathryn Anzenberger, Cindy Melton, Etta Taplin, and Susan McClelland.

On a motion by Etta Taplin, seconded by Susan McClelland, the Commission Hearing Subcommittee unanimously voted to come out of executive session.

During Executive Session, the Commission Hearing Subcommittee took the following action:

Etta Taplin moved that the Commission Hearing Subcommittee deny the Petitioner's request for reinstatement of Educator License No.: 162256. While the Petitioner completed the course requirements set forth in the May 29, 2017. Notice of Commission Action (NOCA), the Petitioner failed to provide satisfactory evidence of rehabilitation including a demonstration of ethically sound judgment befitting of an educator as set forth in the NOCA. The Commission Hearing Subcommittee further ordered that the Petitioner may resubmit his application in six months. Prior to petitioning the Commission for reinstatement, the Petitioner, at his own expense, shall provide proof of attendance and successful completion of a minimum 3-hour credit university graduate course on Appropriate Student and Educator Relationships. Additionally, the Petitioner shall continue to see a licensed professional counselor and submit proof of ongoing

sessions and documentation from the counselor demonstrating his understanding of a professional student and teacher relationship. Susan McClelland seconded the motion and the Commission Hearing Subcommittee unanimously voted to deny the Petitioner's request for reinstatement of Educator License No.: 162256.

On a motion by Etta Taplin, seconded by Susan McClelland, the Commission Hearing Subcommittee unanimously voted to conclude the hearing at 12:19 p.m.

The Commission Hearing Subcommittee took a recess at 12:19 p.m.

The Commission Hearing Subcommittee resumed at 1:04 p.m.

## IV. Case of Heather Fayard, Educator License No.: 208447

Cindy Melton, serving as presiding officer for the Commission Hearing Subcommittee, called the hearing to order at 1:04 p.m.

After all exhibits were received into evidence and testimony heard, Etta Taplin moved to consider going into executive session. Susan McClelland seconded the motion and the Commission Hearing Subcommittee unanimously voted to consider going into executive session.

Etta Taplin moved that the Commission Hearing Subcommittee go into executive session for deliberation and findings concerning the License of Educator, Heather Fayard. Susan McClelland seconded the motion, and the Commission Hearing Subcommittee unanimously voted to go into executive session. The following individuals remained in the room: Leah Kathryn Anzenberger, Cindy Melton, Etta Taplin, and Susan McClelland.

On a motion by Etta Taplin. seconded by Susan McClelland, the Commission Hearing Subcommittee unanimously voted to come out of executive session.

During Executive Session, the Commission Hearing Subcommittee took the following action:

Etta Taplin moved that the Commission Hearing Subcommittee grant the Petitioner's request for reinstatement of Educator License No.: 208447. Susan McClelland seconded the motion, and the Commission Hearing Subcommittee unanimously voted to grant the Petitioner's request for reinstatement of Educator License No.: 208447.

On a Motion by Etta Taplin, seconded by Susan McClelland, the Commission Hearing Subcommittee unanimously voted to conclude the hearing at 1:34 p.m.

### V. Case of Anthony Woolfolk, Educator License No.: 167863

Cindy Melton, serving as presiding officer for the Commission Hearing Subcommittee, called the hearing to order at 1:40 p.m.

After all exhibits were received into evidence and testimony heard, Etta Taplin moved to consider going into executive session. Susan McClelland seconded the motion and the Commission Hearing Subcommittee unanimously voted to consider going into executive session.

Etta Taplin moved that the Commission Hearing Subcommittee go into executive session for deliberation and findings concerning the License of Educator, Anthony Woolfolk. Susan McClelland seconded the motion and the Commission Hearing Subcommittee unanimously voted to go into executive session. The following individuals remained in the room: Leah Kathryn Anzenberger, Cindy Melton, Etta Taplin, and Susan McClelland.

On a motion by Etta Taplin, seconded by Susan McClelland, the Commission Hearing Subcommittee unanimously voted to come out of executive session.

During Executive Session, the Commission Hearing Subcommittee took the following action:

Etta Taplin moved that the Commission Hearing Subcommittee deny the Petitioner's request for reinstatement of Educator License No.: 167863, and The Commission Hearing Subcommittee further ordered that the Petitioner may resubmit his application one year from date of the hearing, specifically October 17, 2019. Prior to petitioning the Commission for reinstatement, the Petitioner, at his own expense, shall provide proof of attendance and successful completion of a 3 credit hour ethics course on Appropriate Student and Educator Relationships. Susan McClelland seconded the motion, and the Commission Hearing Subcommittee unanimously voted to deny the Petitioner's request for reinstatement of Educator License No.: 167863.

On a Motion by Etta Taplin, seconded by Susan McClelland, the Commission Hearing Subcommittee unanimously voted to conclude the hearing at 2:43 p.m.

# VI. Adjournment

On a Motion by Etta Taplin, seconded by Susan McClelland, the Commission Hearing Subcommittee unanimously voted to adjourn at 2:43 p.m.

Approved:

Cindy Melton, Ph.D., 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