

Subcommittee for the Commission on Teacher and Administrator Education,  
Certification and Licensure and Development  
4<sup>th</sup> Floor Board Room Central High School  
359 N. West Street, Jackson, MS 39201  
January 8, 2025

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 January 8, 2025, in the 4<sup>th</sup> Floor Room of the Central High School Building, 359 N. West Street, Jackson, MS 39201.

Members in Attendance: Mary Hill-Taylor, Jamie Creel, William Murphy  
Commission Counsel: Jonathan Dennis, Special Assistant Attorney General

OEM Counsel: Joseph Runnels, Esq.

Mississippi Department of Education (MDE) Personnel Attending:  
Scott DeJong, Director for the OEM  
Robert Ward, Director of Test Security  
Anissa Stubs, Admin Assistant OEM

Others in Attendance:  
Spurgeon Banyard, Educator  
Darrain Denman, Counsel for Educator  
Larissa Harris, Witness  
Dr. Michael Cormack, Witness  
Talatha Bingham-Gibbs, Witness  
Dr. Kimberly Smith, Witness  
Camechelle Stevens, Witness  
Kelsey Hill, Witness  
Dr. Ruth Evans-Bowen

Matters before the Subcommittee:

**I. Case of Spurgeon Banyard, Educator License No. 167657**

Jonathan Dennis, legal advisor to the Commission Hearing Subcommittee, called the hearing to order at 9:25 a.m.

After all exhibits were received into evidence and testimony heard, Mary Hill-Taylor moved that the Commission Hearing Subcommittee go into closed session to determine the necessity to go into executive session. William Murphy seconded the motion, and the Commission Hearing Subcommittee unanimously voted to go into closed session.

Mary Hill-Taylor moved that the Commission Hearing Subcommittee go into executive session for deliberation and findings concerning the license application of the above identified Educator. William Murphy seconded the motion, and the Commission Hearing Subcommittee unanimously voted to go into executive session. The following individuals remained in the room: Jamie Creel, Mary Hill-Taylor, William Murphy, and Jonathan Dennis.

On a motion by Mary Hill-Taylor, seconded by William Murphy, the Commission Hearing Subcommittee unanimously voted to come out of executive session.

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

Mary Hill-Taylor moved that the Commission Hearing Subcommittee suspend Educator License No. 167657 for a period of five years.

William Murphy seconded the motion, and the Commission Hearing Subcommittee unanimously voted to place Respondent's license on probation.

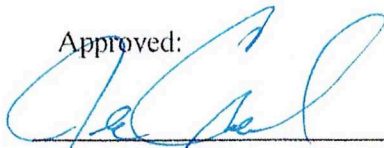
In open session, counsel read the decision of the Commission Hearing Subcommittee to the participants.

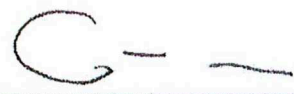
The presiding officer pronounced the conclusion of the hearing at 5:23 p.m.

## **II. Adjournment.**

On a motion by Mary Hill-Taylor, seconded by William Murphy, the Commission Hearing Subcommittee unanimously voted to adjourn for the day at 5:23 p.m.

Approved:

  
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Jamie Creel, Subcommittee Chair  
Commission on Teacher and Administrator  
Education, Certification and Licensure and  
Development

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