

Subcommittee for the Commission on Teacher and Administrator Education,
Certification and Licensure and Development
Central High School
Room 102
359 N. West Street, Jackson, MS 39201
June 11, 2024

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 June 11, 2024, in Room 102, 1st Floor, 359 N. West Street, Jackson, MS 39201.

Members in Attendance: Etta Taplin, John Howard, Dylan Baldwin
Commission Counsel: Jonathan Dennis, Special Assistant Attorney General

OEM Counsel: Joseph Runnels, Esq.

Mississippi Department of Education (MDE) Personnel Attending:
Tilla Tate, Investigator for the Office of Educator Misconduct (OEM)
Scott DeJong, Director for the OEM

Others in Attendance:
Ashley Beals, Educator
Jason Owens, Counsel for Ashley Beals
Dr. Candra Nelson-Scott, Witness
Comelia Walker, Witness
Dr. La’Keshia Miller, Witness
Dr. Chunconna Anderson, Witness

Matters before the Subcommittee:

I. Case of Ashley Beals, Educator License No. 323493

Jonathan Dennis, legal advisor to the Commission Hearing Subcommittee, called the hearing to order at 9:07 a.m.

After all exhibits were received into evidence, OEM and Respondent went forward with the presentation of their respective cases. During the testimony of Dr. La’Keshia Miller testimony was given that due to its nature a determination of the necessity to go into executive session was warranted. Dylan Baldwin made a motion to go into closed session to determine the need to go into executive session. John Howard seconded the motion and the Commission Hearing Subcommittee unanimously voted to go into closed session. Dylan Baldwin made a motion to hear the testimony of Dr. Miller in executive session in compliance with FERPA. John Howard seconded the motion and the Commission Hearing Subcommittee unanimously voted to hear the testimony of Dr. Miller in executive session. The following people remained in the room: Etta Taplin, Dylan Baldwin, John Howard, Jonathan Dennis, Ashley Beals, Jason Owens, Joseph Runnels, La’Keshia Miller, and the Court Reporter. After the testimony of Dr. Miller, Dylan Baldwin made a motion to come out of executive session. John Howard seconded the motion and the Commission Hearing Subcommittee unanimously voted to come out of executive session.

After all testimony was heard, Dylan Baldwin made a motion to go into closed session. John Howard seconded the motion and the Commission Hearing Subcommittee unanimously voted to go into closed session. John Howard made a motion to go into executive session for the purpose of deliberations and findings concerning the Educator license at issue in the present case. Dylan Baldwin seconded the motion and the Commission Hearing Subcommittee unanimously voted to go into executive session. The following people remained in the room: Etta Taplin, Dylan Baldwin, John Howard, and Jonathan Dennis.

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

Dylan Baldwin moved that the Commission Hearing Subcommittee suspend Mississippi Educator License No. 323493 issued to Ashley Beals for one year from the date of this hearing. John Howard seconded the motion, and the Commission Hearing Subcommittee unanimously approved the suspension of Respondent’s license.

On a motion by Dylan Baldwin, seconded by John Howard, the Commission Hearing Subcommittee unanimously voted to come out of executive session.


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

This matter concluded at 6:25 p.m.

II. Adjournment.

On a motion by Dylan Baldwin, seconded by John Howard, the Commission Hearing Subcommittee unanimously voted to adjourn for the day at 6:26 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