

Subcommittee for the Commission on Teacher and Administrator Education,  
Certification and Licensure and Development  
Senator Grey Ferris Boardroom, Central High School Building  
359 North West Street, Jackson, MS 39201  
May 25, 2023

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 May 25, 2023, in the Senator Grey Ferris Boardroom located on the 4<sup>th</sup> Floor of the Central High School Building, 359 North West Street, Jackson, Mississippi 39201.

Subcommittee Members in Attendance: James Creel, Dr. Teresa Jayroe, and  
Dr. Teresa Poole

Commission Counsel: Kristi Kennedy, Special Assistant Attorney General

OEM Counsel: Joseph Runnels, Esq.

Mississippi Department of Education (MDE) Personnel in Attendance:  
Scott DeJong, Director of the Office of Educator Misconduct  
Tilla Tate, Licensure Investigator for the Office of Educator Misconduct  
Anissa Stubbs, OEM Administrative Assistant

Others in Attendance:  
William Bentz, former Principal of Lyman Elementary School  
Jill Ryals, former Assistant Principal of Lyman Elementary School  
Tonya Laille, Assistant Director of Safety and Internal Compliance of Harrison County  
School District (“HCSD”)

Matters before the Commission Hearing Subcommittee:

**I. Agreed Orders**

Jamie Creel, presiding officer of the Commission Hearing Subcommittee, called the meeting to order at 9:13 a.m.

Scott DeJong, Director for the Office of Educator Misconduct, presented two proposed Agreed Order for ratification by the Commission Hearing Subcommittee:

- A. Judith M. Henderson, Educator License No. 204884, Standard 4; and
- B. Carolyn Brunson, Educator License No. 185232, Standard 4.

Following the Presentation by OEM, Dr. Teresa Jayroe moved that the Commission Hearing Subcommittee accept and ratify the proposed Agreed Orders. Dr. Teresa Poole seconded the motion and the Commission Hearing Subcommittee unanimously voted to accept and ratify the above listed matters.

This matter concluded at 9:22 a.m.

## **II. In the Matter of Mississippi Educator License No. 1466807, Shelia Fife-McKay**

James Creel, presiding officer of the Commission Hearing Subcommittee, called the hearing to order at 9:24 a.m.

Anissa Stubbs testified that she called Shelia Fife-McKay's name outside the Central High School Building and in the foyer and hall of the Central High School Building – three times in each location. She received no answer. She checked the sign-in desk at the door to the Central High School Building and confirmed that Shelia Fife-McKay had not signed into the building.

Tilla Tate testified that notice of the hearing and a hearing packet containing the procedural rules was sent to Shelia Fife-McKay. After Ms. Fife-McKay received the notice of hearing and hearing packet, she spoke with Mrs. Tate and advised that she did not plan to attend the hearing. Mrs. Tate spoke with Ms. Fife-McKay on more than one occasion and advised her that she would need to file a formal request for a continuance of the hearing if she did not plan to attend. Mrs. Tate testified that she last spoke with Ms. Fife-McKay on May 19, 2023, and again advised her that she would need to file a formal request for a continuance and that, if she did not, the hearing would proceed in her absence. Mrs. Tate testified that Shelia Fife-McKay did not file a formal request for a continuance of the hearing. The Commissioners unanimously voted to proceed with the hearing.

After all exhibits were received into evidence and testimony heard, Dr. Teresa Poole moved that the Subcommittee go into closed session to determine the necessity to go into executive session. Dr. Teresa Jayroe seconded the motion and the Commission Hearing Subcommittee unanimously voted to go into closed session.

Dr. Teresa Poole moved that the Commission Hearing Subcommittee go into executive session for deliberation and findings concerning the license of the above identified Educator. Dr. Teresa Jayroe seconded the motion, and the Commission Hearing Subcommittee unanimously voted to go into executive session. The following individuals remained in the room: James Creel, Dr. Teresa Jayroe, Dr. Teresa Poole, and Kristi Kennedy.

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

Dr. Teresa Jayroe moved that the Commission Hearing Subcommittee suspend Educator License No. 146807 held by Shelia Fife-McKay for a period of two (2) years from the date of this hearing based on the violation of Standards 4.2.a. and 4.2.b. of the Mississippi Educator Code of Ethics and Standards of Conduct adopted by the Mississippi State Board of Education and Miss. Code Ann. § 37-3-2(13)(a) and that Shelia Fife-McKay be required, during her two (2) years suspension, to take a minimum of one (1) three-hour course dealing with Applied Behavior Analysis at her own expense and shall submit proof of attendance and successful completion of the required course of study to the Office of Educator Misconduct before being allowed to petition to reinstatement under Miss. Code Ann. § 37-3-2 (14)(a). Dr. Teresa Poole seconded the motion, and the Commission Hearing Subcommittee unanimously approved the motion.

On motion by Dr. Teresa Poole, seconded by Dr. Teresa Jayroe, the Commission Hearing Subcommittee unanimously voted to return to an open meeting.

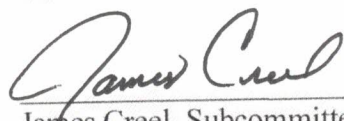
In Open Session, counsel read the decision of the Commission Hearing Subcommittee to those remaining present at the meeting.

Presiding Officer James Creel pronounced the conclusion of the hearing at 10:43 a.m.

### III. Adjournment.

On a motion by Dr. Teresa Jayroe, seconded by Dr. Teresa Poole, the Commission Hearing Subcommittee unanimously voted to adjourn for the day at 10:43 a.m.

Approved:



James Creel, 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