Commission on Teacher and Administrator Education,
Certification, and Licensure and Development
Regular Teleconference Meeting
March 4, 2022
10:00 a.m.

In accordance with Miss. Code Ann. §§ 37-3-2(3) and 25-41-5, the members of the Commission on Teacher and Administrator Education, Certification, and Licensure and Development (Commission) met at 10:00 a.m. on Friday, March 4, 2022, in the 4th Floor Board Room located at Mississippi Department of Education (MDE) Central High School, 359 N. West Street, Jackson, MS with some members present via teleconference.

Members Attending:

James Creel       William Hamilton       Mary Hill-Taylor
John Howard       Kim Hubbard           Dr. Teresa Jayroe
Dr. Bernel Kelly  David Martin          Dr. Teresa Poole
Dr. Shelly Simmons Etta Taplin

Members Absent:

Rebecca Gray       Rilla Jones

Mississippi Department of Education (MDE) Personnel Attending via Teleconference:

Dr. Debra Burson       Erica Coleman        Scott Dejong
Brian McGarthy        Mary-Catherine McGregor Dr. Cory Murphy
Dr. Deborah Stoulig    Dr. Courtney Van Cleve Dr. Paula Vanderford
Vanessa Wilbert

Special Assistant Attorney General Attending via Teleconference:

Baylea Blough       Erin Meyer         Joseph Runnels

I. Call to Order

David Martin called the meeting to order on Friday, March 4, 2022, at 10:03 a.m.

II. Establishment of a Quorum
James Creel  Present, via teleconference, Brookhaven, MS
Rebecca Gray  Absent
William Hamilton  Present, MDE Boardroom, Jackson, MS
Mary Hill-Taylor  Present, MDE Boardroom, Jackson, MS
John Howard  Present, via teleconference, Clarksdale, MS
Kim Hubbard  Present, via teleconference, Flowood, MS
Dr. Teresa Jayroe  Present, via teleconference, Starkville, MS
Rilla Jones  Absent
Dr. Bernell Kelly  Present, via teleconference, Gulfport, MS
David Martin  Present, MDE Boardroom, Jackson, MS
Dr. Teresa Poole  Present, via teleconference, Hattiesburg, MS
Dr. Shelly Simmons  Present, via teleconference, Gulfport, MS
Etta Taplin  Present, MDE Boardroom, Jackson, MS

David Martin announced that a quorum of the Commission existed.

III. Approval of the minutes of the January 7, 2022, Meeting of the Commission on Teacher and Administrator Education, Certification, and Licensure and Development

On a motion from Etta Taplin, seconded by Kim Hubbard, the Commission voted unanimously to approve the minutes for the January 7, 2022, Meeting of the Commission on Teacher and Administrator Education, Certification, and Licensure and Development.

IV. Approval of the hearing subcommittee minutes of February 23, 2022

On a motion from James Creel, seconded by Etta Taplin, the Commission voted unanimously to approve the hearing subcommittee minutes for February 23, 2022.

V. Adoption of the Agenda

On a motion from Kim Hubbard, seconded by Mary Hill-Taylor, the Commission voted unanimously to adopt the agenda.

VI. Mississippi Department of Education (MDE) Updates (Dr. Cory Murphy)

Dr. Cory Murphy reported that he was sharing the floor with Dr. Courtney Van Cleve.

Dr. Murphy reported a few updates on improvements on the efficiency of communication and access in the Office of Teaching and Leading, specifically in the Division of Educator Licensure.
On January 5, 2022, MDE began the process of onboarding 15 new call center representatives to join the 4 call center representatives already on staff. As of January 24, 2022, the new team has been working independently, with an immediate decrease in call wait time. The average call wait is now around 5 seconds, where it was previously reported to be as high as 30 minutes.

The call center has extended their hours of operation. Previously the phones were operational between the hours of 9:00 AM- 4:00 PM and currently they are operational between the hours of 8:00 AM- 5:30 PM

On February 22, 2022, MDE launched an interactive voice response system that allows candidates to create a PIN to as a criterion for authenticating a caller’s identity to allow added security when individuals check the status of their licensure application and other licensure related account activity.

Dr. Van Cleve reported that the application for the Mississippi Teacher Residency (MTR) program is now live, and the deadline is March 15, 2022. This is a fully funded graduate program that will lead to a master’s degree in Elementary Education and Special Education. There is a recruitment video available on the website, that Commission members are invited to watch and share with any eligible candidates.

VII. Mississippi Association of Colleges for Teacher Education (MACTE) Updates (Dr. Trent Gould)

Dr. Debra Burson was representing Dr. Gould before the Licensure Commission. She stated that Dr. Gould had reported that there were no MACTE updates at this time, but that MACTE would be meeting in the afternoon on March 4, 2022, following the Licensure Commission meeting.

VIII. Approval to establish a qualifying score for the newly revised versions of certain Praxis Subject Assessments: Biology (Test Code 5236); Chemistry (Test Code 5246); Physics (Test Code 5266); School Counselor (Test Code 5422); School Librarian (Test Code 5312); and School Psychologist (Test Code 5403) as recommended by the Ad Hoc Committee of the Commission on Teacher and Administrator Education, Certification, Licensure and Development, and approval to establish a qualifying score for Praxis Subject Assessment: Gifted Education (Test Code 5358) and add Gifted K-12 (Endorsement Code 207) to the list of approved supplemental endorsements that may be added to a valid three (3) year or valid five (5) year license by obtaining a passing score on the appropriate Praxis Subject Assessment. (Dr. Cory Murphy)
On a motion from Etta Taplin, seconded by William Hamilton, the Commission voted unanimously to approve establishing a qualifying score for the newly revised versions of certain Praxis Subject Assessments: Biology (Test Code 5236); Chemistry (Test Code 5246); Physics (Test Code 5266); School Counselor (Test Code 5422); School Librarian (Test Code 5312); and School Psychologist (Test Code 5403) as recommended by the Ad Hoc Committee of the Commission on Teacher and Administrator Education, Certification, Licensure and Development, and to approve establishing a qualifying score for Praxis Subject Assessment: Gifted Education (Test Code 5358) and adding Gifted K-12 (Endorsement Code 207) to the list of approved supplemental endorsements that may be added to a valid three (3) year or valid five (5) year license by obtaining a passing score on the appropriate Praxis Subject Assessment.

IX. Approval of the 2021 Annual EPP Teacher Preparation Performance Report (Dr. Debra Burson)

On a motion from Kim Hubbard, seconded by Dr. Teresa Jayroe, the Commission voted unanimously to approve the 2021 Annual EPP Teacher Preparation Performance Report.

X. Approval of ratifications of agreed orders and/or voluntary surrenders (Mr. Scott Dejong)

Mr. Scott Dejong reported on twelve agreed orders being presented for consideration:

Benjamin Johnson, educator license #218964 executed an Agreed Order acknowledging that he violated Standard 4 of the MS Educator Code of Ethics and Standards of Conduct. The Respondent’s license shall immediately be placed on probation for a period of one (1) year from the date of ratification by the Commission. The Respondent shall, at his own expense, complete at a seminar or coursework related to ethical teacher/student ethics and conduct from a reputable source satisfactory to the Commission prior to the conclusion of the probationary period.

Anna Yeager, educator license #237670 executed an Agreed Order acknowledging that she violated Standard 9 of the MS Educator Code of Ethics and Standards of Conduct. The Respondent’s license shall immediately be placed on probation for one (1) calendar year from the date of ratification by the Commission. The Respondent shall, at her own expense, complete at a seminar or coursework related to ethical ethics in the classroom from a reputable source satisfactory to the Commission prior to the conclusion of the probationary period.

Hallie Frenn, educator license #264460 executed an Agreed Order acknowledging that she violated Standard 4 of the MS Educator Code of Ethics and Standards of Conduct.
The Respondent’s license shall immediately be suspended for a period of one (1) calendar year from the date of ratification by the Commission. The Respondent shall, at her own expense, complete at a seminar or coursework related to ethical teacher/student relationships from an accredited university or other reputable source satisfactory to the Commission prior to the conclusion of the suspension period. At the conclusion of the suspension period, the Respondent may petition for reinstatement of Respondent’s educator license pursuant to Miss. Code Ann. § 37-3-2 (14)(a), with the necessity of a hearing either before the Commission, Sub-committee thereof, or a Hearing Officer. The Respondent’s license may only be reinstated upon the Respondent’s satisfactory showing of evidence of rehabilitation as determined either by a majority of all members of the Commission present at the meeting called for that purpose or upon the discretion of the Hearing Officer.

Latoya Fuqua, educator license #325519 executed an Agreed Order acknowledging that she violated Standard 10 of the MS Educator Code of Ethics and Standards of Conduct. The Respondent’s license shall be suspended for one school year. Said surrender period shall be from the date of ratification, through June 30, 2022. At the conclusion of the surrender period, the Respondent may petition for reinstatement of Respondent’s educator license pursuant to Miss. Code Ann. § 37-3-2 (14)(a), without the necessity of a hearing.

Shontia Morris educator license #198544 executed an Agreed Order acknowledging that she violated Standard 10 of the MS Educator Code of Ethics and Standards of Conduct. The Respondent’s license shall be suspended for one school year. Said surrender period shall be from the date of ratification, through June 30, 2022. At the conclusion of the surrender period, the Respondent may petition for reinstatement of Respondent’s educator license pursuant to Miss. Code Ann. § 37-3-2 (14)(a), without the necessity of a hearing.

Emily Cavin, educator license #247115 executed an Agreed Order acknowledging that she violated Standard 10 of the MS Educator Code of Ethics and Standards of Conduct. The Respondent’s license shall be suspended for one school year. Said surrender period shall be from the date of ratification, through June 30, 2022. At the conclusion of the surrender period, the Respondent may petition for reinstatement of Respondent’s educator license pursuant to Miss. Code Ann. § 37-3-2 (14)(a), without the necessity of a hearing.

Timothy Jordan, educator license #265048 executed an Agreed Order acknowledging that he violated Standard 4 of the MS Educator Code of Ethics and Standards of Conduct. The Respondent’s license shall immediately be suspended for a period of one (1) calendar year from the date of ratification by the Commission. The Respondent shall, at his own expense, complete at a seminar or coursework related to ethical teacher/student relationships from an accredited university or other reputable source satisfactory to the Commission prior to the conclusion of the suspension
period. At the conclusion of the suspension period, the Respondent may petition for reinstatement of Respondent’s educator license pursuant to Miss. Code Ann. § 37-3-2 (14)(a), with the necessity of a hearing either before the Commission, Sub-committee thereof, or a Hearing Officer. The Respondent’s license may only be reinstated upon the Respondent’s satisfactory showing of evidence of rehabilitation as determined either by a majority of all members of the Commission present at the meeting called for that purpose or upon the discretion of the Hearing Officer.

Madeline Pitt, educator license #325918 executed an Agreed Order acknowledging that she violated Standard 10 of the MS Educator Code of Ethics and Standards of Conduct. The Respondent’s license shall be suspended for one school year. Said surrender period shall be from the date of ratification, through June 30, 2022. At the conclusion of the surrender period, the Respondent may petition for reinstatement of Respondent’s educator license pursuant to Miss. Code Ann. § 37-3-2 (14)(a), without the necessity of a hearing.

Jennifer Foshee, educator license #218575 executed an Agreed Order acknowledging that she violated Standard 10 of the MS Educator Code of Ethics and Standards of Conduct. The Respondent’s license shall be suspended for one school year. Said surrender period shall be from the date of ratification, through June 30, 2022. At the conclusion of the surrender period, the Respondent may petition for reinstatement of Respondent’s educator license pursuant to Miss. Code Ann. § 37-3-2 (14)(a), without the necessity of a hearing.

Mayra Ramshur, educator license #325075 executed an Agreed Order acknowledging that she violated Standard 10 of the MS Educator Code of Ethics and Standards of Conduct. The Respondent’s license shall be suspended for one school year. Said surrender period shall be from the date of ratification, through June 30, 2022. At the conclusion of the surrender period, the Respondent may petition for reinstatement of Respondent’s educator license pursuant to Miss. Code Ann. § 37-3-2 (14)(a), without the necessity of a hearing.

Michael Davis, educator license #217128 executed an Agreed Order acknowledging that he violated Standard 10 of the MS Educator Code of Ethics and Standards of Conduct. The Respondent’s license shall be suspended for one school year. Said surrender period shall be from the date of ratification, through June 30, 2022. At the conclusion of the surrender period, the Respondent may petition for reinstatement of Respondent’s educator license pursuant to Miss. Code Ann. § 37-3-2 (14)(a), without the necessity of a hearing.

Stephanie Taylor, educator license #223113 executed an Agreed Order acknowledging that she violated Standard 10 of the MS Educator Code of Ethics and Standards of Conduct. The Respondent’s license shall be suspended for one school year. Said surrender period shall be from the date of ratification, through June 30, 2022. At the conclusion of the surrender period, the Respondent may petition for reinstatement of
Respondent’s educator license pursuant to Miss. Code Ann. § 37-3-2 (14)(a), without the necessity of a hearing.

On a motion from William Hamilton, seconded by James Creel the Commission voted unanimously to approve the agreed order presented.

XI. Adjournment

On a motion by Mary Hill-Taylor, seconded by Dr. Teresa Poole, the Commission voted unanimously to adjourn at 10:43 AM.

Approved:

David Martin, 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