

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
May 7, 2021

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 1:00 p.m. on May 7, 2021, in the 4th Floor Board Room, Central High School, 359 N. West Street, Jackson, MS 39201.

Members in Attendance: Etta Taplin, Kim Hubbard, David Martin
Commission Counsel: Erin Meyer, Special Assistant Attorney General

OEL Counsel: David Minton, Special Assistant Attorney General

Counsel for Deborah K. Blackledge: Lindsay Thomas Dowdle, Esq.

Mississippi Department of Education (MDE) Personnel Attending:
Dr. Cory Murphy, Executive Director for Office of Teaching and Leading
Scott Dejong, Director for Office of Educator Misconduct (OEM)
Tilla Tate, Investigator for Office of Educator Misconduct (OEM)

Matters before the Subcommittee:

I. Case of Deborah K. Blackledge, Educator License No. 183149

Etta Taplin, serving as presiding officer for the Commission Hearing Subcommittee, called the hearing to order at 12:58 p.m.

The Commission recessed from 1:40 p.m. to 1:44 p.m.

After all exhibits were received into evidence and testimony heard, David Martin moved that the Commission Hearing Subcommittee go into closed session to determine the necessity to go into executive session. Kim Hubbard seconded the motion and the Commission Hearing Subcommittee unanimously voted to go into closed session.

David Martin moved that the Commission Hearing Subcommittee go into executive session for deliberation and findings concerning the license of the above identified Educator. Kim Hubbard seconded the motion and the Commission Hearing Subcommittee unanimously voted to go into executive session. The following individuals remained in the room: Etta Taplin, Kim Hubbard, David Martin, and Erin Meyer.

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

David Martin moved that the Commission's Hearing Subcommittee affirm the MDE's decision to invalidate/un-issue the Non-Practicing Administrator Licensure (Licensure Endorsement 486), previously issued to Deborah K. Blackledge. Kim Hubbard seconded this motion, and the Commission Hearing Subcommittee unanimously affirmed the MDE's decision to invalidate/un-issue the Non-Practicing Administrator Licensure (Licensure Endorsement 486), previously issued to Deborah K. Blackledge.

On a motion by David Martin, seconded by Kim Hubbard, 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.

The presiding officer pronounced the conclusion of the hearing at 2:55 p.m.

II. Case of Cliff Hendley, Educator License No. 320991

Etta Taplin, serving as presiding officer for the Commission Hearing Subcommittee, called the hearing to order at approximately 2:59 p.m.

After all exhibits were received into evidence and testimony heard, David Martin moved that the Commission Hearing Subcommittee go into closed session to determine the necessity to go into executive session. Kim Hubbard seconded the motion and the Commission Hearing Subcommittee unanimously voted to go into closed session.

David Martin moved that the Commission Hearing Subcommittee go into executive session for deliberation and findings concerning the license of the above identified Educator. Kim Hubbard seconded the motion and the Commission Hearing Subcommittee unanimously voted to go into executive session. The following individuals remained in the room: Etta Taplin, Kim Hubbard, David Martin, and Erin Meyer.

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

David Martin moved that the Commission Hearing Subcommittee deny the processing and issuance of Mississippi Educator License No 320991 for Cliff Hendley and include the following conditions: that the Respondent may not petition for a license before the expiration of one (1) year from the date of this hearing, or May 6, 2022. Prior to petitioning for a license, the Respondent shall participate in regular counseling with a licensed professional and submit proof of said sessions with the Office of Educator Misconduct, shall continue regular attendance at AA, CA, and MARP, and shall provide letters of recommendation from members of his support system. Kim Hubbard seconded the motion, and the Commission Hearing Subcommittee unanimously denied the processing and issuance of Mississippi Educator License No. 320911.

On a motion by David Martin, seconded by Kim Hubbard, 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.

The presiding officer pronounced the conclusion of the hearing at 4:06 p.m.

III. Adjournment.

On a motion by David Martin seconded by Kim Hubbard, the Commission Hearing Subcommittee unanimously voted to adjourn for the day at 4:06 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**