Subcommittee for the Commission on Teacher and Administrator Education, Certification and Licensure and Development
South Pointe Business Park
500 Clinton Center Drive, 4th Floor Multi-purpose Room
Clinton, MS
9:00 a.m.
April 13, 2016

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 Wednesday, April 13, 2016, in the 4th Floor Multi-purpose Room of the South Pointe Business Park located at 500 Clinton Center Drive, Clinton, MS.

Members in Attendance: Pamela Manners, Rilla Jones, and Doris Perkins
Commission Counsel: Erin Meyer, Special Assistant Attorney General

Mississippi Department of Education (MDE) Personnel Attending:
Michael C. Martin, Director of Office of Educator Misconduct (OEM)
Holley Haywood, Office of Educator Misconduct Investigator
Joseph A. Runnels, Special Assistant Attorney General, Counsel to OEM

Educator in Attendance:
Edna Burrage, Respondent

I. Case of Edna Burrage, Educator License No.: 187779

Pamela Manners, serving as presiding officer for the Commission Hearing Subcommittee, called the hearing to order at 11:07 a.m.

At 1:15 p.m., on a Motion by Rilla Jones, seconded by Doris Perkins, the Commission Hearing Subcommittee unanimously voted to take a short recess.

At 1:25 p.m., Pamela Manners called the hearing back to order.

After all exhibits were received into evidence and testimony heard, Rilla Jones moved to consider going into executive session. Doris Perkins seconded the motion, and the Commission Hearing Subcommittee unanimously voted to consider going into executive session.

Once the parties cleared the room, Doris Perkins moved that the Commission Hearing Subcommittee go into executive session for deliberation and findings concerning the License of Educator Edna Burrage. Rilla Jones seconded the motion, and the Commission Hearing Subcommittee unanimously voted to go into executive session.
Rilla Jones moved that the Commission Hearing Subcommittee place Educator License No.: 187779 on probation based on clear and convincing evidence that the Respondent violated Miss. Code Ann. § 37-3-2(12)(h) and § 37-3-2(13)(a). Specifically, that Edna Burrage at her own expenses, shall be required to complete a minimum of one (1) seminar or course work relating to anger management, as well as participate in counseling sessions with a licensed professional. The Respondent shall submit proof of her attendance and successful completion of the required course of study and counseling participation by December 31, 2016. Additionally, the Respondent shall also submit proof of successful completion of Conscience Discipline and Capturing Kids’ Hearts. The failure of the Respondent to complete the training on ethics and school law or school finance required herein and within the time provided, shall automatically result in the immediate suspension of the Respondent’s License No.: 187779 for a period of one (1) year. Doris Perkins seconded the motion, and the Commission Hearing Subcommittee unanimously voted to place Edna Burrage, Educator License No.: 187779 on probation.

On a motion by Rilla Jones, seconded by Doris Perkins, the Commission Hearing Subcommittee unanimously voted to come out of executive session.

On a motion made by Doris Perkins and seconded by Rilla Jones, the Commission unanimously voted to adjourn this hearing at 2:03 p.m.

II. Case of Sullivan Edwards, Educator License No.: 161045

Pamela Manners, serving as presiding officer for the Commission Hearing Subcommittee, called the hearing to order at 2:11 p.m.

The Federal Educational Rights and Privacy Act prohibits educational agencies from disclosing student’s personally identifiable information without parental permission. Based on argument from Joseph Runnels, counsel for the Office of Educator Misconduct, the Commission considered going into executive session to prevent the release of student information.

Rilla Jones moved that the Commission Hearing Subcommittee go into executive session to prevent the release of student information. Doris Perkins seconded the motion, and the Commission Hearing Subcommittee unanimously voted to go into executive session.

After all exhibits were received into evidence and testimony heard, Doris Perkins moved that the Commission Hearing Subcommittee go into executive session for deliberation and findings concerning the License of Educator Sullivan Edwards. Rilla Jones seconded the motion, and the Commission Hearing Subcommittee unanimously voted to go into executive session for deliberations and findings.

Rilla Jones moved that the Commission Hearing Subcommittee suspend for six (6) months Educator License No.: 161045 held by Sullivan Trenell Edwards based on the
violation of Miss. Code Ann. § 37-3-2(12)(h). Specifically, that the Respondent’s unprofessional conduct included, but is not necessarily limited to, encouraging inappropriate electronic communication with students. This suspension will be effective July 1, 2016, and last through December 31, 2016. During this suspension period, the Respondent shall complete a minimum of one (1) seminar or course work related to ethical standards of conduct. Upon the submission of a licensure reinstatement application, the Respondent shall also submit proof of his attendance and successful completion of the required ethics course. This license shall be reinstated at the end of the suspension period in accordance with Miss. Code Ann. § 37-3-2(14)(a) without the necessity of a hearing so long as the requirements of this order have been met. Doris Perkins seconded the motion, and the Commission Hearing Subcommittee unanimously voted to suspend Educator License No.: 161045 for six (6) months.

On a motion by Rilla Jones, seconded by Doris Perkins, the Commission Hearing Subcommittee unanimously voted to come out of executive session.

III. Adjournment

On a motion made by Doris Perkins and seconded by Rilla Jones, the Commission unanimously voted to adjourn at 4:12 p.m.

Approved:

Pamela Manners, Subcommittee Chair
Commission on Teacher and Administrator Education, Certification and Licensure and Development

Dr. Paula Vanderford, Executive Secretary
Commission on Teacher and Administrator Education, Certification and Licensure and Development