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 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, May 11, 2016, in Room 420 of the South Pointe Business Park Building, 500 Clinton Center Drive, Clinton, Mississippi.

Members Attending:

Kenny Goza  
Susan McClelland  
Doris Perkins  
Rilla Jones  
Pamela Manners  
Ginger Tedder  
Mary Margaret King  
Cindy Melton

Members Absent:

Shannon Doughty  
Cylesha Hopkins  
Kelly Fuller  
LaToya Lee  
Patrick Gray  
Debra Mays-Jackson

Mississippi Department of Education (MDE) Personnel Attending:

Dr. Paula Vanderford  
Crystal Womack  
Rhonda Smith  
Brenda Shelby  
Erin Meyer, Special Assistant Attorney General

I. Call to Order

Dr. Cindy Melton, chair of the Commission, called the meeting to order at 4:42 p.m. on Wednesday, May 11, 2016.

II. Establishment of a Quorum

A roll call was taken as follows:

Shannon Doughty  Absent  
Kelly Fuller  Present  
Kenny Goza  Present, via teleconference, Birmingham, AL  
Patrick Gray  Absent  
Cylesha Hopkins  Absent  
Rilla Jones  Present, via teleconference, Corinth, MS
Mary Margaret King  Present, via teleconference, New Albany, MS  
LaToya Lee  Absent  
Susan McClelland  Present, via teleconference, Oxford, MS  
Pamela Manners  Present, via teleconference, Jackson, MS  
Debra Mays- Jackson  Absent  
Cindy Melton  Present, via teleconference, Clinton, MS  
Doris Perkins  Present, via teleconference, Mendenhall, MS  
Ginger Tedder  Present, via teleconference, Starkville, MS  

Dr. Cindy Melton stated that a quorum is present at the locations stated for the purpose of conducting a meeting through teleconference.

III. Adoption of Agenda

On a motion by Ginger Tedder and seconded by Doris Perkins, the Commission unanimously approved the adoption of the agenda.

The votes were as follows:

Members voting aye:

Kenny Goza  
Rilla Jones  
Mary Margaret King  
Susan McClelland  
Pamela Manners  
Cindy Melton  
Doris Perkins  
Ginger Tedder  

Members Abstaining: None  

Members voting nay: None  

Members absent:

Shannon Doughty  
Kelly Fuller  
Patrick Gray  
Cylesha Hopkins  
LaToya Lee  
Debra Mays-Jackson  

2
IV. Discussion and/or approval of the Office of Elementary Education request for a new Pre-K add-on endorsement for teachers currently licensed to teach Kindergarten

Dr. Cindy Melton introduced the next item on the agenda, which is the discussion and or the approval from the Office of Elementary Education with the request for a pre-k add-on endorsement for teachers who are currently licensed to teach kindergarten. Dr. Melton asked if there were any questions or discussion in reference to the request. Dr. Jill Dent from the Office of Elementary Education was available for questions and discussion via teleconference. There were no questions by the Commission members. Pamela Manners moved to approve the Office of Elementary education request for a new pre-k add-on endorsement for teachers currently licensed to teach kindergarten. Doris Perkins seconded the motion.

The votes were as follows:

Members voting aye:
Kenny Goza
Rilla Jones
Mary Margarett King
Susan McClelland
Pamela Manners
Cindy Melton
Doris Perkins
Ginger Tedder

Members Abstaining: None

Members voting nay: None

Members absent:
Shannon Doughty
Kelly Fuller
Patrick Gray
Cylesha Hopkins
LaToya Lee
Debra Mays-Jackson

V. Other Business

Dr. Cindy Melton asked if there was any other business to be discussed by MDE or the Commission members. Kenny Goza asked Dr. Melton if there will be any additional response to the Clarion Ledger article. Dr. Paula Vanderford stated that Dr. Carey Wright has prepared an editorial that is in response to the meeting on Friday as well as
the article that was published on today. It has been reviewed and edited and will be published as quickly as possible. Dr. Wright is also expecting to address this issue at the State Board meeting the next day under her ‘Superintendent Update’.

In addition, Dr. Vanderford added that prior to the article, there were previous dates laid out during the Commission meeting on May 6, 2016, for the hearing dates. The idea was to avoid state board meetings, accreditation meeting dates, and other future dates that were already on the calendar. One of the things that Dr. Vanderford and the Office of Educator Misconduct wanted to do was to allow Commission members the opportunity to select dates more convenient for them since they were not given the time during the last Commission meeting. Another option provided to the Commission members is, there are four (4) attorney generals available who can be paired on a team certain dates available for teachers and administrators and double up in two (2) locations at the same time to further address the backlog of cases.

Dr. Vanderford stated that she wanted to know the Commission members thoughts and she will have Rhonda Smith to follow up in an e-mail with a recap of the date and additional proposed dates.

Dr. Melton stated she thinks that the way they have been doing the hearing dates has been working great for the Commission members. The Commission agreed that it’s a matter of finding the time to be available for hearings that is an issue rather than agreeing on a specific date.

Dr. Vanderford also noted that they are working on a special, non-renewable educator license to take to the State Board for approval that might help districts with the shortage of teachers. In response to this, there may be a need for a special-called teleconference meeting before the June Board meeting, but the Commission members will receive advance notice on the meeting.

VI. Adjournment

Dr. Cindy Melton entertained a motion to adjourn. Rilla Jones made a motion and Doris Perkins seconded the motion. The Commission meeting was adjourned at 4:58 p.m.

The votes were as followed:

Members voting aye:
Kenny Goza
Rilla Jones
Mary Margarett King
Susan McClelland
Pamela Manners
Cindy Melton
Doris Perkins
Ginger Tedder

Members Abstaining: None

Members voting nay: None

Members absent:
Shannon Doughty
Kelly Fuller
Patrick Gray
Cylesha Hopkins
LaToya Lee
Debra Mays-Jackson

Approved:

Dr. Cindy Melton, Chair
Commission on Teacher and Administrator Education, Certification and Licensure and Development

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