

**MISSOURI STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION AGENDA ITEM: October 2015**

**CONSIDERATION TO DISCIPLINE THE  
LICENSE TO TEACH OF ADAM G. BLACKWELL, CASE # HR 14-098**

**STATUTORY AUTHORITY:**

Section 168.071, RSMo

Consent  
Item

Action  
Item

Report  
Item

**DEPARTMENT GOAL NO. 3:**

Missouri will prepare, develop, and support effective educators.

**SUMMARY:**

Adam G. Blackwell holds an initial professional class certificate of license to teach in the areas of Health, grades K–12, and Physical Education, grades K–12.

Mr. Blackwell was employed as a teacher in the Couch R-I School District (District) for the 2013–2014 school year. Mr. Blackwell had signed a probationary teacher’s contract to teach P.E. and Health and to coach the girls’ basketball team for the 2014–2015 school year. Mr. Blackwell also facilitated a College Algebra class for dual enrollment students. The contract Mr. Blackwell signed contained a penalty provision for teachers choosing to resign prior to the beginning of the school year.

By letter, dated May 9, 2014, Mr. Blackwell resigned his position indicating he had taken a teaching position in Maynard, Arkansas where he lived. The District board agreed to accept his resignation contingent upon him paying the appropriate penalty fee as provided for in the contract. Mr. Blackwell responded with a second letter indicating he could not afford the fee.

The 2014–2015 school year was scheduled to begin August 12, 2015. The District found a replacement for Mr. Blackwell in early July.

In October 2014, the District board directed the administration to file charges against Mr. Blackwell with the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (Department) for the annulment of his contract without the appropriate consent. In a letter to the Department, the superintendent listed the charges against Mr. Blackwell relating to the annulment of his contract and requested the State Board of Education discipline Mr. Blackwell’s certificate.

Mr. Blackwell received notice of the hearing, but was neither present nor represented by counsel.

**PRESENTER:**

William R. Thornton, General Counsel, will participate in the presentation and discussion of this agenda item.