

MISSOURI STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION AGENDA ITEM:		June 2017	
<p>CONSIDERATION OF APPEAL BY JASON R. BLANKENSHIP OF THE DENIAL OF CERTIFICATION</p>			
STATUTORY AUTHORITY:			
Section 168.071, RSMo	<input type="checkbox"/>	Consent Item	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Action Item
		<input type="checkbox"/>	Report Item
<p>DEPARTMENT GOAL NO. 3:</p> <p>Missouri will prepare, develop, and support effective educators.</p> <p>SUMMARY:</p> <p>Applicant’s Name: Jason R. Blankenship</p> <p>Denial: On January 25, 2017, the Office of Educator Quality denied Mr. Blankenship’s request for a Missouri substitute teaching certificate, based upon his criminal history.</p> <p>By correspondence received on February 6, 2017, Mr. Blankenship requested that the Department review the decision made by the Office of Educator Quality.</p> <p>On April 13, 2017, the Commissioner upheld the decision of the Office of Educator Quality and denied his application.</p> <p>By correspondence received on May 10, 2017, Mr. Blankenship requested an appeal of the decision dated April 13, 2017.</p> <p>Disposition: On December 18, 2003, Mr. Blankenship pled guilty to two counts of the Felony, Conspiracy to Possess Pseudoephedrine Knowing it Would be Used to Manufacture a Controlled Substance and received 18 months in the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP). Following his release from prison, he was placed on supervised release for two years.</p> <p>On December 4, 2007, Mr. Blankenship pled guilty to two counts of the Felony, Possession of Pseudoephedrine Knowing it Would be Used to Manufacture a Controlled Substance and received 55 months (4 years/7 months) in the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP) followed by a two-year supervised release. From September 30, 2009 to July 1, 2010, Mr. Blankenship participated in the Residential Drug Abuse Program, the BOP’s most intensive drug treatment program. Under this program, offenders live separate from the general population, participate in programming and in half-day work, school, or vocational activities. Mr. Blankenship successfully completed the program. On October 12, 2010, he was placed in a Residential Re-Entry Center. Mr. Blankenship’s release was terminated on May 2, 2012, for good behavior.</p>			

The felonies of which Mr. Blankenship was convicted are enough to deny the issuance of a substitute certificate of license to teach. Moreover, they are Category 1 crimes that necessarily involve moral turpitude. (*Brehe v. Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education*, 213 S.W.3d 720, 725 (Mo. App. W.D. 2007))

Letters of Recommendation: Five (Superintendent, Crawford County R-I; Principal, Bourbon Middle School; Principal, Bourbon Elementary School; Teacher, Bourbon Elementary School; Lara Craig and Casey Hassell, School-wide Positive Behavior Support (SW-PBS) Tier 2 Coordinators)

PRESENTER:

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

RECOMMENDATION:

There is no new evidence which would merit reconsideration of the Department's decision to uphold the denial of Mr. Blankenship's application for a Missouri substitute teaching certificate by the Office of Educator Quality. The Department recommends that Mr. Blankenship's application be denied.