

# MINUTES

## PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS COMMISSION Valdosta State University Valdosta, Georgia April 10, 2003

The Georgia Professional Standards Commission (PSC) met on Thursday, April 10, 2003, at 9 a.m.

### Members Present

Terri DeLoach	Joseph Cadray	Dottie McClain
Amy Denty	Gwenda Johnson	Pamela Nutt
Pamela Thomas	Elizabeth Kidd	Sylvia Hooker
Mary Gomez	Gary Walker	
Pamela Hertzog	Janet Scott	

### Members Absent

Maria Miller	Sue Sehgal
Angela Finn	Smith Pass
Tony Natson	

### I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Denty called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. flag and a moment of silence.

### II. RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

Chair Denty recognized the visitors.

- Rachel Blankenship, Georgia Association of Educators (GAE)
- Maude Johnson, Valdosta City Schools
- Sam Allen, Valdosta City Schools
- James A. Reffel, Valdosta State University
- Dr. Sue Worth, Valdosta State University
- Dr. Earl Swank, Valdosta State University
- Dr. Phil Gunter, Valdosta State University
- Dr. Marsha Reed, Valdosta State University
- Dr. Linda Miller, Valdosta State University
- Dr. Albert Gibbs, Valdosta State University
- Helen Bennett, Coastal Plains RESA
- Gayle Wooten, Professional Association of Georgia Educators
- Dr. Edie Belden, Professional Association of Georgia Educators
- Kathy Walker, Paulding County School District
- Dr. Don Leech, Valdosta State University
- Sharon Harmon, Lowndes County Schools
- Gayle Golden, Valdosta City Schools
- Scott Chestnutwood, Tift County Schools

### III. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Chair Denty called for approval of the agenda.

**MOTION:** (Hertzog / Walker) To approve agenda.

**PSC ACTION:** Approved

**IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Chair Denty called for approval of the minutes from the March 13, 2003, Commission meeting.

**MOTION:** (DeLoach / Thomas) To approve the minutes.

**PSC ACTION:** Approved

**V. COMMITTEE REPORTS****A. Ethics and Professional Conduct --Recommendations and Actions on Cases**

Commissioner Janet Scott, Chair of the Educator Ethics Review Committee (EERC), gave a preliminary review of the Cases.

1. Ms. Scott reported that the Committee reviewed 53 *Probable Cause* cases during its April 9, 2003, meeting and brought the following recommendations on behalf of the Committee excluding Cases 13 and 17:

<b>PC #</b>	<b>Case Number</b>	<b>STANDARD(S)</b>	<b>EERC Recommendation</b>
1	03-01-1406	Criminal Acts Professional Conduct	Revocation
2	03-01-1427	Criminal Acts Professional Conduct	Suspension for Two Years
3	03-01-1463	Criminal Acts Professional Conduct	Warning
4	03-01-1482	Misrepresentation or Falsification Criminal Acts	No Probable Cause
5	Applicant 03-01-1508	Professional Conduct Criminal Acts	No Probable Cause
6	Paraprofessional 03-02-1703	Professional Conduct Criminal Acts	No Probable Cause
7	03-03-1785	Criminal Acts Professional Conduct	Extend Probable Cause Determination until June 12, 2003
8	Applicant 03-01-1489	Abuse of Students Professional Conduct	Reprimand
9	03-01-1491	Abuse of Students Misrepresentation or Falsification Professional Conduct	Suspension for One Week
10	03-01-1562	Abuse of Students Alcohol or Drugs Professional Conduct	Revocation
11	03-02-1596	Abuse of Students Professional Conduct	Suspension for One Month
12	03-01-1527	Alcohol or Drugs Professional Conduct	Suspension for Six Months
13	03-01-1557	Alcohol or Drugs	Warning
14	03-01-1476	Misrepresentation or Falsification Professional Conduct	Suspension for One Month

<b>PC #</b>	<b>Case Number</b>	<b>STANDARD(S)</b>	<b>EERC Recommendation</b>
15	03-01-1554	Misrepresentation or Falsification	No Probable Cause
16	03-01-1559	Misrepresentation or Falsification Professional Conduct	No Probable Cause
17	03-01-1560	Misrepresentation or Falsification Professional Conduct	Suspension for One Month
18	03-02-1583	Misrepresentation or Falsification Professional Conduct	Suspension for One Year
19	03-02-1612	Misrepresentation or Falsification Professional Conduct	Suspension for One Year
20	03-01-1475	Public Funds and Property Professional Conduct	Suspension for One Month
21	03-01-1479	Public Funds and Property Professional Conduct	Suspension for One Month
22	03-02-1613	Public Funds and Property	Suspension for One Month
23	03-01-1561	Improper Remunerative Conduct	No Probable Cause
24	03-01-1404 Applicant	Abandonment of Contract	Denial
25	03-01-1466	Abandonment of Contract	Suspension for Six Months
26	03-01-1558	Abandonment of Contract	Suspension for Six Months
27	03-02-1566 Applicant	Abandonment of Contract	Denial
28	03-02-1579 Applicant	Abandonment of Contract	Denial
29	03-02-1599 Applicant	Abandonment of Contract	Denial
30	03-01-1464	Failure to Make a Required Report	Warning
31	03-01-1487	Misrepresentation or Falsification Failure to Make a Required Report	Warning
32	03-01-1498	Misrepresentation or Falsification Failure to Make a Required Report	Warning
33	03-01-1511	Misrepresentation or Falsification Failure to Make a Required Report	Warning
34	03-02-1567	Misrepresentation or Falsification Failure to Make a Required Report	Warning
35	03-02-1598	Misrepresentation or Falsification Failure to Make a Required Report	Warning
36	03-02-1603	Misrepresentation or Falsification Failure to Make a Required Report	No Probable Cause
37	03-02-1609	Misrepresentation or Falsification Failure to Make a Required Report	No Probable Cause
38	03-02-1653	Misrepresentation or Falsification Failure to Make a Required Report	No Probable Cause
39	03-02-1675	Misrepresentation or Falsification Failure to Make a Required Report	No Probable Cause
40	03-03-1852	Misrepresentation or Falsification Criminal Acts Alcohol or Drugs Professional Conduct	Revocation

<b>PC #</b>	<b>Case Number</b>	<b>STANDARD(S)</b>	<b>EERC Recommendation</b>
41	02-07-196	Professional Conduct Criminal Acts	Revocation
42	02-12-1365	Professional Conduct	Suspension for One Month
43	02-12-1368	Professional Conduct	No Probable Cause
44	03-01-1467	Professional Conduct Alcohol or Drugs Misrepresentation or Falsification	No Probable Cause
45	03-01-1485	Professional Conduct	No Probable Cause
46	03-01-1507	Professional Conduct Abuse of Students Confidential Information	Revocation
47	03-01-1509	Professional Conduct	Suspension for One Month
48	03-01-1510	Professional Conduct	Reprimand
49	03-01-1512	Professional Conduct	Warning
50	03-01-1529	Professional Conduct Abuse of Students	Reprimand
51	03-02-1642	Professional Conduct Abuse of Students	Reprimand
52	03-03-1762 Applicant	Action Against Out-of-State Certificate Abandonment of Contract	No Probable Cause
53	03-03-1725	Misrepresentation or Falsification Professional Conduct	No Probable Cause

**PSC ACTION:** Approved

**Case # 13**

Gary Walker asked for a discussion.

**MOTION:** (Walker / Thomas) To amend the EERC recommendation from a Warning to No Probable Cause.

**In favor of**

Gwenda Johnson  
Elizabeth Kidd  
Janet Scott  
Gary Walker  
Joseph Cadray  
Pamela Thomas

**Opposed**

Terri DeLoach  
Dottie McClain  
Mary Gomez  
Pamela Hertzog  
Pamela Nutt  
Sylvia Hooker

Chair, Amy Denty , broke the tie by voting against the motion to amend the EERC recommendation from a Warning to No Probable Cause.

**PSC ACTION:** To issue a Warning.

**Case #17**

**MOTION:** (Walker / DeLoach) To amend the EERC recommendation from Suspension for One Month to Suspension for Six Months.

**PSC ACTION:** Approved

2. Ms. Scott reported that the Educator Ethics Review Committee reviewed 7 *Initial Decisions* and brought the

following recommendations on behalf of the Committee:

<b>Case Number</b>	<b>Ethical Violation</b>	<b>ALJ Initial Decision</b>	<b>EERC Recomm.</b>
02-02-1380	Abandonment of Contract	Suspension for Six Months	Accept
02-04-1828	Misrepresentation or Falsification	Denial	Accept
	Professional Conduct		
01-08-211	Misrepresentation or Falsification	No Probable Cause (Dismissal – Expungement)	Accept
02-03-1620	Professional Conduct; Failure to Comply with Monitoring Stipulations	Revocation	Accept
01-02-1174	Public Funds and Property	Revocation	Accept
02-03-1584	Professional Conduct	Suspension for One Month	Accept
	Failure to Comply with Monitoring		
02-03-1613	Criminal Acts	Revocation	Accept
	Professional Conduct		

**PSC ACTION:** Approved

3. Ms. Scott reported that the Educator Ethics Review Committee reviewed 1 *Petitions-Certificate Issues* and brought the following recommendations on behalf of the Committee:

<b>Case Number</b>	<b>Educator</b>	<b>Nature of Petition</b>	<b>Previous Decision (Violation)</b>	<b>EERC Recomm.</b>
03-2-1580	Jeffrey Given	Right to Re-Apply	Denial – Jan. 2, 2001	Grant

**PSC ACTION:** Approved

4. Ms. Scott reported that the Educator Ethics Review Committee reviewed 16 *Settlement Agreements* and brought the following recommendations on behalf of the Committee:

<b>Case Number</b>	<b>Sanction</b>	<b>Violation</b>	<b>EERC Recommendation</b>
02-09-764	Suspension for One Year	Criminal Acts	Accept
02-10-1042	Warning	Failure to Make a Required Report; Misrepresentation or Falsification	Accept
02-10-1120	Reprimand	Misrepresentation or Falsification	Accept
02-11-1228	Reprimand	Abuse of Students; Criminal Acts; Professional Conduct	Accept
02-11-1288	Warning	Failure to Make a Required Report; Misrepresentation or Falsification	Accept
02-11-1289	Warning	Failure to Make a Required Report; Misrepresentation or Falsification	Accept
02-11-1293	Warning	Failure to Make a Required Report; Misrepresentation or Falsification	Accept
02-12-1314	Reprimand	Abuse of Students; Professional Conduct	Accept

Case Number	Sanction	Violation	EERC Recommendation
02-12-1334	Warning	Failure to Make a Required Report; Misrepresentation or Falsification	Accept
02-12-1371	Warning	Criminal Acts; Failure to Make a Required Report; Misrepresentation or Falsification	Accept
02-12-1387	Suspension for Six Months	Misrepresentation or Falsification; Professional Conduct	Accept
03-01-1397	Reprimand	Professional Conduct; Abuse of Students	Accept
03-01-1405	Reprimand	Abuse of Students Professional Conduct	Accept
03-01-1420	Reprimand	Abuse of Students Professional Conduct	Accept
03-01-1469	Reprimand	Professional Conduct	Accept
03-01-1483	Warning	Failure to Make a Required Report; Misrepresentation or Falsification	Accept

**\*\*\*Indicates Educator/Applicant Voluntarily Accepted a Sanction of Revocation or Denial Prior to the Probable Cause Determination**

**PSC ACTION:** Approved

5. Ms. Scott reported that the Educator Ethics Review Committee reviewed 5 *Negotiated Settlement Agreements* and brought the following recommendations on behalf of the Committee:

Case Number	Violation	Probable Cause Finding	Negotiated Proposal	EERC Recomm.
02-3-1588	Abuse of Students; Professional Conduct; Public Funds and Property	Suspension for Six Months	Suspension for Six Months	Accept
02-4-1845	Criminal Acts; Professional Conduct	Revocation	No Probable Cause Dismissal - Expungement	Accept
02-1-1331	Criminal Acts; Professional Conduct Misrepresentation or Falsification	Revocation	Suspension for Three Months	Reject
02-8-502	Abuse of Students; Professional Conduct; Failure to Make a Required Report	Reprimand	Reprimand	Accept
02-10-1148	Criminal Acts; Misrepresentation or Falsification; Failure to Make a Required Report	Denial	Reprimand	Accept

**PSC ACTION:** Approved

6. The Educator Ethics Review Committee recommended approval of the *Preliminary Investigative Determination Report* consisting of 69 new complaints and 3 changes received during the months of March 2003 and April 2003:

**PSC ACTION:** Approved

7. The Educator Ethics Review Committee recommended approval of the *Extensions to Investigations Report* consisting of 15 cases.

**Case Number**    **Case Number**

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03-1-1424	03-1-1468
03-1-1465	03-1-1474
03-1-1526	03-1-1501
03-1-1533	03-2-1686
03-1-1488	03-2-1655
03-1-1462	
03-1-1528	
03-2-1604	
03-2-1611	
02-12-1372	

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**PSC ACTION:** Approval

**8. STUDENT LOAN SUSPENSION / REINSTATEMENTS**

The Commission reviewed the report, which advised of 6 *Student Loan Suspensions and 10 Reinstatements*.

**9. FINAL DECISIONS BY OPERATION OF LAW**

The Commission reviewed the report, which advised of 21 cases closed by *Operation of Law*.

**10. APPLICATIONS FOR CERTIFICATION REPORT**

The Educator Ethics Review Committee recommended approval of 45 cases on the *Applications for Certification Report*.

**PSC ACTION:** Approved

**VI. EXECUTIVE SECRETARY REPORT**

The Executive Secretary presented the following:

**A. Adoption of Rules** (presented by Dr. Toth)

**MOTION:** (Thomas / Hooker) To adopt Rule 505-2-.06 and 505-2-.121.

**PSC ACTION:** Approved

**B. Initiation of Rules** (presented by Vicky Brantley)

**MOTION:** (Walker / DeLoach) To initiate Rule 505-6-.01.

**PSC ACTION:** Approved

**C. "Legislative Report" given by Dr. Toth.**

**D. "Evaluation of the Georgia Teacher Alternative Preparation Program" report given by Dr. Marsha Reed, Valdosta State University.**

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E. "Proposed Changes in Preparation and Certification of Special Education Teachers" report given by Dr. Phil Gunter, Valdosta State University

**VII. CHAIR'S REPORT**

The Chair, Amy Denty, thanked Valdosta State University for their hospitality.

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** (Thomas / Cadray) To adjourn the meeting.

**PSC ACTION:** The meeting adjourned at 11:35 pm.