

MINUTES

PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS COMMISSION

Remote Meeting via TEAMS Platform

August 11, 2022

The Georgia Professional Standards Commission (PSC) met on Thursday, August 11, 2022.

Members Present

| | | |
|------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| Jeanine Bunn | Jordan Frobos | Jane Rookard |
| Abigail Coggin | Kedriane Harris | Dr. Brandon Seigler |
| Daniel Dooley | Dr. Franklin Perry | Brian Sirmans |
| Derek Easterling | Dr. Holley Roberts | Beth Townsend |
| | | Carol Williams |

Members Absent

| | |
|--------------|-------------------|
| Jimmy Atkins | Dr. Jennifer Wade |
| Nathan Lewis | |

I. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Chair Sirmans called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. and Commissioners answered roll call for attendance.

II. VISITORS

Chair Sirmans welcomed the visitors.

III. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Chair Sirmans called for approval of the agenda.

MOTION: (Beth Townsend / Daniel Dooley) To approve the agenda.

PSC ACTION: Approved

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chair Sirmans called for approval of the July 14, 2022 minutes.

PSC ACTION: Approved

V. EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT

Executive Secretary, Matt Arthur, spoke briefly on the following:

1. August birthday – Brian Sirmans
2. On June 1st, the Certification Division promoted two current evaluators into newly created Transition Specialist positions that will provide high-level customer service as the first line of contact to support our LUA and EPP partners in the recruitment and retention of high-quality, certified educators. They will optimize communication with GaDOE and other state agencies to align goals to support recruitment and retention of educators, including transiting military members, military spouses, and teachers of color. They

quickly sent out a one-page newsletter that will be sent quarterly informing our partners of information important for their work in an easy to read and visibly stimulating format. The newsletter included a survey to our partners for feedback on our current process and asking how we can improve. Some of the feedback received included:

- Thank you so much for all you do. I doubt there is any other certification team as helpful and knowledgeable as you all are. I hope to return to the support some day!
 - I want to commend the certification department. The entire team is awesome! I always receive a prompt answer from CertHelp. Customer service is "Chick fil A ish", and I think that is a high standard to achieve. Thank you for all you do.
3. The Educator Ethics task force will meet again next week as they continue to review our processes and we are looking forward to working with them.
 4. We continue to work with the Governor’s office on the teacher pipeline such as assisting Paraprofessionals with a Bachelor’s degree to become classroom teachers.

VI. CHAIR REPORT – Chair Sirmans did not have a report this month.

VII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Ethics and Professional Conduct --Recommendations and Actions on Cases

Chair Beth Townsend of the Educator Ethics Review Committee (EERC), gave a preliminary review of the cases.

1. Chair Townsend reported that the Committee reviewed 56 *Probable Cause* cases during the August, 2022, meeting and brought the following recommendations on behalf of the committee:

| <u>CASE</u> | <u>STANDARDS VIOLATED</u> | <u>RECOMMENDATION</u> |
|-------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| 22-1-839 | 1,5a7 | Reprimand |
| 22-4-1287 | 1,4,5a7 | Reprimand |
| 22-4-1306 | 1,5a7 | Reprimand |
| 22-6-1600 | 1, 5a7 | Reprimand |
| 22-6-1601 | 1,4,5a7 | Reprimand |
| 22-6-1604 | 1,4,5a2,5a7 | Deny |
| 22-6-1639 | 1,5a7 | Reprimand |
| 22-7-7 | 1,5a7 | NPC |
| 22-7-65 | 1,4,5a7 | Reprimand |
| 19-4-1478 | 1, 2, 5, 9, 5a7 | Revoke |
| 21-2-663 | 2, 4, 9, 5a7 | Suspension 2 years |
| 21-2-670 | 1,4,5a2,5a7,8,9 | Revoke |
| 21-2-677 | 1,4,5a7,8,9 | Reprimand |
| 21-2-756 | 1,4,5a7,8,9 | Revoke |
| 21-4-1012 | 2, 9, 5a7 | Reprimand |
| 21-5-1106 | 1, 4, 9, 5a7 | Reprimand |

| <u>CASE</u> | <u>STANDARDS VIOLATED</u> | <u>RECOMMENDATION</u> |
|-------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 21-6-1325 | 4,5a2, 5a5,5a7,8,9 | Revoke |
| 21-9-289 | 1,4,5a7,8,9 | NPC |
| 21-12-667 | 1, 5a2, 5a5, 5a7 | Suspension 90 days |
| 22-1-735 | 9 | Suspension 90 days |
| 22-1-762 | 4, 9 | NPC |
| 22-1-810 | 9 | Suspension 5 days |
| 22-2-977 | 1, 2, 9 | Extend pending criminal outcome |
| 22-3-1047 | 4, 7, 9, 10 | Extend Review Period |
| 22-4-1227 | 1, 4, 5a7, 8,9 | Suspension 90 days |
| 22-4-1320 | 9, 10 | Suspension 5 days |
| 22-4-1321 | 1, 3, 9 | Extend pending criminal outcome |
| 22-4-1328 | 9 | NPC |
| 22-4-1341 | 1,2,9 | Extend pending criminal outcome |
| 22-5-1365 | 1,8,9 | Revoke |
| 22-5-1379 | 2,9 | NPC |
| 22-5-1407 | 3, 9 | Suspension 1 year |
| 22-5-1410 | 2,9 | Suspension 1 year |
| 22-5-1431 | 1, 2, 9 | Extend pending criminal outcome |
| 22-5-1436 | 3, 9 | Suspension 1 year |
| 22-5-1444 | 4,5a2, 5a5, 8,9 | Reprimand |
| 22-5-1448 | 2,9 | NPC |
| 22-5-1451 | 9 | Suspension 10 days |
| 22-5-1454 | 2, 9 | Suspension 10 days |
| 22-5-1493 | 8, 9 | Suspension 1 year |
| 22-5-1507 | 2,3,9 | Suspension 1 year |
| 22-5-1508 | 9 | Reprimand |
| 22-5-1510 | 3,9 | Suspension 1 year |
| 22-5-1532 | 2, 9 | Reprimand |
| 22-5-1543 | 1, 2, 9 | Extend pending criminal outcome |
| 22-5-1565 | 2, 9 | Suspension 20 days |
| 22-6-1585 | 2,9 | Reprimand |
| 22-6-1588 | 1, 2, 4, 9 | Extend pending criminal outcome |
| 22-6-1590 | 1,4,5a7,8,9 | NPC |
| 22-6-1598 | 2,9 | NPC |
| 22-6-1614 | 1, 4, 8, 9 | Reprimand |
| 22-6-1620 | 1, 9 | Suspension 90 days |
| 22-6-1632 | 1, 9 | Suspension 90 days |
| 22-6-1657 | 9 | Reprimand |
| 22-6-1682 | 1,4,5a7,8,9 | Reprimand |
| 22-7-14 | 1,4,5a7,8,9 | Reprimand |

2. Chair Townsend reported that the Educator Ethics Review Committee reviewed 1 *Petitions Issue* and brought the following recommendations on behalf of the Committee:

| <u>CASE</u> | <u>PREVIOUS SANCTION</u> | <u>EERC RECOMMENDATION</u> |
|-------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| 22-5-1388 | Denial | Deny |

3. Chair Townsend reported that the Educator Ethics Review Committee reviewed 16 *Settlement Agreements* and brought the following recommendations on behalf of the Committee:

| <u>CASE</u> | <u>SANCTION</u> | <u>EERC RECOMMEND</u> |
|-------------|--------------------|-----------------------|
| 21-8-215 | Reprimand | Accept |
| 21-12-694 | Suspension 90 days | Accept |
| 22-1-804 | Reprimand | Accept |
| 22-2-892 | Reprimand | Accept |
| 22-2-980 | Reprimand | Accept |
| 22-3-1205 | Suspension 20 days | Accept |
| 22-4-1247 | Suspension 15 days | Accept |
| 22-4-1256 | Suspension 5 days | Accept |
| 22-4-1333 | Suspension 1 year | Accept |
| 22-5-1392 | Reprimand | Accept |
| 22-5-1397 | Suspension 10 days | Accept |
| 22-5-1398 | Reprimand | Accept |
| 22-5-1432 | Suspension 5 days | Accept |
| 22-5-1509 | Reprimand | Accept |
| 22-5-1520 | Reprimand | Accept |
| 22-5-1577 | Reprimand | Accept |

4. Chair Townsend reported that the Educator Ethics Review Committee reviewed 13 *Negotiated Settlement Agreements* and brought the following recommendations on behalf of the Committee:

| <u>CASE</u> | <u>NEGOTIATED SANCTION</u> | <u>EERC RECOMMENDATION</u> |
|-------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 19-10-689 | NPC | Accept |
| 20-6-1666 | Suspension 2 years | Accept |
| 20-11-500 | Reprimand | Accept |
| 21-2-778 | Suspension 1 year 5 mos. | Accept |
| 21-3-812 | Reprimand | Accept |
| 21-4-981 | Reprimand | Accept |
| 21-4-1017 | Suspension 1 year | Accept |
| 21-4-1029 | Suspension 30 days | Accept |
| 21-6-1332 | Reprimand | Accept |
| 21-9-351 | Suspension 2 days | Accept |
| 21-10-382 | Reprimand | Accept |
| 21-10-394 | Warning | Accept |
| 22-1-760 | Warning | Accept |

5. OTHER BUSINESS

The Educator Ethics Review Committee recommended approval of the *Other Business Report* as follows:

| <u>CASE</u> | <u>FINDINGS OF FACTS</u> | <u>EERC RECOMMENDATION</u> |
|-------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 21-12-615 | Suspension 2 years | Accept |
| 21-2-690 | Reconsider case/Additional evidence | Revoke |
| 20-7-16 | Order to vacate | Approve |
| 21-1-605 | Failure to respond. | Hold New App |
| 21-2-686 | Failure to respond. | Hold New App |
| 21-2-698 | Failure to respond. | Hold New App |
| 21-12-688 | Failed to provide requested docs. | Hold New App |
| 22-3-1155 | Failure to respond. | Hold New App |
| 22-3-1211 | Failure to respond. | Hold New App |
| 22-4-1234 | Failed to provide requested docs. | Hold New App |
| 22-4-1235 | Failed to provide requested docs. | Hold New App |
| 22-4-1238 | Failure to respond. | Hold New App |
| 22-4-1261 | Failure to respond. | Hold New App |
| 22-4-1303 | Failed to provide requested docs. | Hold New App |
| 22-5-1393 | Failure to respond. | Hold New App |
| 22-5-1400 | Failure to respond. | Hold New App |

6. The Educator Ethics Review Committee recommended approval of the *Preliminary Investigative Determination Report* consisting of 60 new complaints received during the months of July and August 2022.

7. VOLUNTARY SURRENDERS

The Educator Ethics Review Committee recommended approval of the Voluntary Surrenders listed below in which an Educator/Applicant voluntarily accepted a sanction of Revocation or Denial prior to the submission of an investigative case summary for a Probable Cause Determination.

| <u>CASE</u> | <u>STANDARDS VIOLATED</u> | <u>SANCTION</u> | <u>EERC RECOMMENDATION</u> |
|-------------|---------------------------|---------------------|----------------------------|
| 22-5-1443 | 5a2, 5a5 | Voluntary Surrender | Accept |
| 22-6-1643 | 2, 8, 9 | Voluntary Surrender | Accept |
| 22-6-1664 | 2, 9 | Voluntary Surrender | Accept |

8. EXTENSIONS – PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATIVE DETERMINATIONS

The Educator Ethics Review Committee recommended approval of the 37 *Extensions - Preliminary Investigative Determinations* consisting of the following:

| | | | | | | |
|---------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| 22-7-54 | 22-7-101 | 22-7-106 | 22-7-111 | 22-7-116 | 22-8-128 | 22-8-136 |
| 22-7-55 | 22-7-102 | 22-7-107 | 22-7-112 | 22-7-117 | 22-8-129 | 22-8-137 |
| 22-7-91 | 22-7-103 | 22-7-108 | 22-7-113 | 22-7-118 | 22-8-130 | 22-8-138 |

| | | | | | | |
|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| 22-7-92 | 22-7-104 | 22-7-109 | 22-7-114 | 22-8-126 | 22-8-134 | 22-8-140 |
| 22-7-100 | 22-7-105 | 22-7-110 | 22-7-115 | 22-8-127 | 22-8-135 | 22-8-141 |

9. **EXTENSIONS - INVESTIGATIONS**

The Educator Ethics Review Committee recommended granting an *Investigative Extension* to the following 178 cases:

| <u>WRITTEN COMPLAINT EXTENSIONS</u> | | | | | | |
|--|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 21-1-646 | 21-7-46 | 21-12-687 | 22-2-965 | 22-3-1134 | 22-4-1274 | 22-5-1423 |
| 21-2-745 | 21-7-71 | 22-1-737 | 22-2-970 | 22-3-1146 | 22-4-1276 | 22-5-1425 |
| 21-3-903 | 21-8-104 | 22-1-740 | 22-2-972 | 22-3-1148 | 22-4-1291 | 22-5-1426 |
| 21-3-904 | 21-8-190 | 22-1-744 | 22-2-982 | 22-3-1151 | 22-4-1304 | 22-5-1427 |
| 21-3-920 | 21-8-237 | 22-1-792 | 22-2-996 | 22-3-1152 | 22-4-1308 | 22-5-1428 |
| 21-3-928 | 21-9-308 | 22-1-797 | 22-2-1010 | 22-3-1172 | 22-4-1314 | 22-5-1430 |
| 21-4-966 | 21-9-319 | 22-1-807 | 22-3-1032 | 22-3-1174 | 22-4-1316 | 22-5-1438 |
| 21-4-969 | 21-9-321 | 22-1-831 | 22-3-1042 | 22-3-1178 | 22-4-1318 | 22-5-1440 |
| 21-5-1087 | 21-10-384 | 22-1-832 | 22-3-1059 | 22-3-1184 | 22-4-1322 | 22-5-1443 |
| 21-5-1111 | 21-10-411 | 22-1-840 | 22-3-1070 | 22-3-1186 | 22-4-1323 | 22-5-1455 |
| 21-5-1113 | 21-10-444 | 22-1-843 | 22-3-1071 | 22-3-1194 | 22-4-1340 | 22-5-1458 |
| 21-5-1117 | 21-10-447 | 22-1-850 | 22-3-1073 | 22-3-1196 | 22-4-1348 | 22-5-1480 |
| 21-5-1124 | 21-11-545 | 22-1-851 | 22-3-1077 | 22-3-1197 | 22-5-1371 | 22-5-1481 |
| 21-5-1174 | 21-11-576 | 22-1-856 | 22-3-1078 | 22-3-1214 | 22-5-1372 | 22-5-1483 |
| 21-5-1185 | 21-11-596 | 22-1-858 | 22-3-1080 | 22-4-1216 | 22-5-1374 | 22-5-1488 |
| 21-5-1188 | 21-12-625 | 22-2-889 | 22-3-1081 | 22-4-1221 | 22-5-1378 | 22-5-1489 |
| 21-6-1235 | 21-12-626 | 22-2-903 | 22-3-1088 | 22-4-1223 | 22-5-1384 | 22-5-1500 |
| 21-6-1241 | 21-12-657 | 22-2-904 | 22-3-1093 | 22-4-1225 | 22-5-1385 | 22-5-1501 |
| 21-6-1292 | 21-12-661 | 22-2-910 | 22-3-1097 | 22-4-1228 | 22-5-1389 | 22-5-1502 |
| 21-6-1316 | 21-12-663 | 22-2-920 | 22-3-1105 | 22-4-1258 | 22-5-1395 | 22-5-1503 |
| 21-6-1326 | 21-12-680 | 22-2-934 | 22-3-1106 | 22-4-1263 | 22-5-1406 | 22-5-1505 |
| 21-6-1333 | 21-12-681 | 22-2-948 | 22-3-1130 | 22-4-1266 | 22-5-1419 | 22-5-1512 |
| 21-6-1341 | 21-12-686 | 22-2-963 | 22-3-1132 | 22-4-1272 | 22-5-1421 | 22-5-1521 |

10. **APPLICATIONS FOR CERTIFICATION REPORT**

The Educator Ethics Review Committee recommended to approve a no probable cause determination on 23 cases reflected on the *Applications for Certification Report*.

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

The Commission reviewed the report, which advised of 12 cases now closed without an appeal for a hearing before an Administrative Law Judge.

12. **FINAL DECISIONS RENDERED BY AN ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE**

The Educator Ethics Review Committee recommended to accept the ALJ's sanction on the following:

| <u>CASE</u> | <u>ORIGINAL SANCTION</u> | <u>ALJ SANCTION</u> |
|--------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 20-3-1425 | Suspension 20 days | Administrative Closure |

| <u>CASE</u> | <u>ORIGINAL SANCTION</u> | <u>ALJ SANCTION</u> |
|-------------|--------------------------|---------------------|
| 21-7-53 | Reprimand | NPC |

Chair Sirmans called for approval of the Educator Ethics Review Committee report as present by Chair Townsend.

PSC ACTION: Approved

Abstentions: Beth Townsend PCE 22-5-1543; Derek Easterling PID 22-7-35, PCE 22-1-810, NCO 20-6-1666; Brian Sirmans PID 22-7-39; Jeanine Bunn NCO 20-11-500; Dr Franklin Perry PID 22-7-85; Jimmy Atkins PCE 22-7-14; 22-5-1532; 22-5-1565; Jordan Frobos PID 22-7-19; Abigail Coggin Clearance 21-10-440; Jane Rookard Clearance 22-7-53,

B. Educator Preparation Standing Committee

Committee Chair, Dr. Holley Roberts, presented the report of the Educator Preparation Standing Committee.

Truett McConnell – As a result of satisfactory progress indicated in the May 18, 2022, progress report, the Committee recommends removal of the stipulations in Standards 2.2 and 5.2, and areas for improvement (AFIs) in Standards 2.1 and 4.4 for the EPP cited during the Spring 2019 Continuing Approval Review.

As a result of incremental progress, the AFIs in Standards 1.1, 5.1, 5.3(a), 5.3(b), and 5.5 remain for the EPP cited during the Spring 2019 Continuing Approval Review.

As a result of unsatisfactory progress, the AFI in Standard 5.4 remains for the EPP.

The Committee recommends the submission of a progress report February 10, 2023, addressing all remaining AFIs. In addition to addressing the remaining AFIs, the progress report should further define the levels of achievement for the CAPS Expectations instrument. The progress report should also indicate how data are tracked over time to identify trends, and to demonstrate how data are linked to specific programmatic improvements. Essentially, the progress report should provide evidence for how the EPP closes the loop in its quality assurance system.

Chair Sirmans called for approval of the Educator Ethics Review Committee report as present by Dr. Holley Roberts.

PSC ACTION: Approved

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Our next Commission meeting will be held on Thursday, September 8th, at 10 pm. We will meet virtually and in-person at 200 Piedmont Avenue, 17th Floor, West Tower, Suite 1716. Log-in information will be posted on our website under Commission Information. The Educator Ethics Review Committee and Educator Preparation/Certification Standing Committee meeting will meet on Wednesday, September 7th, at 4:00 pm. Chair Sirmans called for the meeting to be adjourned at 4:16 p.m.

PSC ACTION: Approved