

# MINUTES

## PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS COMMISSION

### Remote Meeting via TEAMS Platform

January 11, 2024

The Georgia Professional Standards Commission (PSC) met on Thursday, January 11, 2024.

#### **Members Present**

Jimmy Atkins	Mark Kauffman	Brian Sirmans
Jeanine Bunn	Nathan Lewis	Beth Townsend
Abigail Coggin	Dr. Franklin Perry	Dr. Jennifer Wade
Derek Easterling	Dr. Holley Roberts	Carol Williams
Jordan Frobos	Jane Rookard	Dr. Judi Wilson
Kedrione Harris	Dr. Brandon Seigler	Vonda Woodall

There were no members absent.

#### **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 / Dr. Holley Roberts) To approve the agenda.

**PSC ACTION:** Approved

#### **IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Chair Sirmans called for approval of the December 14, 2023 minutes.

**PSC ACTION:** Approved

#### **V. EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT**

Our Ethics Symposium will be held on March 26 & 27 in Macon at Middle Georgia State University. This collaborative symposium will feature keynote and plenary presenters, panel presentations, and multiple concurrent breakout sessions focused on a range of topics centered on prevention and correction of educator missteps. We have invited school administrators, Superintendents, HR directors, PL directors, principals, and Educator Preparation Provider (EPP) Deans/Chairs, Program Directors, and Faculty. We have also emailed these parties to submit proposals for the symposium. The deadline to submit is January 17th and registration for the event opens on Feb. 7.

The next Georgia Council on Literacy meeting will be held on January 22<sup>nd</sup> in Dublin, GA.

## **VI. RULES INITIATION**

Anne Marie Fenton presented the rules for initiation. These rules were previewed at the December Commission meeting. If initiated today and after a 30 day public comment period, these rules will be scheduled for adoption consideration at the March 14, 2024, Commission meeting, and if adopted will become effective April 15, 2024

**MOTION:** (Jimmy Atkins / Jodan Frobos) To (1) amend the current rules in Chapter 505-2- Certification, effective April 15, 2024, as follows: 505-2-.02, 505-2-.10, 505-2-.14, 505-2-.22, 505-2-.26, and 505-2-.57; (2) amend the current rule in Chapter 505-3- Educator Preparation Rules, effective April 15, 2024, as follows: 505-3-.77; (3) repeal the current rule in Chapter 505-3- Educator Preparation rules, effective April 15, 2024, as follows: 505-3-.65; and (4) initiate the current rule in Chapter 505-3- Educator Preparation rules, effective April 15, 2024, as follows: 505-3-.65.

**PSC ACTION:** Approved

## **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 63 ***Probable Cause*** cases during the January 10, 2024, meeting and brought the following recommendations on behalf of the committee:

<u>CASE</u>	<u>STANDARDS VIOLATED</u>	<u>RECOMMENDATION</u>	<u>EERC RECOMMENDATION</u>
23-8-431	1, 4, 8, 9	Reprimand	Accept
23-9-607	4, 8, 9	Deny	Accept
23-10-727	1,5a6	Reprimand	Accept
23-10-740	1,5a6	HNA	Accept
23-10-753	1,5a6	Reprimand	Accept
23-11-874	1, 4,5a7	Reprimand	Accept
23-11-926	1,5a5, 5a6	Reprimand	Accept
23-11-1029	1,5a6, 5a7 (2021)	NPC	Accept
22-10-586	2, 3, 9	1 year suspension	Accept
23-2-988	1, 9	Reprimand	Accept
23-3-1249	1,5a1,5a6,5a7 (2018)	Reprimand	Accept
23-3-1255	1,4,5a6, 5a7 (2018-2022), 8,9	Revoke	Accept
23-5-1523	1,4,5a6,5a7 (2021-2022), 8,9	Reprimand	Accept
23-5-1608	1,4,5a1,5a5,5a6,5a7 (2022)8,9	Crim. Ext	Accept
23-6-1681	4, 9	20 day suspension	Accept

<u>CASE</u>	<u>STANDARDS VIOLATED</u>	<u>RECOMMENDATION</u>	<u>EERC RECOMMENDATION</u>
23-6-1683	9	15 day suspension	Accept
23-7-105	9	90 day suspension	Accept
23-7-98	1,4,5a6,5a7 (2009-2022), 8,9	Reprimand	Accept
23-8-165	9	90 day suspension	Accept
23-8-191	1, 4, 5a2, 5a4, 5a6, 5a7 (2019-2022), 8, 9	Reprimand	Accept
23-8-196	1,4,5a6, 5a7 (2022), 8,9	NPC	Accept
22-8-251	1,2,9	Revoke	Accept
23-8-314	9, 5a2, 5a4, 5a7	NPC	Accept
23-8-316	9	Reprimand	Accept
23-8-325	9	90 day suspension	Accept
23-8-360	9	NPC	Accept
23-8-407	9	90 day suspension	Accept
23-9-465	2,9	NPC	Accept
23-9-490	1, 2, 9	Revocation	Accept
23-9-491	8, 9	Reprimand	Accept
23-9-492	8, 9	Reprimand	Accept
23-9-602	4,9	Reprimand	Accept
23-9-609	9	90 day suspension	Accept
23-10-617	2 & 9	20 day suspension	Accept
23-10-618	2 & 9	20 day suspension	Accept
23-10-621	2,9	NPC	Accept
23-10-679	2,9	20 day suspension	Accept
23-10-680	4, 5, 9	1 year suspension	Accept
23-10-683	2, 8, 9	60 day suspension	Accept
23-10-685	2,4,9	Reprimand	Accept
23-10-687	1,2,4,9	Crim. Ext	Accept
23-10-692	9	5 day suspension	Accept
23-10-711	6, 9	NPC	Accept
23-10-717	1,2,9	Revoke	Accept
23-10-718	2,9	NPC	Accept
23-10-719	2, 9	10 day suspension	Accept
23-10-722	8,9	NPC	Accept
23-10-723	9, 5a2, 5a5	NPC	Accept
23-10-764	1,2,9	Crim. Ext.	Accept
23-10-765	9	5 day suspension	Accept
23-10-768	5, 6, 9	30 day suspension	Accept
23-10-770	9	Reprimand	Accept
23-10-802	2, 9	5 day suspension	Accept
23-10-807	1 & 9	Reprimand	Accept
23-10-831	1, 9	Crim. Ext.	Accept
23-11-863	1,4,5a6, 5a7 (2021-2022),8,9	20 day suspension	Accept

<u>CASE</u>	<u>STANDARDS VIOLATED</u>	<u>RECOMMENDATION</u>	<u>EERC RECOMMENDATION</u>
23-11-881	1, 2, 9	Crim. Ext.	Accept
23-11-887	9	90 day suspension	Accept
23-11-897	1,4,5a6,5a7 (2021-2022), 8,9	Reprimand	Accept
23-11-919	1,4,5a6,5a7 (2021), 8,9	1 year suspension	Accept
23-11-944	1, 4, 9	Crim. Ext.	Accept
23-11-983	2, 9	5 day suspension	Accept
23-11-1023	5a6, 9	NPC	Accept

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

<u>CASE</u>	<u>PREVIOUS SANCTION</u>	<u>EERC RECOMMENDATION</u>
23-11-1004	Revocation - Oct. 23, 2001	Grant

3. Chair Townsend reported that the Educator Ethics Review Committee reviewed 14 *Settlement Agreements* and brought the following recommendations on behalf of the Committee:

<u>CASE</u>	<u>SANCTION</u>	<u>EERC RECOMMENDATION</u>
23-4-1337	Suspension 1 year	Accept
23-5-1629	Suspension 2 years	Accept
23-5-1660	Reprimand	Accept
23-8-158	Reprimand	Accept
23-8-198	Suspension 20 days	Accept
23-9-527	Reprimand	Accept
23-9-528	Suspension 10 days	Accept
23-9-538	Reprimand	Accept
23-10-655	Reprimand	Accept
23-10-661	Reprimand	Accept
23-10-726	Reprimand	Accept
23-10-789	Reprimand	Accept
23-11-838	Reprimand	Accept
23-11-852	Reprimand	Accept

4. Chair Townsend reported that the Educator Ethics Review Committee reviewed 8 *Negotiated Settlement Agreements* and brought the following recommendations on behalf of the Committee:

<u>CASE</u>	<u>EERC RECOMMENDATION</u>
20-4-1474	Accept
21-3-903	Accept
21-4-999	Accept

<u>CASE</u>	<u>EERC RECOMMENDATION</u>
21-7-71	Accept
21-12-721	Accept
22-1-850	Accept
23-3-1263	Accept
23-6-1691	Accept

**5. OTHER BUSINESS**

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

<u>CASE</u>	<u>EERC RECOMMENDATION</u>
22-5-1534	Investigate
23-8-313	Vacate / Close
23-8-155	HNA
23-9-603	HNA

6. The Educator Ethics Review Committee recommended approval of the *Preliminary Investigative Determination Report* consisting of 92 new complaints received during the months of December 2023 and January 2024.

**7. EXTENSIONS – PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATIVE DETERMINATIONS**

The Educator Ethics Review Committee recommended approval of the 26 *Extensions - Preliminary Investigative Determinations* consisting of the following:

24-1-1219	24-1-1233	24-1-1237	24-1-1250	24-1-1254
24-1-1220	24-1-1234	24-1-1238	24-1-1251	24-1-1256
24-1-1221	24-1-1235	24-1-1239	24-1-1252	
24-1-1222	24-1-1236	24-1-1240	24-1-1253	

**8. EXTENSIONS - INVESTIGATIONS**

The Educator Ethics Review Committee recommended granting an *Investigative Extension* to the following 193 cases:

<u>WRITTEN COMPLAINT EXTENSIONS</u>					
23-2-1039	23-8-195	23-8-393	23-9-521	23-10-664	23-10-826
23-2-1090	23-8-201	23-8-395	23-9-522	23-10-665	23-10-827
23-2-1127	23-8-243	23-8-397	23-9-524	23-10-667	23-10-828
23-3-1169	23-8-246	23-8-406	23-9-526	23-10-669	23-10-829
23-3-1171	23-8-256	23-8-408	23-9-551	23-10-675	23-11-836
23-3-1191	23-8-266	23-8-412	23-9-552	23-10-678	23-11-839
23-3-1215	23-8-273	23-8-414	23-9-571	23-10-680	23-11-842
23-3-1245	23-8-279	23-8-416	23-9-581	23-10-684	23-11-847
23-3-1264	23-8-280	23-8-417	23-9-584	23-10-699	23-11-851

<b>WRITTEN COMPLAINT EXTENSIONS</b>					
23-3-1280	23-8-304	23-8-421	23-9-593	23-10-705	23-11-857
23-4-1308	23-8-312	23-9-434	23-9-594	23-10-709	23-11-859
23-4-1320	23-8-321	23-9-435	23-9-596	23-10-713	23-11-864
23-4-1363	23-8-322	23-9-438	23-9-599	23-10-730	23-11-876
23-4-1366	23-8-323	23-9-440	23-9-600	23-10-732	23-11-877
23-4-1373	23-8-330	23-9-444	23-9-606	23-10-735	23-11-878
23-4-1389	23-8-333	23-9-460	23-9-611	23-10-739	23-11-879
23-4-1406	23-8-342	23-9-472	23-9-614	23-10-749	23-11-898
23-4-1408	23-8-346	23-9-478	23-10-615	23-10-766	23-11-900
23-4-1421	23-8-347	23-9-480	23-10-635	23-10-776	
23-4-1426	23-8-358	23-9-485	23-10-636	23-10-779	
23-4-1427	23-8-367	23-9-488	23-10-637	23-10-781	
23-4-1428	23-8-379	23-9-502	23-10-642	23-10-788	
23-4-1433	23-8-385	23-9-504	23-10-648	23-10-791	
23-5-1466	23-8-388	23-9-505	23-10-656	23-10-794	
23-5-1485	23-8-392	23-9-513	23-10-657	23-10-795	

**9. APPLICATIONS FOR CERTIFICATION REPORT**

The Educator Ethics Review Committee recommended to approve a no probable cause determination on 29 cases reflected on the *Applications for Certification Report*.

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

The Commission reviewed the report, which advised of 16 cases now closed without an appeal for a hearing before an Administrative Law Judge.

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

**PSC ACTION:** Approved

Abstentions: Derek Easterling-PIDs 23-12-1070, 23-12-1111, 23-12-1113, 23-12-1114, PCEs 23-2-988, 23-3-1255, 23-6-1681, 23-10-717 Clearance 23-11-1044, 23-11-1042, 23-11-1040, Brian Sirmans-PID 23-12-1199, PCE 23-10-807, Dr. Franklin Perry-Clearance 23-11-899, Jimmy Atkins PID 23-12-1066, PCE 23-10-683, Abigail Coggin 23-11-1006, 23-11-1050, 23-10-1063, 23-10-1064, Jane Rookard 23-11-1008, 23-10-1065, 23-12-1071

**B. Educator Preparation Standing Committee**

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

1. Brenau University – The committee recommends Developmental Approval for the Dyslexia Endorsement.
2. 2024 Georgia Standards for the Approval of Educator Preparation Providers and Educator Preparation Programs – The committee adopted the 2024 standards aligned to Rule 505-3-.03 Foundations of reading, Literacy and Language.

Chair Sirmans called for approval of the Educator Preparation and Certification Committee report as presented

2/12/2024

Page 7

by Dr. Holley Roberts.

**PSC ACTION:** Approved

Abstentions – Brenau University – Jimmy Atkins, Jordan Frobos

### **VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

Our next Commission meeting will be held on Thursday, February 8, 2024, at 4 pm. We will meet remotely and the information will be posted on our website under Commission Information. The Educator Ethics Review Committee and Educator Preparation and Certification Committee meeting will meet on Wednesday, February 7, 2024, at 4:00 pm. Chair Sirmans called for the meeting to be adjourned at \_\_\_\_ p.m.

**PSC ACTION:** Approved