

MINUTES

PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS COMMISSION

Remote Meeting via TEAMS Platform

July 13, 2023

The Georgia Professional Standards Commission (PSC) met on Thursday, July 13, 2023.

Members Present

Jimmy Atkins	Kedrione Harris	Dr. Brandon Seigler
Jeanine Bunn	Mark Kauffman	Beth Townsend
Abigail Coggin	Nathan Lewis	Dr. Judi Wilson
Derek Easterling	Dr. Franklin Perry	Vonda Woodall
Jordan Frobos	Jane Rookard	

Members Absent

Dr. Holley Roberts	Dr. Jennifer Wade
Carol Williams	Jordan Frobos

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 / Jimmy Atkins) To approve the agenda.

PSC ACTION: Approved

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chair Sirmans called for approval of the June 8, 2023 minutes.

PSC ACTION: Approved

V. EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT

Matt Arthur provided a reminder of the earlier collaborative development of the Georgia Paraprofessional Ethics modules, by RESAs and GaPSC. A promotional video for these modules is now available on GaPSC's website at <https://www.gapsc.com/VideoSeries/home.aspx>.

VI. CHAIR REPORT (No report given)

VII. RULES ADOPTION AND ORAL HEARING

Anne Marie Fenton brought the Professional Practices (Ethics) rule and Educator Preparation rules initiated by Commissioners at the June 8, 2023, Commission meeting, to them for their adoption consideration at this meeting. These rules, if adopted, will become effective August 15, 2023. Seven public comments were received during the public comment period, and were shared with Commissioners.

Chair Sirmans stated that we received a request for an oral hearing by an association having not less than 25 members during the public comment period, which will begin at this time.

Chair Sirmans called the oral hearing in the matter of the proposed rules initiated by the Commission on July 13, 2023, to order. A quorum of the Commission was present. He asked each Commission member to state their name for the record. Each Commissioner received all written comments.

Chair Sirmans announced that we would hear from members of the public. He asked that their statements be concise and limited to three (3) minutes. There were two speakers from the public. He asked Commissioners if they had questions. Hearing none he proceeded with the motion.

MOTION: (Jimmy Atkins / Derek Easterling) To: (1) amend the current rules in Chapter 505-3- Educator Preparation Rules, effective August 15, 2023, as follows: 505-3-.01, 505-3-.05, 505-3-.06, 505-3-.23, 505-3-.24, 505-3-.25, 505-3-.26, 505-3-.27, 505-3-.28, 505-3-.29, 505-3-.30, 505-3-.34, 505-3-.35, 505-3-.36, 505-3-.37, 505-3-.38, 505-3-.39, 505-3-.40, 505-3-.41, 505-3-.44, 505-3-.45, 505-3-.46, 505-3-.47, 505-3-.49, 505-3-.50, 505-3-.54, 505-3-.55, 505-3-.56, 505-3-.57, 505-3-.58, 505-3-.60, 505-3-.83, 505-3-.89, 505-3-.90, 505-3-.92, 505-3-.93, 505-3-.95, 505-3-.98, 505-3-.99, 505-3-.101, 505-3-.102, 505-3-.103, 505-3-.104, 505-3-.107, 505-3-.108, 505-3-.110, and 505-3-.112; and (2) repeal the current rule in Chapter 6-Professional Practices, effective August 15, 2023, as follows: 505-6-.08.

PSC ACTION: Approved

VIII. 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.

- Chair Townsend reported that the Committee reviewed 70 ***Probable Cause*** cases during the July 13, 2023, 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>
23-1-872	5a6	Reprimand	Accept
23-3-1220	1,5a6	NPC	Accept
23-3-1251	1,4,5a6	Reprimand	Accept
23-4-1318	4, 9	Deny	Accept
23-4-1361	1,5a6	NPC	Accept

<u>CASE</u>	<u>STANDARDS VIOLATED</u>	<u>RECOMMENDATION</u>	<u>EERC RECOMMENDATION</u>
23-4-1396	5a6	NPC	Accept
23-5-1454	5a2,5a6	Reprimand	Accept
23-5-1484	1,5a6	Reprimand	Accept
23-5-1578	1,5a6	Reprimand	Accept
23-5-1600	1,5a6	Reprimand	Accept
23-5-1618	1,4,5a6	Reprimand	Accept
23-5-1659	1,5a6	NPC	Accept
23-6-1675	5a2,5a6	Reprimand	Accept
23-6-1750	1,5a6	NPC	Accept
21-12-655	1, 8, 9, 5a6	NPC	Accept
22-3-1196	4, 5, 9	Reprimand	Accept
22-3-1197	4, 5, 9	Reprimand	Accept
22-5-1483	2,9	Suspension 1 year	Accept
22-5-1546	1,2,9	Revoke	Accept
22-6-1626	2,9	Suspension 1 year	Accept
22-6-1654	2, 4, 9	Revoke	Accept
22-6-1692	1, 2, 9	Extend Pending Criminal Outcome	Accept
22-9-316	9	Reprimand	Accept
22-11-677	1, 8, 9	Extend Pending Criminal Outcome	Accept
22-12-747	1, 9	NPC	Accept
23-1-845	1,4,5a7,8 9	NPC	Accept
23-1-893	9	Suspension 90 days	Accept
23-1-894	9	Suspension 90 days	Accept
23-2-977	4, 9	Suspension 2 years	Accept
23-2-984	9	Suspension 90 days	Accept
23-2-1002	9	Suspension 90 days	Accept
23-2-1013	9	Suspension 90 days	Accept
23-3-1163	2, 9	Suspension 10 days	Accept
23-3-1184	3, 9	Suspension 1 year	Accept
23-3-1252	1,4,5a6,8,9	Suspension 20 days	Accept
23-3-1272	2, 9	Suspension 20 days	Accept
23-3-1273	1, 9	Extend Pending Criminal Outcome	Accept
23-3-1274	2,9	Suspension 1 year	Accept
23-3-1277	4, 9	Suspension 90 days	Accept
23-3-1281	2,8,9,10	Reprimand	Accept
23-3-1286	2,9	Reprimand	Accept
23-3-1300	2, 9	Suspension 10 days	Accept
23-3-1301	2,9	Suspension 2 years	Accept
23-4-1314	2, 9	Suspension 10 days	Accept
23-4-1315	4,9	Reprimand	Accept
23-4-1319	2, 9	Reprimand	Accept
23-4-1322	3,9	Suspension 1 year	Accept
23-4-1324	9	Suspension 90 days	Accept
23-4-1329	1, 9	Extend Pending Criminal Outcome	Accept

<u>CASE</u>	<u>STANDARDS VIOLATED</u>	<u>RECOMMENDATION</u>	<u>EERC RECOMMENDATION</u>
23-4-1334	1,4, 8,9	Suspension 20 days	Accept
23-4-1345	2,9	Suspension 2 years	Accept
23-4-1346	1, 2, 9	Extend Pending Criminal Outcome	Accept
23-4-1352	1, 9, 5a6	Extend Pending Criminal Outcome	Accept
23-4-1358	1,3,9	Suspension 1 year	Accept
23-4-1412	3,9	Suspension 1 year	Accept
23-4-1416	1, 9	Extend Pending Criminal Outcome	Accept
23-4-1418	4, 5, 9	Suspension 10 days	Accept
23-4-1436	4, 9	Suspension 20 days	Accept
23-4-1437	8, 9	Suspension 90 days	Accept
23-5-1449	4, 9	Revoke	Accept
23-5-1452	2, 9	Suspension 2 years	Accept
23-5-1500	2, 4, 9	Reprimand	Accept
23-5-1505	4, 9	Suspension 90 days	Accept
23-5-1520	1,4,5a7,8,9	Reprimand	Accept
23-5-1524	1,4,5a6,8,9	Reprimand	Accept
23-5-1526	1,4,5a7,8,9	NPC	Accept
23-5-1548	2, 9	Suspension 20 days	Accept
23-5-1556	1,4,5a6,8,9	Reprimand	Accept
23-5-1560	1,4,5a6,8,9	NPC	Accept
23-5-1581	1,4,5a7,8,9	Reprimand	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>
23-2-1022	Revocation – Dec. 6, 2017	Grant

3. Chair Townsend reported that the Educator Ethics Review Committee reviewed 23 *Settlement Agreements* and brought the following recommendations on behalf of the Committee:

<u>CASE</u>	<u>SANCTION</u>	<u>EERC RECOMMENDATION</u>
22-5-1564	Suspension 1 year	Accept
22-10-587	Suspension 90 days	Accept
22-11-688	Suspension 10 days	Accept
22-12-753	Reprimand	Accept
23-2-1017	Suspension 10 days	Accept
23-2-1079	Reprimand	Accept
23-2-1091	Reprimand	Accept
23-2-1094	Reprimand	Accept
23-3-1130	Reprimand	Accept
23-3-1135	Reprimand	Accept

CASE	SANCTION	EERC RECOMMENDATION
23-3-1159	Suspension 20 days	Accept
23-3-1200	Suspension 90 days	Accept
23-3-1206	Suspension 90 days	Accept
23-3-1216	Reprimand	Accept
23-3-1226	Reprimand	Accept
23-3-1271	Suspension 5 days	Accept
23-3-1278	Reprimand	Accept
23-3-1288	Suspension 5 days	Accept
23-5-1456	Reprimand	Accept
23-5-1492	Reprimand	Accept
23-5-1497	Denial	Accept
23-5-1565	Reprimand	Accept
23-5-1566	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:

CASE	NEGOTIATED SANCTION	EERC RECOMMENDATION
19-7-42	NPC	Accept
20-2-1149	Suspension 1 year	Accept
21-2-661	Warning	Accept
21-8-202	Suspension 13 days	Accept
22-2-1013	NFA	Accept
22-4-1293	Suspension 2 days	Accept
22-7-35	NFA	Accept
22-7-39	Suspension 3 days	Accept
22-8-124	Suspension 3 days	Accept
22-8-177	Reprimand	Accept
22-9-389	Suspension 30 days	Accept
22-12-752	Suspension 3 days	Accept
23-1-887	Suspension 5 days	Accept

5. **OTHER BUSINESS**

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

CASE	FINDINGS OF FACTS	EERC RECOMMENDATION
19-3-1313	Educator deceased.	Admin Close
23-2-993	Unable effect service.	Hold New App
23-3-1306	Additional complaint	Investigate

6. The Educator Ethics Review Committee recommended approval of the *Preliminary Investigative Determination Report* consisting of 101 new complaints received during the months of June and July 2023.

7. **VOLUNTARY SURRENDERS**

The Educator Ethics Review Committee recommended approval of the 3 *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 RECOMMENDATIONS</u>
18-2-1026	1, 5, 9	Voluntary Surrender	Accept
21-3-865	1, 2, 9, 5a7	Voluntary Surrender	Accept
23-4-1386	2, 9	Voluntary Surrender	Accept

8. **EXTENSIONS – PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATIVE DETERMINATIONS**

The Educator Ethics Review Committee recommended approval of the 47 *Extensions - Preliminary Investigative Determinations* consisting of the following:

23-6-1695	23-6-1713	23-6-1720	23-6-1776	23-6-1783	23-7-3	23-7-9	23-7-44
23-6-1707	23-6-1714	23-6-1721	23-6-1778	23-6-1784	23-7-4	23-7-37	23-7-45
23-6-1708	23-6-1715	23-6-1771	23-6-1779	23-6-1785	23-7-5	23-7-38	23-7-46
23-6-1709	23-6-1716	23-6-1772	23-6-1780	23-6-1786	23-7-6	23-7-39	23-7-47
23-6-1710	23-6-1717	23-6-1773	23-6-1781	23-7-1	23-7-7	23-7-40	23-7-48
23-6-1711	23-6-1719	23-6-1774	23-6-1782	23-7-2	23-7-8	23-7-41	

9. **EXTENSIONS - INVESTIGATIONS**

The Educator Ethics Review Committee recommended granting an *Investigative Extension* to the following 105 cases:

<u>WRITTEN COMPLAINT EXTENSIONS</u>							
22-4-1322	23-2-947	23-2-1090	23-3-1238	23-3-1303	23-4-1341	23-4-1403	23-5-1519
22-4-1323	23-2-948	23-2-1127	23-3-1245	23-3-1304	23-4-1344	23-4-1406	23-5-1522
22-6-1647	23-2-960	23-3-1169	23-3-1246	23-3-1306	23-4-1348	23-4-1408	23-5-1523
23-1-819	23-2-995	23-3-1171	23-3-1249	23-4-1308	23-4-1354	23-4-1409	23-5-1528
23-1-821	23-2-1008	23-3-1181	23-3-1255	23-4-1313	23-4-1355	23-5-1466	23-5-1533
23-1-829	23-2-1012	23-3-1187	23-3-1263	23-4-1316	23-4-1362	23-5-1470	23-5-1534
23-1-844	23-2-1027	23-3-1189	23-3-1264	23-4-1317	23-4-1363	23-5-1485	23-5-1535
23-1-847	23-2-1028	23-3-1191	23-3-1276	23-4-1320	23-4-1366	23-5-1490	
23-1-848	23-2-1029	23-3-1192	23-3-1280	23-4-1321	23-4-1370	23-5-1491	
23-1-865	23-2-1039	23-3-1215	23-3-1283	23-4-1331	23-4-1372	23-5-1494	
23-1-871	23-2-1048	23-3-1230	23-3-1284	23-4-1333	23-4-1373	23-5-1507	
23-1-905	23-2-1054	23-3-1235	23-3-1285	23-4-1336	23-4-1389	23-5-1516	
23-2-940	23-2-1078	23-3-1236	23-3-1293	23-4-1337	23-4-1391	23-5-1517	
23-2-943	23-2-1084	23-3-1237	23-3-1294	23-4-1338	23-4-1398	23-5-1518	

10. **APPLICATIONS FOR CERTIFICATION REPORT**

The Educator Ethics Review Committee recommended to approve a no probable cause determination on 15

cases reflected on the *Applications for Certification Report*.

11. FINAL DECISIONS BY OPERATION OF LAW

The Commission reviewed the report, which advised of 15 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>	<u>EERC RECOMMENDATION</u>
18-10-531	Reprimand	Warning	Accept
19-1-850	Revocation	Suspension 5 days	Accept
22-8-225 22-10-500	Suspension 30 days / Suspension 1 year	Suspension 90 days	Accept
22-9-458	Denial	Denial	Accept

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

PSC ACTION: Approved

Abstentions: Beth Townsend – PCE Case 23-5-1555, Jimmy Atkins – PID Case 23-7-63, Dr. Franklin Perry – PID Case 23-7-9, Derek Easterling – PID Cases 23-7-8, 23-7-46, 23-7-93, PCE 23-5-1537, 23-5-1554, Clearance Case 23-5-1507

B. Educator Preparation Standing Committee

Dr. Judi Wilson presented the report of the Educator Preparation Standing Committee.

1. Berry College – The Committee recommends granting the request to defer the Fall 2026 Continuing Approval Review to Fall 2027.
2. Forsyth County Schools – As a result of satisfactory progress indicated in the May 9, 2023, Progress Report, the Committee recommends removal of the area for improvement (AFI) in Standard 1.1 for the following endorsements cited during the Spring 2022 First Continuing Approval Review for the Educator Preparation Provider (EPP).
 - K-5 Mathematics Endorsement
 - Online Teaching Endorsement
 - Teacher Support and Coaching Endorsement
3. Gordon State College – As a result of Satisfactory progress indicated in the April 6, 2023, Progress Report, the Committee recommends removal of the AFI in Standard 2.3 for the Educator Preparation Provider (EPP).

As a result of incremental progress evident in the April 6, 2023, Progress Report, the Committee recommends the following AFIs remain for the EPP.

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- Standard 1.1
- Standard 3.5
- Standard 4.1

As a result of unsatisfactory progress evident in the April 6, 2023, Progress Report the Committee recommends the following AFIs remain for the EPP.

- Standard 4.2
- Standard 4.4
- Standard 5.1
- Standard 5.3
- Standard 5.4

Also, as a result of unsatisfactory progress, the AFI in Standard 6.4 remains for the following programs.

- English Education
- History Education
- Secondary Science – Biology
- Special Education General Curriculum/Elementary Education

The Committee recommends the submission of a progress report due January 12, 2024, addressing all remaining AFIs. The progress report should include an analysis of all data referenced in the April 6, 2023, Progress Report. The progress report should also indicate multiple measures of data collection and analysis beyond the PPEM data also referenced in the April 6, 2023, Progress Report. In addition to the analysis of data, the progress report should indicate how the EPP is using its analysis of data to inform program improvement, and should include trends based on the analysis of data from key assessments.

4. Pioneer RESA – The Committee recommends Continuing Approval with Conditions for the EPP and the six educator preparation programs reviewed during the Spring 2023 Continuing Approval Review.

The Committee recommends the submission of a progress report due July 12, 2024, addressing the not met standards and areas for improvement cited during the Spring 2023 Continuing Approval Review.

Chair Sirmans called for approval of the Educator Preparation and Certification Committee report as presented by Dr. Judi Wilson.

PSC ACTION: Approved

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Our next Commission meeting will be held on Thursday, August 10th, 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, August 9th, at 4:00 pm. Chair Sirmans called for the meeting to be adjourned at 5:05 p.m.

PSC ACTION: Approved