

# MINUTES

## PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS COMMISSION Remote Meeting via TEAMS Platform

November 9, 2023

The Georgia Professional Standards Commission (PSC) met on Thursday, November 9, 2023.

### **Members Present**

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

### **Members Absent**

Mark Kauffman

### **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 October 12, 2023 minutes.

**PSC ACTION:** Approved

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

Matt wished the following Commissioners a happy birthday-Jimmy Atkins, Derek Easterling, Dr. Jennifer Wade, Beth Townsend, Dr. Franklin Perry, and Jane Rookard

He announced that Dr. Penney McRoy was awarded the Georgia Association of Colleges for Teacher Education (GACTE) Cindi Chance Award for recognition of significant contributions to quality educator preparation in Georgia. We are very proud of her.

The Fall GASPA (Georgia Association of School Personnel Administrators) conference was held this week in St. Simons. This is a statewide gathering of HR Directors.

Certification gave presentations on the following:

- Certification Updates
- Certification for New HR Directors
- Conference Booth - Veterans and Spouses of Veterans

Educator Ethics gave a presentation on:

- Social Media Platforms & Pitfalls
- Educator Ethics updates

Educator Preparation and Educator Assessments also gave update reports.

## **VI. COMMITTEE REPORT**

### **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 68 ***Probable Cause*** cases during November, 2023, meeting and brought the following recommendations on behalf of the committee:

<b><u>CASE</u></b>	<b><u>STANDARDS VIOLATED</u></b>	<b><u>RECOMMENDATION</u></b>	<b><u>EERC RECOMMENDATION</u></b>
23-7-25	1,5a6	Deny	Accept
23-7-96	5a6	NPC	Accept
23-8-137	1,4,5a2,5a6	NPC	Accept
23-8-247	1,4,5a6	Reprimand	Accept
23-8-258	1,4, 5a6	NPC	Accept
23-8-286	1,4,5a6	NPC	Accept
23-8-287	1,4,5a6	Reprimand	Accept
23-8-298	1,5a6	NPC	Accept
23-8-303	1,4,5a6,5a7 (2015-2022)	Deny	Accept
23-8-425	1,5a6	NPC	Accept
23-9-437	1,4,5a6	Reprimand	Accept
23-9-487	5a2,5a5,5a6	Reprimand	Accept

<u>CASE</u>	<u>STANDARDS VIOLATED</u>	<u>RECOMMENDATION</u>	<u>EERC RECOMMENDATION</u>
23-9-575	5a6	Reprimand	Accept
23-9-591	4, 9	Deny	Accept
23-10-639	1, 5a6	Reprimand	Accept
23-1-847	1,4,5a6,5a7 (2022), 8,9	Reprimand	Accept
23-1-853	1, 2, 9, 5a7	Revoke	Accept
23-1-865	1,4,5a6,8,9	Revoke	Accept
23-2-948	4,5a6,8,9	Revoke	Accept
23-2-960	4,5a6,8,9	Revoke	Accept
23-2-1027	5, 6, 9	Suspension 20 days	Accept
23-2-1054	1, 4, 5a6,5a7, 8,9	Suspension 20 days	Accept
23-2-1084	1,4,5a6,5a7,8,9	Suspension 20 days	Accept
23-4-1316	2, 9	Reprimand	Accept
23-4-1321	2, 9	Suspension 10 days	Accept
23-4-1333	9	Suspension 2 years	Accept
23-4-1336	3, 9	Suspension 1 year	Accept
23-4-1355	9	Suspension 90 days	Accept
23-5-1490	1,4, 5a1, 5a5,5a6, 5a7 (2015-2022) 5a7, 8,9	NPC	Accept
23-5-1613	9	Suspension 90 days	Accept
23-6-1677	9	Suspension 90 days	Accept
23-7-108	1, ,2, 9	Revoke	Accept
23-7-113	3,9	Suspension 1 year	Accept
23-7-117	2,4,9	Suspension 1 year	Accept
23-8-120	4, 5, 7, 9, 10	Suspension 90 days	Accept
23-8-157	2, 9	Suspension 20 days	Accept
23-8-158	9	Reprimand	Accept
23-8-171	1,4,5a6	Suspension 20 days	Accept
23-8-198	1,4,5a6 (2023) 5a7(2015- 2022), 8,9	Suspension 20 days	Accept
23-8-205	1,4,5a6,8,9	NPC	Accept
23-8-218	4,7,9	Suspension 1 year	Accept
23-8-224	2,9	Crim. Ext	Accept
23-8-225	2, 9	NPC	Accept
23-8-226	1,2 &9	Revoke	Accept
23-8-236	1, 2, 9	Crim. Ext	Accept
23-8-239	1, 4, 8, 9	NPC	Accept
23-8-242	2, 8, 9	Suspension 60 days	Accept
23-8-281	1, 2, 9	Crim. Ext	Accept
23-8-282	1 & 9	Reprimand	Accept
23-8-283	9	NPC	Accept
23-8-319	2,9	Suspension 30 days	Accept
23-8-327	9	Suspension 30 days	Accept

<u>CASE</u>	<u>STANDARDS VIOLATED</u>	<u>RECOMMENDATION</u>	<u>EERC RECOMMENDATION</u>
23-8-331	1,9	Suspension 20 days	Accept
23-8-332	1,2,9	Crim. Ext	Accept
23-8-350	1	Crim. Ext	Accept
23-8-380	1,4,5a6,5a7 (2022), 8,9	Suspension 20 days	Accept
23-8-394	1,4,5a6,8,9	Suspension 20 days	Accept
23-8-401	1, 9	Suspension 90 days	Accept
23-8-402	3,9	Suspension 1 year	Accept
23-8-409	2, 9	Voluntary Surrender	Accept
23-8-427	1,4,5a6,5a7 (2022), 8,9	Suspension 90 days	Accept
23-9-436	1,4,5a6, 5a7 (2015-2022) 8,9	NPC	Accept
23-9-453	1,4 5a6, 5a7 (2015-2022), 8,9	Reprimand	Accept
23-9-510	9	Suspension 2 days	Accept
23-9-511	9	Suspension 10 days	Accept
23-9-525	2, 9	Suspension 10 days	Accept
23-9-531	3, 9	Reprimand	Accept
23-9-553	1,4,5a6,8,9	Suspension 90 days	Accept

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

<u>CASE</u>	<u>PREVIOUS SANCTION</u>	<u>EERC RECOMMENDATION</u>
23-3-1304	Revocation - May 18, 2007	Grant
23-9-495	Revocation - October 25, 2019	Grant

3. Chair Townsend reported that the Educator Ethics Review Committee reviewed 15 *Settlement Agreements* and brought the following recommendations on behalf of the Committee:

<u>CASE</u>	<u>SANCTION</u>	<u>EERC RECOMMENDATION</u>
23-3-1276	Suspension 30 days	Accept
23-3-1283	Suspension 90 days	Accept
23-4-1341	Suspension 20 days	Accept
23-5-1442	Suspension 90 days	Accept
23-6-1783	Reprimand	Accept
23-7-65	Suspension 90 days	Accept
23-7-75	Reprimand	Accept
23-7-118	Suspension 90 days	Accept

<u>CASE</u>	<u>SANCTION</u>	<u>EERC RECOMMENDATION</u>
23-8-131	Suspension 20 days	Accept
23-8-133	Reprimand	Accept
23-8-145	Reprimand	Accept
23-8-240	Suspension 20 days	Accept
23-8-275	Reprimand	Accept
23-8-377	Reprimand	Accept
23-9-482	Reprimand	Accept

4. Chair Townsend reported that the Educator Ethics Review Committee reviewed 18 *Negotiated Settlement Agreements* and brought the following recommendations on behalf of the Committee:

<u>CASE</u>	<u>NEGOTIATED SANCTION</u>	<u>EERC RECOMMEND</u>
18-5-1505	NPC	Accept
19-12-823	NFA	Accept
22-4-1348	NPC	Accept
22-6-1618	NFA	Accept
22-7-2	Warning	Accept
22-8-136	Suspension 60 days	Accept
22-8-147	Warning	Reject
22-9-445	Warning	Accept
22-11-705	Reprimand	Accept
22-12-798	NPC	Accept
22-12-801	Reprimand	Accept
23-2-968	Suspension 110 days	Accept
23-2-1024	Reprimand	Accept
23-3-1184	Suspension 145 days	Accept
23-4-1307	NPC	Accept
23-4-1343	Reprimand	Accept
23-4-1353	NFA	Accept
23-5-1511	NFA / NPC	Reject

#### 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 RECOMMEND</u>
23-1-829	Unable effect service	Hold New App

<u>CASE</u>	<u>FINDINGS OF FACTS</u>	<u>EERC RECOMMEND</u>
23-1-848	Unable effect service	Hold New App
23-2-1048	Unable effect service	Hold New App
23-8-317	Unable effect service	Hold New App
23-10-807	Additional information	Investigate

6. The Educator Ethics Review Committee recommended approval of the *Preliminary Investigative Determination Report* consisting of 100 new complaints received during the months of October and November 2023.

### **7. VOLUNTARY SURRENDERS**

The Educator Ethics Review Committee recommended approval of the 2 *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>
23-8-396	2, 9	VS	<b>Accept</b>
23-8-409	2, 9	VS	<b>Accept</b>

### **8. EXTENSIONS – PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATIVE DETERMINATIONS**

The Educator Ethics Review Committee recommended approval of the 55 *Extensions - Preliminary Investigative Determinations* consisting of the following:

23-10-797	23-10-804	23-10-812	23-10-819	23-10-830	23-11-869	23-11-884	23-11-891
23-10-798	23-10-805	23-10-813	23-10-820	23-10-831	23-11-870	23-11-885	23-11-892
23-10-799	23-10-806	23-10-814	23-10-821	23-10-832	23-11-871	23-11-886	23-11-893
23-10-800	23-10-808	23-10-815	23-10-822	23-10-833	23-11-872	23-11-887	23-11-894
23-10-801	23-10-809	23-10-816	23-10-823	23-10-834	23-11-881	23-11-888	23-11-895
23-10-802	23-10-810	23-10-817	23-10-824	23-10-835	23-11-882	23-11-889	23-11-896
23-10-803	23-10-811	23-10-818	23-10-825	23-11-867	23-11-883	23-11-890	

### **9. EXTENSIONS - INVESTIGATIONS**

The Educator Ethics Review Committee recommended granting a *Investigative Extension* to the following 165 cases:

<u>WRITTEN COMPLAINT EXTENSIONS</u>							
23-2-1039	23-4-1363	23-5-1517	23-6-1697	23-7-71	23-8-172	23-8-379	23-9-439
23-2-1090	23-4-1389	23-5-1523	23-6-1707	23-7-82	23-8-201	23-8-378	23-9-449
23-2-1127	23-4-1415	23-5-1544	23-6-1712	23-7-93	23-8-213	23-8-395	23-9-457

<b>WRITTEN COMPLAINT EXTENSIONS</b>							
23-3-1169	23-4-1406	23-5-1547	23-6-1716	23-7-97	23-8-270	23-8-385	23-9-458
23-3-1171	23-4-1421	23-5-1541	23-6-1729	23-7-98	23-8-266	23-8-392	23-9-456
23-3-1191	23-4-1408	23-5-1552	23-6-1727	23-7-95	23-8-246	23-8-393	23-9-472
23-3-1215	23-4-1428	23-5-1567	23-6-1741	23-8-150	23-8-280	23-8-376	23-9-468
23-3-1245	23-4-1427	23-5-1585	23-6-1742	23-8-125	23-8-256	23-8-375	23-9-473
23-3-1249	23-4-1426	23-5-1568	23-6-1733	23-8-151	23-8-279	23-8-388	23-9-467
23-3-1255	23-4-1433	23-5-1576	23-6-1758	23-8-130	23-8-243	23-8-423	23-9-469
23-3-1264	23-4-1432	23-5-1589	23-6-1766	23-8-195	23-8-273	23-8-412	23-9-460
23-3-1280	23-5-1466	23-5-1593	23-6-1773	23-8-173	23-8-274	23-8-417	23-9-459
23-3-1293	23-5-1476	23-5-1608	23-6-1774	23-8-160	23-8-262	23-8-414	23-9-474
23-4-1308	23-5-1485	23-5-1607	23-6-1772	23-8-196	23-8-291	23-8-421	23-9-478
23-4-1320	23-5-1491	23-5-1629	23-7-14	23-8-187	23-8-304	23-8-416	23-9-485
23-4-1336	23-5-1494	23-5-1656	23-7-21	23-8-182	23-8-318	23-9-440	23-9-479
23-4-1337	23-5-1534	23-5-1660	23-7-35	23-8-163	23-8-322	23-9-434	23-9-480
23-4-1344	23-5-1533	23-5-1649	23-7-36	23-8-191	23-8-321	23-9-435	23-9-481
23-4-1373	23-5-1516	23-5-1664	23-7-51	23-8-188	23-8-323	23-9-438	
23-4-1366	23-5-1522	23-6-1681	23-7-56	23-8-167	23-8-367	23-9-445	
23-4-1372	23-5-1519	23-6-1683	23-7-63	23-8-193	23-8-397	23-9-444	

#### 10. **APPLICATIONS FOR CERTIFICATION REPORT**

The Educator Ethics Review Committee recommended to approve a no probable cause determination on 20 cases reflected on the *Applications for Certification Report*.

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

The Commission reviewed the report, which advised of 20 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 Chait Townsend.

**PSC ACTION:** Approved

Abstentions: Derek Easterling-23-9-608, 23-10-688, 23-10-715, 23-10-716, 23-10-717, 23-10-762, 23-8-331, 23-9-525, 23-3-184, Jimmy Atkins-23-10-682, 23-10-683, 23-10-694, 23-4-1353, Jordan Frobos-23-10-720, Kedrione Harris-23-2-968, Jane Rookard-23-10-693, 23-2-960, 23-4-1333, 22-8-147, Beth Townsend-23-8-218, 23-4-1343

#### VII. **ADJOURNMENT**

Our next Commission meeting will be held on Thursday, December 14, 2023, at 10 a.m. in person. The Educator Ethics Review Committee and Educator Preparation and Certification Committee meeting will meet on Wednesday, December 13, 2023, at 4:00 p.m. remotely. Chair Sirmans called for the meeting to be adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

**PSC ACTION:** Approved