

# MINUTES

## PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS COMMISSION

Two Peachtree Street

Atlanta, Georgia

April 12, 2012

The Georgia Professional Standards Commission (PSC) met on Thursday, April 12, 2012, at 12:30 p.m.

### Members Present

Julia Bernath  
Alice Clements  
Penny Elkins  
Dr. Adrian Epps  
Meredith Hodges

David Johnson  
Stephanie Leggett  
Bettina Polite Tate  
Rose Powell  
Dr. Lawrence Walters

Pam Walker  
Dr. Debbie Wilkes  
Pam Williams  
Valerie Williams

### Members Absent

Marci Cawthon  
Bill Haskin

Christy McGill  
Heath Garrett

### **I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Wilkes called the meeting to order at 12:30 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. flag and a moment of silence.

### **II. ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

Chair Wilkes called for approval of the agenda.

**MOTION:** (Dr. Adrian Epps / Dr. Penny Elkins) To approve the agenda.

**PSC ACTION:** Approved

### **III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Chair Wilkes called for approval of the minutes from the March 8, 2012, Commission meeting.

**PSC ACTION:** Approved

### **IV. VISITORS**

Chair Wilkes welcomed the visitors.

- Margaret Elliott, Professional Association of Georgia Educators
- Gayle Wooten, Professional Association of Georgia Educators
- John Hooper, Georgia School Superintendents Association
- Linda Fortson, Warren Fortson's Law Office
- Tayia Donald, Georgia Association of Educators (GAE)

## V. COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

Commissioner Rose Powell of the Educator Ethics Review Committee (EERC), gave a preliminary review of the Cases.

1. Ms. Powell reported that the Committee reviewed 81 *Probable Cause* cases during its April 12, 2012, meeting and brought the following recommendations on behalf of the Committee:

<u>CASE</u>	<u>STANDARDS VIOLATED</u>	<u>RECOMMENDATION</u>
11-9-438	10	Deny
11-11-662	10	NPC
11-12-699	1	Reprimand
12-1-786	1, 4, 9, 10	Deny
12-1-800	1, 10	Reprimand
12-1-820	1	Reprimand
12-2-870	1	Reprimand
11-6-1204	4,7,10	Revoke
11-7-25	4,7,9,10,DOE	Suspension - 2 years
11-8-115	4,7,9,10,DOE	Suspension - 2 years
11-8-118	4,7,9,10,DOE	Suspension - 2 years
11-8-120	4,7,9,10,DOE	Revoke
11-8-121	4,7,9,10,DOE	Suspension - 2 years
11-8-122	4,7,9,10,DOE	Suspension - 2 years
11-8-123	4,7,9,10,DOE	Suspension - 2 years
11-8-124	4,7,9,10,DOE	Revoke
11-8-125	4,7,9,10,DOE	Revoke
11-8-126	4,7,9,10,DOE	Suspension - 2 years
11-8-127	4,7,9,10,DOE	Suspension - 2 years
11-8-128	4,7,9,10,DOE	Revoke
11-8-129	4,7,9,10,DOE	Revoke
11-8-131	4,7,9,10,DOE	Suspension - 2 years
11-8-134	4,7,9,10,DOE	Suspension - 2 years
11-8-135	4,7,9,10,DOE	Suspension - 2 years
11-8-136	4,7,9,10,DOE	Suspension - 2 years
11-8-138	4,7,9,10,DOE	Suspension - 2 years
11-8-139	4,7,9,10,DOE	Suspension - 2 years
11-8-140	4,7,9,10,DOE	Suspension - 2 years

<b>CASE</b>	<b>STANDARDS VIOLATED</b>	<b>RECOMMENDATION</b>
11-8-141	4,7,9,10,DOE	Suspension - 2 years
11-8-144	4,7,9,10,DOE	Suspension - 2 years
11-8-147	4,7,9,10,DOE	Suspension - 2 years
11-8-149	4,7,9,10,DOE	Suspension - 2 years
11-8-150	4,7,9,10,DOE	Revoke
11-8-151	4,7,9,10,DOE	Suspension - 2 years
11-8-152	4,7,9,10,DOE	Suspension - 2 years
11-8-153	4,7,9,10,DOE	Suspension - 2 years
11-8-154	4,7,9,10, DOE	Suspension - 2 years
11-8-155	4,7,9,10,DOE	Revoke
11-8-156	4,7,9,10,DOE	Suspension - 2 years
11-8-157	4,7,9,10,DOE	Revoke
11-8-158	4,7,9,10,DOE	Revoke
11-8-159	4,7,9,10,DOE	Suspension - 2 years
11-8-160	4,7,9,10, DOE	Revoke
11-8-161	4,7,9,10, DOE	Revoke
11-8-162	4,7,9,10, DOE	Suspension - 2 years
11-8-163	4,7,9,10, DOE	Suspension - 2 years
11-8-170	4,7,9,10, DOE	Revoke
11-8-175	4,7,9,10, DOE	Revoke
11-8-176	4,7,9,10, DOE	Suspension - 2 years
11-8-177	4,7,9,10, DOE	Revoke
11-8-178	4,7,9,10, DOE	Suspension - 2 years
11-8-179	4,7,9,10, DOE	Suspension - 2 years
11-8-180	4,7,9,10, DOE	Revoke
11-8-181	4,7,9,10 DOE	Revoke
11-8-182	4,7,9,10, DOE	Suspension - 2 years
11-8-183	4,7,9,10, DOE	Suspension - 2 years
11-8-210	4,7,9,10,DOE	Suspension - 2 years
11-8-216	4,7,9,10,DOE	Revoke
11-8-217	4,7,9,10,DOE	Suspension - 2 years
11-8-218	4,7,9,10,DOE	Suspension - 2 years
11-8-219	4,7,9,10,DOE	Suspension - 2 years
11-8-220	4,7,9,10,DOE	Suspension - 2 years
11-8-221	4,7,9,10,DOE	Suspension - 2 years
11-8-222	4,7,9,10,DOE	Suspension - 2 years
11-8-223	4,7,9,10,DOE	Suspension - 2 years
11-8-224	4,7,9,10,DOE	Suspension - 2 years
11-8-225	4,7,9,10,DOE	Suspension - 2 years
11-8-227	4,7,9,10,DOE	Suspension - 1 year
11-8-228	4,7,9,10,DOE	Revoke

<u>CASE</u>	<u>STANDARDS VIOLATED</u>	<u>RECOMMENDATION</u>
11-8-230	4,7,9,10,DOE	Suspension - 2 years
11-9-357	4,7,9,10,DOE	Suspension - 2 years
11-9-380	4,7,9,10,DOE	Suspension - 2 years
11-9-381	4,7,9,10,DOE	Suspension - 2 years
11-9-454	4,7,9,10,DOE	Suspension - 2 years
11-10-501	4, 10	Suspension - 1 year
12-1-727	1, 10	Suspension - 1 year
12-1-745	1, 5, 10	Revoke
12-1-768	1,4,9	Reprimand
12-1-823	4,10	Suspension - 20 days
12-2-866	1,4,9	Reprimand
12-2-910	2, 10	Suspension - 10 days

2. Ms. Powell reported that the Educator Ethics Review Committee reviewed 4 *Initial Decisions* and brought the following recommendations on behalf of the Committee:

<u>CASE</u>	<u>STANDARDS VIOLATED</u>	<u>ALJ SANCTION</u>	<u>EERC RECOMMENDATION</u>
09-5-1219	7, 10	NPC	Accept
09-7-57	4, 10	Denial	Accept
10-10-442	10	Suspension - 5 days	Accept
10-12-610	1, 2, 10	Revocation	Accept

3. Ms. Powell reported that the Educator Ethics Review Committee reviewed 11 *Settlement Agreements* and brought the following recommendations on behalf of the Committee:

<u>CASE</u>	<u>SANCTION</u>	<u>EERC RECOMMEND</u>
11-5-1175	Suspension - 1 year	Accept
11-7-3	Suspension - 1 year	Accept
11-7-91	Suspension - 30 days	Accept
11-11-538	Suspension - 90 days	Accept
11-11-555	Reprimand	Accept
11-11-592	Reprimand	Accept
11-11-610	Reprimand	Accept
11-12-674	Reprimand	Accept
11-12-704	Suspension - 1 year	Accept
12-1-772	Suspension - 1 year	Accept
12-1-805	Reprimand	Accept

4. Ms. Powell reported that the Educator Ethics Review Committee reviewed 14 *Negotiated Settlement Agreements* and brought the following recommendations on behalf of the Committee:

<u>CASE</u>	<u>NEGOTIATED SANCTION</u>	<u>EERC RECOMMENDATION</u>
09-11-537	Suspension - 20 days	Accept
10-1-692	Suspension - 5 days	Accept
10-3-931	Suspension - 20 days	Accept
10-3-947	NPC	Reject
10-4-1068	Suspension - 5 days	Accept
10-5-1220	Voluntary Surrender	Accept
10-6-1354	NPC	Accept
10-6-1404	NPC	Accept
10-6-1405	NPC	Accept
11-1-681	Suspension - 20 days	Accept
11-3-815	Suspension - 1 Year	Accept
11-3-818	Reprimand	Reject
11-8-257	Reprimand	Accept
11-9-324	NPC	Accept

#### 5. OTHER BUSINESS

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

CASE	PREVIOUS SANCTION	EERC RECOMMENDATION
PCE-11-7-82	Revocation	Accept

6. The Educator Ethics Review Committee recommended approval of the *Preliminary Investigative Determination Report* consisting of 96 new complaints received during the months of March and April 2012.

#### 7. VOLUNTARY SURRENDER/VOLUNTARY DENIAL

The Educator Ethics Review Committee recommended approval of the Voluntary Surrender/Voluntary Denial 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 RECOMMEND</u>
12-2-886	1, 2, 10	Voluntary Surrender	Accept

#### 8. EXTENSIONS – PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATIVE DETERMINATIONS

The Educator Ethics Review Committee recommended approval of the 61 Extensions - Preliminary

Investigative Determinations consisting of the following:

12-2-918	12-2-929	12-3-943	12-3-954	12-3-965	12-3-976
12-2-919	12-2-930	12-3-944	12-3-955	12-3-966	12-3-977
12-2-920	12-2-931	12-3-945	12-3-956	12-3-967	12-3-978
12-2-921	12-3-935	12-3-946	12-3-957	12-3-968	12-3-979
12-2-922	12-3-936	12-3-947	12-3-958	12-3-969	12-3-980
12-2-923	12-3-937	12-3-948	12-3-959	12-3-970	12-3-981
12-2-924	12-3-938	12-3-949	12-3-960	12-3-971	
12-2-925	12-3-939	12-3-950	12-3-961	12-3-972	
12-2-926	12-3-940	12-3-951	12-3-962	12-3-973	
12-2-927	12-3-941	12-3-952	12-3-963	12-3-974	
12-2-928	12-3-942	12-3-953	12-3-964	12-3-975	

## 9. EXTENSIONS - INVESTIGATIONS

The Educator Ethics Review Committee recommended granting and *Investigative Extension* to the following 229 Written Complaint and Application cases:

10-7-34	11-8-114	11-8-235	11-9-362	11-9-393	11-9-423	11-11-600	12-1-738
10-9-331	11-8-116	11-8-236	11-9-363	11-9-394	11-9-424	11-11-601	12-1-739
10-11-478	11-8-117	11-8-237	11-9-364	11-9-395	11-9-431	11-11-603	12-1-740
10-12-553	11-8-119	11-8-238	11-9-365	11-9-396	11-9-444	11-11-662	12-1-742
10-12-562	11-8-130	11-8-239	11-9-366	11-9-397	11-9-455	11-11-665	12-1-744
10-12-569	11-8-132	11-8-240	11-9-367	11-9-398	11-9-456	11-11-671	12-1-746
10-12-611	11-8-133	11-8-241	11-9-368	11-9-399	11-9-457	11-12-675	12-1-747
10-12-623	11-8-137	11-8-242	11-9-369	11-9-401	11-9-458	11-12-677	12-1-748
11-1-646	11-8-142	11-8-255	11-9-370	11-9-402	11-9-459	11-12-681	12-1-749
11-2-794	11-8-143	11-8-263	11-9-371	11-9-403	11-10-480	11-12-683	12-1-753
11-3-876	11-8-145	11-9-268	11-9-372	11-9-404	11-10-481	11-12-684	12-1-758
11-4-915	11-8-146	11-9-275	11-9-373	11-9-405	11-10-484	11-12-690	12-1-759
11-4-999	11-8-148	11-9-284	11-9-374	11-9-406	11-10-486	11-12-691	12-1-761
11-4-1000	11-8-164	11-9-285	11-9-375	11-9-407	11-10-492	11-12-702	12-1-763
11-4-1031	11-8-165	11-9-298	11-9-376	11-9-408	11-10-500	11-12-703	12-1-764
11-5-1118	11-8-166	11-9-302	11-9-377	11-9-409	11-10-505	11-12-709	12-1-769
11-5-1149	11-8-167	11-9-304	11-9-378	11-9-410	11-10-511	11-12-710	12-1-771
11-6-1192	11-8-168	11-9-311	11-9-379	11-9-411	11-10-513	11-12-711	12-1-775
11-9-1205	11-8-169	11-9-321	11-9-382	11-9-412	11-10-519	11-12-719	12-1-776
11-6-1227	11-8-180	11-9-332	11-9-383	11-9-413	11-10-522	11-12-720	12-1-777
11-6-1249	11-8-185	11-9-333	11-9-384	11-9-414	11-11-536	12-1-724	12-1-778
11-6-1272	11-8-200	11-9-337	11-9-385	11-9-415	11-11-551	12-1-725	12-1-790
11-6-1273	11-8-201	11-9-342	11-9-386	11-9-416	11-11-552	12-1-726	12-1-807
11-7-84	11-8-203	11-9-343	11-9-387	11-9-417	11-11-554	12-1-730	12-1-811
11-7-87	11-8-229	11-9-355	11-9-388	11-9-418	11-11-560	12-1-731	12-2-867
11-7-89	11-8-231	11-9-358	11-9-389	11-9-419	11-11-561	12-1-733	12-2-882

11-7-97	11-8-232	11-9-359	11-9-390	11-9-420	11-11-589	12-1-735	
11-7-98	11-8-233	11-9-360	11-9-391	11-9-421	11-11-595	12-1-736	
11-7-99	11-8-234	11-9-361	11-9-392	11-9-422	11-11-598	12-1-737	

#### 10. 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*.

#### 11. REVIEW HEARING EXTENSIONS

The Commission reviewed the *Review Hearing Extensions Report* concerning 1 hearing case. An Administrative Law Judge rendered an Initial Decision on the case referenced in the report. The report indicates that an Order was issued.

#### 12. STUDENT LOAN SUSPENSION / REINSTATEMENTS

The Commission reviewed the report, which indicated that there were no certificates suspended for default on repayment of student loans from March 8, 2012 through April 12, 2012. There were 6 certificates that had been *reinstated* because restitution is now being made on those student loans. There was 1 issue where notification had been received to suspend but releases were received prior to the actual suspension being implemented. Restitution is now being made on that student loan.

#### 13. FINAL DECISIONS BY OPERATION OF LAW

The Commission reviewed the report, which advised of 6 cases now closed without an appeal for a hearing before an Administrative Law Judge. The report also advised that there was 1 case closed without an appeal for a review hearing before the Commission.

Chair Wilkes called for approval of the Educator Ethics Review Committee report as presented by Rose Powell excluding case #'s 10-6-1404, 10-6-1405 and 11-3-815.

**PSC ACTION:** Approved

Abstention: Case #10-5-1220 –Dr. Larry Walters Case # 12-1-742–Dr. Larry Walters and Bettina Tate

#### Negotiated Consent Order Case # 10-6-1404 and 10-6-1405

**MOTION:** (Valerie Williams / Stephanie Leggett) To accept the Educator Ethics Review Committee's recommendation for a No Probable Cause.

**PSC ACTION:** Approved

#### Negotiated Consent Order # 11-3-815

**MOTION:** (Pam Walker / David Johnson) To accept the Educator Ethics Review Committee's recommendation for a 1 Year Suspension.

**PSC ACTION:** Approved

Opposed: Stephanie Leggett, Dr. Penny Elkins

### B. Educator Preparation Standing Committee

Committee Chair, Dr. Penny Elkins, presented the report of the Educator Preparation Standing Committee.

Reports Requiring Approval		
Continuing Approval of Programs (Two)		
	Unit Number	
1.	5080 [0412]	Continuing Approval with Conditions

SYNOPSIS				
	Unit Number	Standards	Detailed Approval Recommendations	Additional Action Required
1.	5080	1-8	The Committee recommends Continuing Approval with Conditions for the Educational Leadership program (PL7; P-12; Initial; Doctoral and Certification only)	A Progress Report is due July 12, 2012, addressing the unmet standard and all cited areas for improvement; the progress report shall include an action plan describing specific steps planned to address the areas for improvement cited for Standard 1 and Standard 2. A second Progress Report is due October 12, 2012, and shall include detailed documentation regarding implementation of the action plan submitted in the first progress report.
2.	5080	1-8	The Committee recommends Continuing Approval with Conditions for the Educational Leadership program (PL6; P-12; Initial; Specialist and Certification only)	A Progress Report is due July 12, 2012, addressing the unmet standard and all cited areas for improvement; the progress report shall include an action plan describing specific steps planned to address the areas for improvement cited for Standard 1 and Standard 2. A second Progress Report is due October 12, 2012, and shall include detailed documentation regarding implementation of the action plan submitted in the first progress report.



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Chair Wilkes called for approval of the Educator Preparation Committee report as presented by Dr. Penny Elkins.

**PSC ACTION:** Approved

## **VI. GUIDELINES FOR MASTER TEACHER**

Paul Shaw, Director of Educator Ethics, will present the guidelines for Master Teacher:

**MOTION:** (Meredith Hodges / Rose Powell) To accept the recommendations as presented by Paul Shaw that will serve as guidelines for the Master Teacher selection process which includes an ethics screening for all applicants.

**ACTION:** Approved

## **VII. REVIEW HEARING**

- |                   |                             |
|-------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Daisy Thompson | - Educator Case # 10-6-1382 |
| Joan Roach        | - Hearing Officer           |
| Ann Brumbaugh     | - PSC Attorney              |
| Craig Goodmark    | -Educator Attorney          |

**MOTION:** (Dr. Penny Elkins / Pam Walker) To go into Executive Session and allow PSC staff (Paul Shaw, Kevin Shumake, Kim Anderson, Nancy Teele and Tanis Miller) to remain.

**ACTION:** Approved

**MOTION:** (Dr. Penny Elkins / Pam Walker) To come out of Executive Session and reconvene the Regular Session.

**ACTION:** Approved

**MOTION:** (Meredith Hodges / Dr. Adrian Epps) To adopt the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law reached by the Administrative Law Judge. The decision of the Administrative Law Judge as indicated in the Initial Decision was hereby adopted and incorporated by reference herein and made the Final Decision of the Commission. As such, the Commission hereby orders that the certificate held by Daisy Thompson be reversed (No Probable Cause).

**ACTION:** Approved

Opposed: Valerie Williams, Stephanie Leggett

## **VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Wilkes called for the meeting to be adjourned at 2:00 pm.

**PSC ACTION:** Approved