

# MINUTES

## PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS COMMISSION

Two Piedmont Avenue

Atlanta, Georgia

April 9, 2015

The Georgia Professional Standards Commission (PSC) met on Thursday, April 9, 2015, at 12:30 p.m.

### Members Present

Dr. Jim Barrett  
Lauren Eckman  
Dr. Penny Elkins  
Phil Jacobs

David Johnson  
Scott Justus  
Kamila Luigs  
Bettina Polite-Tate

Carol Rivera  
Sheryl Stalvey  
Dr. Martha Venn  
Dr. Lawrence Walters

### Members Absent

Valerie Mateen  
Christy McGill  
Terrie Ponder

David Smith  
Henry Kelly  
Pam Walker

### I. WORK SESSION

- Kelly thanked Commissioner David Johnson for his service on the Commission and David wished the Commission well and said that he was honored to serve on the Commission.
- Kelly Henson spoke briefly about the May retreat logistics and agenda.
- Chair Elkins spoke briefly about an upcoming meeting with Tom Bordenkircher, State Director for Teaching Fellowships, Georgia, Michigan, Ohio and Art Levine, CEO and Director of the Woodrow Wilson Foundation. She informed the Commission that she would update them on the meeting.

### II. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Elkins called the meeting to order at 12:41 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. flag and a moment of silence.

### III. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Chair Dr. Elkins called for approval of the agenda.

**MOTION:** (Carol Rivera / Phil Jacobs) To approve the agenda.

**PSC ACTION:** Approved

### IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chair Elkins called for approval of the minutes from the March 12, 2015, Commission meeting.

**PSC ACTION:** Approved

**V. VISITORS**

Chair Dr. Elkins welcomed the visitors.

- Margaret Elliott, Professional Association of Georgia Educators
- Linda Fortson, Warren Fortson Law Office
- Nancy Ratcliffe

**VI. EMPLOYEE SERVICE AWARD**

Chair Elkins and Kelly Henson thanked Karen Allen-Bowie for her service. Chair Elkins presented her with a 5 year Service Award Certificate and Kelly read the following:

Karen Allen Bowie, 5 Year Service Award - Karen came to Atlanta and the PSC in 2009 from Boston, MA. There she served on the Boston Police Department for 16 years as both a Patrol Officer and a Detective. Karen retired early from the Police Department to join her three daughters who had relocated to Georgia. Karen earned a BS degree from New England College and then continued her education at Boston University where she earned her MA. Karen’s family has expanded since she moved to Georgia; she now has two grandchildren both of whom she describes as perfect. Karen has distinguished herself as an excellent investigator. She has completed several complicated investigations and conducts herself as a consummate professional. Boston’s loss has been a definite gain for the PSC.

**VII. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

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

Vice Chair Bettina Polite-Tate of the Educator Ethics Review Committee (EERC), gave a preliminary review of the Cases.

1. Ms. Polite-Tate reported that the Committee reviewed 31 *Probable Cause* cases during its April 9, 2015, meeting and brought the following recommendations on behalf of the Committee:

<u>CASE</u>	<u>STANDARDS VIOLATED</u>	<u>RECOMMENDATION</u>
14-9-241	1	Reprimand
14-10-315	1, 10	Deny
14-10-324	1	Reprimand
14-12-462	1, 4, 9	Deny
11-8-200	10,11	Suspension - 2 years
12-4-1120	5, 10	Suspension - 2 years
12-4-1133	2, 10	NPC
13-6-1241	10	Suspension - 5 days
13-11-312	2, 10	Suspension - 1 year

<u>CASE</u>	<u>STANDARDS VIOLATED</u>	<u>RECOMMENDATION</u>
13-11-356	8,10	Suspension - 90 days
13-12-425	2,10	NPC
14-2-575	4,5,10	Suspension - 10 days
14-5-903	2,4,10	Suspension - 1 year
14-6-969	2,10	Revoke
14-8-142	3, 10	Suspension - 1 year
14-9-274	1,4,9	Reprimand
14-10-304	2,10	Revoke
14-11-417	4,10	Suspension - 3 days
14-12-437	4, 10	Suspension - 20 days
14-12-440	4,10	Suspension - 90 days
14-12-449	10	Reprimand
14-12-452	2, 10	NPC
14-12-453	4,10	NPC
14-12-454	4,10	Reprimand
14-12-455	4,10	Reprimand
14-12-487	1,4,9	NPC
14-12-500	3,10	Suspension - 1 year
15-1-554	1,4,9	Suspension - 20 days
15-1-564	8,10	Reprimand
15-2-638	2,10	Revoke
15-2-650	2,10	Suspension - 20 days

2. Ms. Polite-Tate 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 RECOMMENDATION</u>
14-6-1002	Reprimand	Accept
14-7-109	Reprimand	Accept
14-7-110	Revocation	Accept
14-9-182	Reprimand	Accept
14-9-209	Suspension - 20 days	Accept
14-10-293	Suspension - 2 years	Accept
14-11-373	Suspension - 5 days	Accept
14-11-425	Suspension - 60 days	Accept
14-12-432	Warning	Accept
14-12-457	Reprimand	Accept
15-1-546	Suspension - 60 days	Accept

3. Ms. Polite-Tate 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 RECOMMENDATION</u>
11-8-233	NPC	Accept
11-8-242	NPC	Accept
12-8-227	Suspension - 3 years	Accept
12-8-246	Suspension - 5 days	Accept
13-3-851	Reprimand	Accept
13-3-852	Reprimand	Accept
13-3-853	Reprimand	Accept
13-4-933	Suspension - 15 days	Accept
13-4-999	Suspension - 7 days	Accept
13-12-389	Suspension - 5 days	Accept
13-12-390	Reprimand	Accept
13-12-437	Warning	Accept
14-4-773	Suspension - 20 days	Accept
14-4-815	Suspension - 180 days	Accept
14-5-895	Suspension - 60 days	Accept
14-5-896	Suspension - 1 year	Accept
14-6-957	NPC	Accept
14-7-126	NPC	Accept

4. The Educator Ethics Review Committee recommended approval of the *Preliminary Investigative Determination Report* consisting of 66 new complaints received during the months of March 2015 and April 2015.

#### 5. 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 RECOMMENDATION</u>
15-1-555	1, 2, 10	Voluntary Surrender	Accept
15-2-655	1, 2, 10	Voluntary Surrender	Accept

#### 6. EXTENSIONS – PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATIVE DETERMINATIONS

The Educator Ethics Review Committee recommended approval of the 66 Extensions - Preliminary Investigative Determinations consisting of the following:

15-3-818	15-3-824	15-3-830	15-3-836	15-3-848	15-4-854	15-4-860	15-4-866
15-3-819	15-3-825	15-3-831	15-3-837	15-3-849	15-4-855	15-4-861	15-4-867
15-3-820	15-3-826	15-3-832	15-3-838	15-4-850	15-4-856	15-4-862	
15-3-821	15-3-827	15-3-833	15-3-839	15-4-851	15-4-857	15-4-863	
15-3-822	15-3-828	15-3-834	15-3-840	15-4-852	15-4-858	15-4-864	
15-3-823	15-3-829	15-3-835	15-3-844	15-4-853	15-4-859	15-4-865	

## 7. **EXTENSIONS - INVESTIGATIONS**

The Educator Ethics Review Committee recommended granting and *Investigative Extension* to the following 186 cases:

<b>WRITTEN COMPLAINT EXTENSIONS</b>							
11-8-130	13-5-1049	14-3-635	14-6-938	14-8-151	14-10-300	14-11-423	15-1-513
11-9-337	13-5-1076	14-3-644	14-6-940	14-8-156	14-10-305	14-11-424	15-1-514
11-9-343	13-6-1176	14-3-645	14-6-942	14-8-156	14-10-307	14-12-427	15-1-515
11-9-392	13-6-1199	14-3-654	14-6-944	14-8-157	14-10-321	14-12-428	15-1-518
11-9-398	13-6-1207	14-3-655	14-6-950	14-8-157	14-10-321	14-12-430	15-1-526
11-9-399	13-6-1209	14-3-680	14-6-964	14-8-169	14-10-340	14-12-434	15-1-544
11-9-402	13-6-1231	14-4-723	14-6-971	14-8-172	14-10-341	14-12-436	15-1-547
11-9-455	13-8-56	14-4-737	14-6-1036	14-8-178	14-10-349	14-12-439	15-1-548
11-9-456	13-9-192	14-4-744	14-6-1037	14-8-179	14-10-350	14-12-447	15-1-549
11-9-457	13-10-239	14-4-752	14-7-22	14-9-189	14-10-353	14-12-448	15-1-550
11-9-458	13-11-327	14-4-757	14-7-38	14-9-212	14-10-353	14-12-459	15-1-551
11-12-702	13-12-373	14-4-762	14-7-54	14-9-216	14-10-359	14-12-469	15-1-552
12-7-111	13-12-376	14-4-766	14-7-66	14-9-218	14-10-361	14-12-470	15-1-556
12-11-530	13-12-377	14-4-767	14-7-67	14-9-218	14-10-362	14-12-474	15-1-558
13-2-759	13-12-379	14-4-772	14-7-68	14-9-219	14-10-363	14-12-475	15-1-562
13-3-838	13-12-423	14-4-778	14-7-69	14-9-244	14-10-364	14-12-484	15-1-566
13-3-865	13-12-424	14-5-819	14-7-107	14-9-245	14-10-365	14-12-485	15-1-570
13-3-869	14-1-444	14-5-826	14-7-121	14-9-255	14-10-368	14-12-491	15-1-583
13-3-878	14-2-516	14-5-838	14-7-123	14-9-268	14-11-370	14-12-492	
13-3-891	14-2-558	14-5-863	14-7-135	14-9-270	14-11-371	14-12-493	
13-4-983	14-3-581	14-5-897	14-8-136	14-9-271	14-11-382	14-12-494	
13-4-1016	14-3-583	14-5-905	14-8-139	14-9-272	14-11-386	15-1-510	
13-5-1032	14-3-593	14-5-909	14-8-149	14-9-277	14-11-392	15-1-511	
13-5-1043	14-3-633	14-5-914	14-8-149	14-10-286	14-11-396	15-1-512	

## 8. **APPLICATIONS FOR CERTIFICATION REPORT**

The Educator Ethics Review Committee recommended to approve a no probable cause determination on 18 cases reflected on the *Applications for Certification Report*.

## 9. **FINAL DECISIONS**

The Commission reviewed the *Review Hearing Extensions Report* concerning \_\_ hearing cases. An Administrative Law Judge rendered Initial Decisions on each case referenced in the report. The report indicates Orders were issued.

<u>CASE</u>	<u>ORIGINAL SANCTION</u>	<u>ALJ SANCTION</u>	<u>EERC RECOMMENDATION</u>
12-3-1043	Suspension 90 days	Suspension 60 days	Accept
13-7-14	Revocation	Revocation	Accept

**10. 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 were 3 cases closed without an appeal for a review hearing before the Commission.

Chair Elkins called for approval of the Educator Ethics Review Committee report as presented by Bettina Polite-Tate.

**PSC ACTION:** Approved

Abstention: Jim Barrett – 14-10-315, David Johnson -12-8-246, Bettina Polite Tate – 15-2-702, 15-3-722, 15-3-723, 14-2-575, Kami Luigs – 15-2-701, 15-3-757, 15-3-758, 15-3-759, 15-3-760, 11-8-233, 11-8-242, 13-4-933, 14-7-126, 11-8-200

**B. Educator Preparation Standing Committee**

Committee Chair, Dr. Martha Venn, presented the report of the Educator Preparation Standing Committee.

	<b>EPP</b>	<b>April 2015 Detailed Approval Recommendations</b>	<b>Additional Action Required</b>
1.	Tier II Appeal	The Committee recommends denial of the Tier II Appeal.	

Chair Elkins called for approval of the Educator Preparation Review Committee report as presented by Dr. Martha Venn.

**PSC ACTION:** Approved

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Dr. Elkins called for the meeting to be adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

**PSC ACTION:** Approved