

MINUTES

PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS COMMISSION 200 Piedmont Avenue, SE Atlanta, Georgia January 9, 2020

The Georgia Professional Standards Commission (PSC) met on Thursday, January 9, 2020.

Members Present

Dr. Steve Barker	Dr. Isiah Hill, Jr	Teri Schneider
Danielle Bruce	Scott Hollowell	Brian Sirmans
Jeanine Bunn	Catherine Jones	Beth Townsend
Daniel Dooley	Diane McClearn	Dr. Jennifer Wade
Derek Easterling	Dr. Jacqueline McDowell	Katrina Young
Barbara Ellingson	Dr. Franklin Perry	

Members Absent

Dr. Karla Hull

I. WORK SESSION

- Executive Secretary Report – Matt Arthur introduced himself to the Commission and spoke briefly about his background.
- Kristina Stroede presented the rules for initiation. Commissioners were asked to initiate the rule making process for the rules that they previewed at the December 12th work session. If adopted, these rules will be scheduled to become effective April 15, 2020. In addition to the other proposed rules, GaPSC is proposing to repeal all the 66 separate certification teaching field rules to be replaced with one main teaching field rule. She asked the Commissioners if they had any questions and there were none.
- Kristina Stroede had presented the Commission with a survey regarding their work on the Commission e.g. time they spend preparing for the meeting, etc. She shared the results with the Commission.
- Chair Report – Chair Sirmans spoke briefly on a) procedures for handling complaints/ requests received, media requests, etc. b) March Commission retreat; c) progress on developing an instrument to evaluate the Executive Secretary.

II. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Sirmans called the meeting to order at 12:00 noon and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. flag and a moment of silence.

III. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Chair Sirmans called for approval of the agenda.

MOTION: (Derek Easterling / Diane McClearn) To approve the agenda.

PSC ACTION: Approved

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chair Sirmans called for approval of the minutes from the December 12, 2020, Commission meeting.

PSC ACTION: Approved

V. VISITORS

Chair Sirmans welcomed the visitors.

- Matthew Pence, Professional Association of Georgia Educators
- Courtney Trice, Educator
- Deja Velasquez, Office of Planning and Budget
- Don Splinter, Georgia Association of Educational Leaders (GAEL)
- Tayia Donald, Georgia Association of Educators (GAE)

VI. 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 review 47 ***Probable Cause*** cases during January 9, 2020, meeting and brought the following recommendations on behalf of the committee:

<u>CASE</u>	<u>STANDARDS VIOLATED</u>	<u>RECOMMENDATION</u>
19-9-493	1,4,5a7	Reprimand
19-9-497	1,4,5a7	NPC
19-10-549	1,4, 5a7	Deny
19-10-687	1,5a7	Deny
19-11-786	5a2,5a7	Deny
19-12-856	4,5a2,5a5,5a7	Deny
18-6-1608	2 & 9	Suspension 90 days
18-7-115	2 & 9	Suspension 1 year
18-8-271	7&9	Suspension 10 days
18-9-428	1,2, 5a7,9	Revoke
18-10-536	1,4,8,9	Suspension 20 days
19-4-1464	2,9	Suspension 30 days
19-4-1504	2,9	NPC
19-5-1563	1,2,9	Suspension 1 year
19-6-1819	1,5a2,5a7,9	Reprimand
19-8-239	1,4,5a7,8,9	Suspension 20 days
19-8-244	1,5a7,9	Revoke
19-8-269	1, 9	Reprimand
19-8-296	4,9,5a7	Reprimand
19-8-297	4,9,5a7	Suspension 1 year
19-8-308	1,4,5a7,8,9	Suspension 1 year

<u>CASE</u>	<u>STANDARDS VIOLATED</u>	<u>RECOMMENDATION</u>
19-8-335	1, 2, 9, 5a7	Revoke
19-9-358	4, 5a7	NPC
19-9-370	5a2, 5a7	Reprimand
19-9-406	1, 4, 9	Suspension 20 days
19-9-414	1, 2,4, 8, 9, 5a7	Revoke
19-9-425	9, 5a7	Suspension 1 year
19-9-430	4,9,5a7	Reprimand
19-9-434	9	Suspension 90 days
19-9-436	3,4,9, 5a7	Suspension 1 year
19-9-441	1,4,5a7,8,9	Suspension 20 days
19-9-467	1,4,5a7,8,9	Suspension 20 days
19-10-504	4,5,9	Suspension 1 year
19-10-509	4,9	Reprimand
19-10-521	4, 6, 9, 5a7	Suspension 20 days
19-10-522	2, 9, 5a7	Suspension 20 days
19-10-529	2, 9	Suspension 1 year
19-10-564	1, 9, 5a7	Extend pending criminal case
19-10-570	1, 9, 5a7	Extend pending criminal case
19-10-620	1, 9, 5a7	Suspension 1 year
19-10-621	9, 5a7	Suspension 1 year
19-10-636	4, 9, 5a7	Suspension 5 days
19-10-642	9	Suspension 90 days
19-10-648	2, 4, 9, 5a7	Suspension 2 years
19-10-675	1,4,5a7,8,9	Suspension 20 days
19-10-684	2, 4, 9, 5a7	Suspension 20 days
19-11-794	1,5a2,5a7,8,9	Reprimand

2. Chair Townsend reported that the Educator Ethics Review Committee reviewed 4 *Petitions Issues* and brought the following recommendations on behalf of the Committee:

<u>CASE</u>	<u>PREVIOUS SANCTION</u>	<u>EERC RECOMMENDATION</u>
19-6-1748	Revocation	Deny
19-7-1	Revocation	Deny
19-7-2	Reprimand	Deny
19-8-185	Revocation	Grant

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

<u>CASE</u>	<u>SANCTION</u>	<u>EERC RECOMMENDATION</u>
19-4-1495	Suspension 1 year	Accept

19-6-1773	Suspension 5 days	Accept
19-7-27	Suspension 90 days	Accept
19-7-49	Suspension 1 year	Accept
19-8-196	Reprimand	Accept
19-8-208	Reprimand	Accept
19-8-210	Reprimand	Accept
19-8-295	Reprimand	Accept
19-8-351	Suspension 90 days	Accept
19-9-440	Suspension 20 days	Accept
19-9-442	Reprimand	Accept
19-9-456	Suspension 20 days	Accept
19-9-481	Reprimand	Accept
19-10-542	Reprimand	Accept
19-10-554	Reprimand	Accept
19-10-612	Reprimand	Accept
19-10-659	Reprimand	Accept
19-10-677	Suspension 20 days	Accept

4. Chair Townsend reported that the Educator Ethics Review Committee reviewed 40 *Negotiated Settlement Agreements* and brought the following recommendations on behalf of the Committee:

<u>CASE</u>	<u>NEGOTIATED SANCTION</u>	<u>EERC RECOMMENDATION</u>
17-6-1634	Suspension 2 years 246 days	Accept
17-8-214	Reprimand	Accept
18-3-1175	Warning	Accept
18-5-1573	NPC	Accept
18-12-742	Reprimand	Accept
18-12-753	Suspension 1 year	Accept
18-12-763	Reprimand	Accept
18-12-789	Reprimand	Accept
19-3-1158	Suspension 1 year 123 days	Accept
19-3-1160	NPC	Accept
19-3-1327	Suspension 4 days	Accept
19-4-1463	Reprimand	Accept
19-7-172	Reprimand	Accept

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 RECOMMENDATION</u>
19-8-246	Failure to respond	Hold New App
19-8-312	Failed to provide documents	Hold New App
19-9-403	Failure to confirm service	Hold New App
19-10-503	Failure to respond	Hold New App
19-10-601	Failed to provide documents	Hold New App

6. The Educator Ethics Review Committee recommended approval of the *Preliminary Investigative Determination Report* consisting of 73 new complaints received during the months of December 2019 and January 2020

7. VOLUNTARY SURRENDERS

The Educator Ethics Review Committee recommended approval of the 5 *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>
19-9-404	9	Voluntary Surrender	Accept
19-9-473	1, 2, 9	Voluntary Surrender	Accept
19-10-520	1, 2, 9	Voluntary Surrender	Accept
19-10-523	1, 2, 9	Voluntary Surrender	Accept
19-11-730	1, 4, 9	Voluntary Surrender	Accept

8. EXTENSIONS – PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATIVE DETERMINATIONS

The Educator Ethics Review Committee recommended approval of the 60 *Extensions - Preliminary Investigative Determinations* consisting of the following:

19-12-891	19-12-899	20-1-907	20-1-915	20-1-923	20-1-939	20-1-947	20-1-955
19-12-892	19-12-900	20-1-908	20-1-916	20-1-932	20-1-940	20-1-948	20-1-956
19-12-893	19-12-901	20-1-909	20-1-917	20-1-933	20-1-941	20-1-949	20-1-957
19-12-894	19-12-902	20-1-910	20-1-918	20-1-934	20-1-942	20-1-950	20-1-958
19-12-895	19-12-903	20-1-911	20-1-919	20-1-935	20-1-943	20-1-951	
19-12-896	20-1-904	20-1-912	20-1-920	20-1-936	20-1-944	20-1-952	
19-12-897	20-1-905	20-1-913	20-1-921	20-1-937	20-1-945	20-1-953	
19-12-898	20-1-906	20-1-914	20-1-922	20-1-938	20-1-946	20-1-954	

9. EXTENSIONS - INVESTIGATIONS

The Educator Ethics Review Committee recommended granting an *Investigative Extension* to the following 382 cases:

WRITTEN COMPLAINT EXTENSIONS							
18-6-1672	19-1-850	19-3-1313	19-6-1818	19-7-89	19-8-265	19-9-450	19-10-591
18-6-1721	19-1-854	19-4-1368	19-6-1821	19-7-90	19-8-266	19-9-451	19-10-592
18-7-11	19-1-868	19-4-1376	19-6-1822	19-7-92	19-8-287	19-9-458	19-10-593
18-7-66	19-1-869	19-4-1378	19-6-1829	19-7-93	19-8-289	19-9-459	19-10-594
18-8-207	19-1-895	19-4-1395	19-6-1872	19-7-94	19-8-301	19-9-460	19-10-595
18-8-226	19-1-897	19-4-1400	19-6-1875	19-7-95	19-8-309	19-9-461	19-10-596
18-8-284	19-1-903	19-4-1402	19-6-1877	19-7-97	19-8-310	19-9-462	19-10-597
18-8-285	19-1-906	19-4-1417	19-6-1878	19-7-98	19-8-311	19-9-464	19-10-598
18-9-345	19-1-923	19-4-1424	19-6-1885	19-7-100	19-8-316	19-9-466	19-10-599

WRITTEN COMPLAINT EXTENSIONS							
18-9-369	19-1-941	19-4-1451	19-6-1886	19-7-102	19-8-320	19-9-469	19-10-602
18-9-450	19-1-943	19-4-1452	19-6-1887	19-7-103	19-8-321	19-9-471	19-10-603
18-10-485	19-1-946	19-4-1458	19-6-1889	19-7-105	19-8-324	19-9-472	19-10-604
18-10-488	19-1-950	19-4-1466	19-6-1890	19-7-106	19-8-341	19-9-474	19-10-605
18-10-546	19-1-953	19-4-1467	19-6-1891	19-7-107	19-8-350	19-9-475	19-10-606
18-10-548	19-1-954	19-4-1478	19-6-1892	19-7-118	19-9-352	19-9-476	19-10-607
18-10-564	19-1-956	19-4-1483	19-6-1893	19-7-128	19-9-356	19-9-478	19-10-608
18-10-567	19-1-961	19-4-1502	19-6-1896	19-7-138	19-9-373	19-9-479	19-10-609
18-10-570	19-1-963	19-4-1517	19-6-1897	19-7-139	19-9-375	19-9-482	19-10-611
18-10-579	19-2-1005	19-4-1532	19-6-1898	19-7-140	19-9-376	19-9-483	19-10-613
18-10-580	19-2-1041	19-4-1545	19-6-1899	19-7-141	19-9-379	19-9-486	19-10-614
18-10-583	19-2-1066	19-5-1553	19-6-1900	19-7-142	19-9-381	19-9-487	19-10-650
18-10-584	19-2-1070	19-5-1562	19-6-1903	19-7-144	19-9-382	19-9-488	19-10-651
18-10-592	19-2-1071	19-5-1566	19-6-1906	19-7-145	19-9-383	19-9-489	19-10-652
18-10-595	19-2-1073	19-5-1570	19-6-1907	19-7-148	19-9-384	19-9-491	19-10-653
18-10-597	19-2-1075	19-5-1574	19-6-1908	19-7-149	19-9-385	19-9-492	19-10-657
18-10-599	19-2-1106	19-5-1576	19-6-1915	19-7-154	19-9-388	19-9-494	19-10-660
18-10-600	19-2-1110	19-5-1577	19-6-1918	19-7-160	19-9-389	19-9-496	19-10-661
18-10-603	19-3-1119	19-5-1591	19-6-1922	19-7-163	19-9-390	19-9-499	19-10-662
18-10-605	19-3-1163	19-5-1613	19-6-1929	19-7-171	19-9-392	19-9-502	19-10-663
18-11-653	19-3-1232	19-5-1615	19-6-1930	19-7-175	19-9-393	19-10-526	19-10-664
18-11-662	19-3-1240	19-5-1616	19-6-1931	19-8-185	19-9-394	19-10-530	19-10-665
18-11-665	19-3-1244	19-5-1618	19-6-1934	19-8-186	19-9-395	19-10-531	19-10-666
18-11-666	19-3-1250	19-5-1619	19-7-35	19-8-193	19-9-397	19-10-533	19-10-667
18-11-669	19-3-1263	19-5-1620	19-7-36	19-8-194	19-9-398	19-10-534	19-10-668
18-11-672	19-3-1271	19-5-1626	19-7-37	19-8-213	19-9-399	19-10-537	19-10-671
18-11-675	19-3-1272	19-5-1670	19-7-38	19-8-219	19-9-400	19-10-543	19-10-672
18-11-685	19-3-1276	19-5-1692	19-7-39	19-8-223	19-9-402	19-10-544	19-10-673
18-11-686	19-3-1277	19-5-1695	19-7-41	19-8-226	19-9-407	19-10-545	19-10-674
18-11-694	19-3-1278	19-5-1696	19-7-42	19-8-227	19-9-409	19-10-547	19-10-676
18-11-698	19-3-1281	19-5-1700	19-7-43	19-8-231	19-9-420	19-10-550	19-10-679
18-11-703	19-3-1287	19-5-1701	19-7-44	19-8-242	19-9-422	19-10-553	19-10-680
18-11-728	19-3-1289	19-5-1706	19-7-56	19-8-248	19-9-424	19-10-555	19-10-681
18-12-736	19-3-1291	19-6-1746	19-7-71	19-8-254	19-9-431	19-10-556	19-10-682
18-12-739	19-3-1292	19-6-1787	19-7-72	19-8-257	19-9-433	19-10-557	19-10-683
18-12-766	19-3-1293	19-6-1798	19-7-82	19-8-258	19-9-435	19-10-587	19-10-689
19-1-798	19-3-1298	19-6-1812	19-7-86	19-8-259	19-9-443	19-10-588	19-10-693
19-1-828	19-3-1305	19-6-1814	19-7-87	19-8-260	19-9-446	19-10-589	
19-1-849	19-3-1312	19-6-1815	19-7-88	19-8-261	19-9-447	19-10-590	

10. **APPLICATIONS FOR CERTIFICATION REPORT**

The Educator Ethics Review Committee recommended to approve a no probable cause determination on 8 cases reflected on the *Applications for Certification Report*.

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

The Educator Ethics Review Committee reviewed the report, which advised of 16 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 reviewed the *Final Decision* below, and recommended to accept the Administrative Law Judge’s sanction.

Chair Sirmans called for approval of the Educator Ethics Review Committee Report as presented by Chair Beth Townsend excluding case # 19-8-185.

PSC ACTION: Approved

Abstentions: Derek Easterling - 19-9-404, 17-8-214, 19-3-1327, 19-12-866, 19-12-878, Barbara Ellingson – 19-12-845, Jeanine Bunn – 19-9-434, 19-9-436, 19-10-636, Teri Schneider – 19-12-861, Dr. Franklin Perry – 19-12-819, 19-12-820, 19-12-821

Petition, Case # 19-8-195

MOTION: (Derek Easterling / Katrina Young) To grant the petition.

PSC ACTION: Approved

Opposed: Derek Easterling

B. Educator Preparation Standing Committee

Committee Chair, Diane McClearn, presented the report of the Educator Preparation Standing Committee.

	EPP	January 2020 Detailed Approval Recommendations
1.	Berry College	<p>The Committee recommends Continuing Approval for the Educator Preparation Provider and the following Educator Preparation Programs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Art (P-12 Baccalaureate degree; M.A.T. Degree) • Biology (6-12 Baccalaureate degree; M.A.T. Degree) • Chemistry (6-12 Baccalaureate degree; M.A.T. Degree) • Elementary Education (P-5 Baccalaureate degree; M.A.T. Degree; Master's degree) • English (6-12 Baccalaureate degree; M.A.T. Degree) • English to Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL Endorsement) • French (P-12 Baccalaureate degree; Master's Degree) • German (P-12 Baccalaureate degree; Master's Degree) • History (6-12 Baccalaureate degree; M.A.T. degree) • Mathematics (6-12 Baccalaureate degree; M.A.T. degree) • Middle Grades (4-8 Language arts, Math, Reading, Science, Social science; Baccalaureate degree; M.A.T. Degree; Master's degree) • Music (P-12 Baccalaureate degree; M.A.T. degree) • Physics (6-12 Baccalaureate degree; M.A.T. degree)

	EPP	January 2020 Detailed Approval Recommendations
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Political Science (6-12 Baccalaureate degree; M.A.T. Degree) • Reading Endorsement • Spanish (P-12 Baccalaureate degree; M.A.T. degree; Master's degree) • Curriculum and Instruction (P-12 Certification-only; M.A.T. Degree; Ed Specialist degree) • Educational Leadership - Tier I (P-12 Certification-only; M.A.T. degree) • Educational Leadership - Tier II (P-12 Certification-only; Ed Specialist degree)
2.	Coastal Plains RESA	<p>The Committee recommends Continuing Approval for the Educator Preparation Provider and the following Educator Preparation Programs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gifted In-Field Endorsement • Teacher Support and Coaching Endorsement
3.	Northeast Georgia RESA	<p>The Committee recommends that the September 2019, Progress Report is satisfactory in addressing the areas for improvement identified in Standard 3 (Component 3), and Standard 5 (Component 2). The Committee recommends the removal of these areas for improvement.</p> <p>In addition, the Committee recommends that while incremental progress is evident in addressing the remaining unmet standards and areas for improvement, these unmet standards and areas for improvement remain. The committee recommends the submission of Progress Report July 13, 2020, to address the remaining unmet standards and areas for improvement.</p>
4.	Angela Williams	<p>The Tier II Appeal, to upgrade the appellant’s certificate to a Level 7 is tabled.</p>

Chair Sirmans called for approval of the Educator Preparation / Certification Report as presented by Chair McClearen.

PSC ACTION: Approved

Abstentions – Dr. Jacqueline McDowell – Berry College

VII. RULES

Kristina Stroede asked the Commissioners if they had any questions. Hearing none, she presented the motion.

MOTION: (Teri Schneider / Beth Townsend) To repeal the current rules in Chapter 505-2- Certification, effective April 15, 2020, as follows: 505-2-.10, 505-2-.11, and 505-2-.18; repeal the current rules and reserve the rule numbers in Chapter 505-2- Certification, effective April 15, 2020, as follows: 505-2-.54, .55, .56, .60, .61, .62, .63, .64, .68, .69, .70, .71, .72, .73, .74, .75, .76, .77, .78, .79, .80, .84, .85, .86, .87, .88, .89, .90, .91, .94, .95, .96, .97, .98, .99, .100, .101, .102, .106, .107, .108, .109, .110, .111, .112, .113, .114, .118, .119, .120,

2/17/2020

Page 9

121, .122, .123, .124, .125, .126, .127, .128, .129, .130, .131, .132, .133, .134, .135, and .136; initiate the current rules in Chapter 505-2- Certification, effective April 15, 2020, as follows: 505-2-.10, 505-2-.11, 505-2-.18, and 505-2-.57; amend the current rules in Chapter 505-3- Educator Preparation Rules, effective April 15, 2020, as follows: 505-3-.01, and 505-3-.05; repeal the current rules in Chapter 505-3- Educator Preparation Rules, effective April 15, 2020, as follows: 505-3-.47, and 505-3-.89; and initiate the current rules in Chapter 505-3- Educator Preparation Rules, effective April 15, 2020, as follows: 505-3-.47, and 505-3-.89.

PSC ACTION: Approved

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Our next meeting will be held on Thursday, February 13th, 2020, at 200 Piedmont Avenue, 4th Floor Boardroom, Atlanta, Georgia. The Educator Ethics Review Committee will meet at 9:30 am and the Educator Preparation/Certification Standing Committee meeting time will be announced on our website and in the Daily Report once it has been determined. Chair Sirmans called for the meeting to be adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

PSC ACTION: Approved