

# MINUTES

## PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS COMMISSION

Two Peachtree Street

Atlanta, Georgia

May 14, 2009

The Georgia Professional Standards Commission (PSC) met on Thursday, May 14, 2009, at 9 a.m.

### Members Present

Penny Benton  
Julia Bernath  
Maria Bradley  
Sallie Bullock  
Stephen Dartt

Joy Hawkins  
Stephanie Haynes  
Emily Jennette  
Dr. Louisa Moffitt  
Dr. Mary Outlaw

Rose Powell  
Dr. Ed Smith  
Jeannie Tucker  
Dr. Hester Vasconcelos  
Dr. Debbie Wilkes

### Members Absent

Dr. Craig Smith  
Al George

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

Chair Wilkes called the meeting to order at 9 a.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:** (Powell / Bradley) To approve the agenda.

**PSC ACTION:** Approved

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

Chair Wilkes called for approval of the minutes from the April 9, 2009, Commission meeting.

**PSC ACTION:** Approved

### **IV. RECOGNITION OF VISITORS**

Chair Wilkes recognized the visitors.

- Margaret Elliott, Professional Association of Georgia Educators
- Warren Burwell
- Doroth Burwell
- Bill Ware, Association of Colleges for Teacher Education
- Jody Grogan, Georgia Association of Educators (GAE)
- Gregory Hoff, Educator in Dekalb County
- Yu Hoff, Wife of Gregory Hoff
- Carl Camon, Educator at Valdosta High School
- Angela Camon, Wife of Carl Camon
- Nadine Camon, Mother of Carl Camon
- Herbert Benson, Attorney for Carl Camon

### **V. EMPLOYEE SERVICE AWARDS**

Chair Wilkes and Kelly Henson congratulated and gave certificates to the employees listed below:

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### **Lakesha Mackin – 5 Year Service Award**

LaKesha began her employment with the Professional Standards Commission in the Educator Preparation Division on September 25, 2002 under the direction of Fran Watkins. At that time, her main responsibility was the creation of the new Paraprofessional Certification project where she registered applicants to take the assessment exam and issued the certificates to those who passed.

In March 2004, LaKesha was promoted to a permanent position as Intake Technician with the Ethics Division. Although the Ethics Division experiences some very unhappy callers, LaKesha always manages to handle them in a cheerful and friendly way. Her key responsibility in this division is to assist other staff with the preparation of Commission meeting materials both before and after the monthly meetings. She is always willing to take-on any task requested of her. Five years is just a beginning for LaKesha; she has a long and bright career ahead of her with the Professional Standards Commission and is very much appreciated by her co-workers.

### **Gary Walker – 5 Year Service Award**

Dr. Gary Walker has been the division director for educator ethics for 5 years. During his tenure as division director, Gary has established meaningful and productive professional relationships with educational leaders in the state. Most importantly, Gary has achieved a high level of trust and credibility with the educational leaders, which greatly enhances our work of creating the most ethical educator workforce in the nation.

I could quote many statistics regarding the number of cases that we receive, the volume of the work in our ethics division, and the quality of work performed in our ethics division. Instead, I'm going to tell you what is really important about Gary. Gary knows the work. However, I think what makes Gary a very special person in this important role is that Gary has a sincere passion for the work.

Gary's excellence was recognized last year at the National NASDTEC Conference when he received the prestigious Doug Bates award.

Chair Wilkes recognized the visitors.

## **VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

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

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

1. Mr. Dartt reported that the Committee reviewed 41 *Probable Cause* cases during its May 13, 2009, meeting and brought the following recommendations on behalf of the Committee:

#	CASE #	Applicant	STANDARDS VIOLATED	RECOMMENDATION
1	08-11-575	Property Rights	Criminal Acts Failure to Make a Required Report Professional Conduct	Suspension 5 Contract Days
2	09-1-831	Property Rights	Criminal Acts Failure to Make a Required Report	Suspension 5 Contract Days
3	09-2-848	Property Rights	Criminal Acts Misrepresentation or Falsification Professional Conduct	Suspension 20 Contract Days
4	09-2-881	Property Rights	Criminal Acts	Reprimand
5	09-2-887	Property Rights	Criminal Acts Misrepresentation or Falsification Failure to Make a Required Report	Suspension 20 Contract Days
6	09-2-888	Property Rights	Criminal Acts Failure to Make a Required Report Professional Conduct Other Good and Sufficient Cause	Revocation
7	09-2-892	APPLICANT	Criminal Acts	Reprimand
8	09-2-896	Property Rights	Criminal Acts Failure to Make a Required Report	Reprimand
9	09-3-964	Property Rights	Criminal Acts	Reprimand
10	09-3-965	Property Rights	Criminal Acts Misrepresentation or Falsification Failure to Make a Required Report	Suspension 20 Contract Days
11	09-3-973	APPLICANT	Criminal Acts	Reprimand
12	09-3-1010	APPLICANT	Criminal Acts Misrepresentation or Falsification	Denial
13	09-4-1109	Property Rights	Criminal Acts Professional Conduct	Reprimand
14	09-4-1115	APPLICANT	Criminal Acts Professional Conduct	Reprimand
15	08-3-1050	Property Rights	Misrepresentation or Falsification Professional Conduct	No Probable Cause
16	08-9-312	Property Rights	Abuse of Students Professional Conduct	Suspension 90 Contract Days
17	08-10-396	Property Rights	Criminal Acts Abuse of Students Professional Conduct	Suspension – 1 Year
18	08-10-397	Property Rights	Abuse of Students Failure to Make a Required Report Professional Conduct	Suspension – 1 Year
19	08-10-398	Property Rights	Failure to Make a Required Report Professional Conduct	Suspension 20 Contract Days
20	08-10-453	Property Rights	Abuse of Students Professional Conduct	Suspension – 1 Year
21	08-12-624	Property Rights	Abuse of Students Professional Conduct	Suspension 30 Contract Days

#	CASE #	Applicant	STANDARDS VIOLATED	RECOMMENDATION
22	09-1-734	Property Rights	Misrepresentation or Falsification Public Funds and Property Professional Conduct	Suspension 20 Contract Days
23	09-1-747	Property Rights	Alcohol or Drugs	Suspension 20 Contract Days
24	09-1-748	Property Rights	Alcohol or Drugs Professional Conduct	Suspension – 1 Year
25	09-1-758	Property Rights	Criminal Acts Abuse of Students Professional Conduct	Suspension 20 Contract Days
26	09-1-761	Property Rights	Misrepresentation or Falsification Professional Conduct	Reprimand
27	09-1-799	Property Rights	Abuse of Students Professional Conduct	Suspension 5 Contract Days
28	09-2-850	Property Rights	Failure to Make a Required Report Professional Conduct	Suspension 20 Contract Days
29	09-2-851	Property Rights	Abuse of Students Professional Conduct	Suspension 20 Contract Days
30	09-2-853	Property Rights	Abuse of Students Professional Conduct	Suspension – 1 Year
31	09-2-865	Property Rights	Abuse of Students Professional Conduct	Suspension – 2 Years
32	09-2-872	Property Rights	Misrepresentation or Falsification	No Probable Cause
33	09-2-876	Property Rights	Misrepresentation or Falsification Professional Conduct	Suspension 20 Contract Days
34	09-2-877	Property Rights	Misrepresentation or Falsification	No Probable Cause
35	09-2-913	Property Rights	Public Funds and Property Professional Conduct Rule 505-6-.01 (5) (b)	Revocation
36	09-2-914	Property Rights	Public Funds and Property Professional Conduct Other Good and Sufficient Cause Rule 505-6-.01 (5) (b)	Revocation
37	09-2-920	Property Rights	Abuse of Students Professional Conduct	Suspension – 2 Years
38	09-2-921	Property Rights	Misrepresentation or Falsification Professional Conduct	No Probable Cause
39	09-2-932	Property Rights	Public Funds and Property Professional Conduct	Suspension 20 Contract Days
40	09-2-933	Property Rights	Public Funds and Property Professional Conduct	Suspension 20 Contract Days
41	09-2-934	Property Rights	Public Funds and Property Professional Conduct	Suspension – 1 Year

2. Mr. Dartt reported that the Educator Ethics Review Committee reviewed 6 *Initial Decisions* and brought the following recommendations on behalf of the Committee:

CASE #	STANDARDS VIOLATED	PROBABLE CAUSE SANCTION	ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE SANCTION	RECOMMENDATION
05-10-443	Abuse of Students Professional Conduct	Suspension - 5 Contract Days	Suspension - 1 Contract Day	Accept

06-6-1335	Alcohol or Drugs Professional Conduct	Suspension - 1 Year	Suspension - 1 Year	Accept
06-12-667	Misrepresentation or Falsification Failure to Make a Required Report Professional Conduct Action Taken In Another State	Suspension - 1 Year	Warning	Accept
07-2-971	Alcohol or Drugs Professional Conduct	Suspension - 1 Year	Suspension - 30 Contract Days (Retroactive back to Jan. 2007) & Reprimand	Accept
07-2-984	Misrepresentation or Falsification Failure to Make a Required Report	Suspension- 20 Contract Days	Suspension - 20 Contract Days	Accept
07-7-70	Confidential Information Professional Conduct	Suspension - 5 Contract Days	No Probable Cause	Review

3. Mr. Dartt reported that the Educator Ethics Review Committee reviewed 13 *Petitions Issues* and brought the following recommendations on behalf of the Committee:

CASE NUMBER	REQUEST	PREVIOUS SANCTION	PREVIOUS VIOLATION	RECOMMENDATION
08-12-637	Right to Reapply	Revocation – 2005	Criminal Acts Misrepresentation or Falsification Professional Conduct	DENY
09-1-763	Right to Reapply	Revocation – 2005	Criminal Acts Misrepresentation or Falsification Professional Conduct	GRANT
09-2-866	Right to Reapply	Denial – 2003	Misrepresentation or Falsification	GRANT
09-2-878	Right to Reapply	Denial -2001	Criminal Acts Alcohol or Drugs	GRANT
09-2-904	Right to Reapply	Revocation – 2003	Criminal Acts Abuse of Students Alcohol or Drugs Professional Conduct	DENY
09-2-930	Right to Reapply	Revocation – 1990	Misrepresentation or Falsification	DENY
09-3-953	Right to Reapply	Revocation – 2005	Abuse of Students Professional Conduct	DENY
09-3-954	Right to Reapply	Denial – 2007	Abuse of Students Misrepresentation or Falsification Professional Conduct Action Taken in Another State	DENY
09-3-1027	Right to Reapply	Denial – 2006	Criminal Acts Misrepresentation or Falsification Professional Conduct	DENY
09-4-1047	Right to Reapply	Denial - 2007	Criminal Acts Professional Conduct	DENY
09-4-1081	Right to Reapply	Denial – 2006	Alcohol or Drugs	GRANT

CASE NUMBER	REQUEST	PREVIOUS SANCTION	PREVIOUS VIOLATION	RECOMMENDATION
			Professional Conduct	
09-4-1089	Right to Reapply	Revocation – 2005	Misrepresentation or Falsification Professional Conduct	DENY
09-4-1160	Right to Reapply	Revocation – 2005	Criminal Acts Professional Conduct	DENY

4. Mr. Dartt reported that the Educator Ethics Review Committee reviewed 16 *Settlement Agreements* and brought the following recommendations on behalf of the Committee:

#	CASE NUMBER	SANCTION	RECOMMENDATION
1	08-10-402	Suspension - 5 Contract Days (Retroactive - System Suspension) Sept. 22, 2008 - Sept. 26, 2008	Accept
2	08-11-515	Suspension - 90 Contract Days July 27, 2009 - Dec. 14, 2009	Accept
3	08-11-599	Suspension - 3 Contract Days (Retroactive - System Suspension) June 2, 2008 - June 4, 2008	Accept
4	08-11-602	Suspension - 90 Contract Days (Retroactive) Dec. 19, 2008 – May 28, 2009	Accept
5	08-11-604	Suspension - 90 Contract Days (Retroactive) Nov. 14, 2008 - April 27, 2009	Accept
6	08-12-627	Suspension - 10 Contract Days August 3, 2009 - August 14, 2009	Accept
7	08-12-649	Reprimand	Accept

#	CASE NUMBER	SANCTION	RECOMMENDATION
8	08-12-681	Suspension - 90 Contract Days August 3, 2009 - Dec. 11, 2009	Accept
9	09-1-721	Reprimand	Accept
10	09-1-728	Reprimand	Accept
11	09-1-739	Suspension - 20 Contract Days (Retroactive - System Suspension) April 13, 2009 - May 8, 2009	Accept
12	09-1-744	Suspension - 20 Contract Days (Retroactive) Dec. 1, 2008 - Jan. 9, 2009	Accept
13	09-1-766	Reprimand	Accept
14	09-1-781	Revocation	Accept
15	09-1-800	Suspension - 20 Contract Days (Retroactive) Nov. 21, 2008 - Jan. 6, 2009	Accept
16	09-1-815	Reprimand	Accept

5. Mr. Dartt reported that the Educator Ethics Review Committee reviewed 21 *Negotiated Settlement Agreements* and brought the following recommendations on behalf of the Committee:

CASE #	STANDARDS VIOLATED	PROBABLE CAUSE SANCTION	NEGOTIATED SANCTION	RECOMMENDATION
06-10-415	Misrepresentation or Falsification Public Funds and Property Professional Conduct Other Cause	Suspension - 2 Years	Suspension - 2 Years March 18, 2009 - March 18, 2011	Accept
06-11-499	Abuse of Students Professional Conduct	Suspension - 20 Contract Days	No Probable Cause	Accept
07-5-1265	Confidential Information Professional Conduct	Suspension - 5 Contract Days	Reprimand	Accept
07-5-1266	Confidential Information Professional Conduct Other Cause	Suspension - 10 Contract Days	Reprimand	REJECT
07-5-1285	Abuse of Students Professional Conduct	Suspension - 20 Contract Days	No Probable Cause	REJECT
07-5-1304	Public Funds and Property Professional Conduct	Suspension - 10 Contract Days	Reprimand	Accept
07-5-1342	Confidential Information Professional Conduct	Suspension - 20 Contract Days	Suspension - 20 Contract Days (Retroactive) Sept. 4, 2007 - Oct. 1, 2007	Accept
07-6-1397	Abuse of Students Professional Conduct	Suspension - 90 Contract Days	Suspension - 30 Contract Days July 28, 2009 - Sept. 8, 2009	Accept
07-6-1521	Failure to Make a Required Report Professional Conduct Other Cause	Suspension - 10 Contract Days	Suspension - 10 Contract Days (Retroactive) June 6, 2007 - June 21, 2007	Accept
07-8-166	Public Funds and Property	Suspension - 90 Contract Days	Reprimand	REJECT

CASE #	STANDARDS VIOLATED	PROBABLE CAUSE SANCTION	NEGOTIATED SANCTION	RECOMMEN- DATION
	Professional Conduct			
07-9-211	Criminal Acts Misrepresentation or Falsification Failure to Make a Required Report	Reprimand	No Probable Cause	Accept
08-1-661	Criminal Acts Professional Conduct	Reprimand	No Probable Cause	Accept
08-3-864	Abuse of Students Professional Conduct	Suspension - 10 Contract Days	Suspension - 10 Contract Days (Retroactive) Nov. 19, 2007 - Dec. 4, 2007	Accept
08-3-875	Criminal Acts Misrepresentation or Falsification	Reprimand	Reprimand	Accept
08-3-1049	Abuse of Students Professional Conduct	Suspension - 1 Year	Suspension - 1 Year (Retroactive) June 1, 2008 - June 1, 2009	Accept
08-6-1525	Abuse of Students Professional Conduct	Suspension - 5 Contract Days	Suspension - 5 Contract Days (Retroactive) Aug. 1, 2008 - Aug. 7, 2008	Accept
08-7-24	Confidential Information Professional Conduct	Suspension - 20 Contract Days	Reprimand	Accept
08-7-55	Confidential Information	Suspension - 2 Contract Days	Reprimand	Accept
08-7-81	Criminal Acts	Revocation	No Probable Cause	Accept
08-8-232	Criminal Acts Professional Conduct	Suspension - 1 Year	Suspension - 1 Year June 1, 2009 - June 1, 2010	Accept
08-11-582	Alcohol or Drugs Professional Conduct	Suspension - 1 Year	Suspension - 120 Contract Days (Retroactive) Nov. 5, 2008 - May 22, 2009	Accept

6. The Educator Ethics Review Committee recommended approval of the ***Preliminary Investigative Determination Report*** consisting of 98 new complaints received during the months of April 2009 and May 2009.

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

The Educator Ethics Review Committee recommended approval of the 54 Extensions - Preliminary Investigative Determinations consisting of the following:

#	CASE #	Complaint Received	#	CASE #	Complaint Received	#	CASE #	Complaint Received
1	09-4-1047	3/24/2009	19	09-4-1065	3/31/2009	37	09-4-1096	4/7/2009
2	09-4-1048	3/24/2009	20	09-4-1079	4/1/2009	38	09-4-1097	4/7/2009
3	09-4-1049	3/24/2009	21	09-4-1080	4/1/2009	39	09-4-1098	4/7/2009
4	09-4-1050	3/24/2009	22	09-4-1081	4/1/2009	40	09-4-1099	4/7/2009
5	09-4-1051	3/25/2009	23	09-4-1082	4/2/2009	41	09-4-1100	4/7/2009
6	09-4-1052	3/25/2009	24	09-4-1083	4/2/2009	42	09-4-1101	4/7/2009
7	09-4-1053	3/25/2009	25	09-4-1084	4/2/2009	43	09-4-1102	4/7/2009
8	09-11054	3/25/2009	26	09-4-1085	4/2/2009	44	09-4-1126	4/7/2009
9	09-4-1055	3/25/2009	27	09-4-1086	4/2/2009	45	09-4-1127	4/8/2009
10	09-4-1056	3/26/2009	28	09-4-1087	4/2/2009	46	09-4-1128	4/8/2009
11	09-4-1057	3/27/2009	29	09-4-1088	4/2/2009	47	09-4-1129	4/8/2009



#	CASE #	Complaint Received	#	CASE #	Complaint Received	#	CASE #	Complaint Received
12	09-4-1058	3/27/2009	30	09-4-1089	4/2/2009	48	09-4-1130	4/9/2009
13	09-4-1059	3/31/2009	31	09-4-1090	4/4/2009	49	09-4-1131	4/9/2009
14	09-4-1060	3/31/2009	32	09-4-1091	4/6/2009	50	09-4-1132	4/9/2009
15	09-4-1061	3/31/2009	33	09-4-1092	4/7/2009	51	09-4-1133	4/9/2009
16	09-4-1062	3/31/2009	34	09-4-1093	4/7/2009	52	09-4-1134	4/13/2009
17	09-4-1063	3/31/2009	35	09-4-1094	4/7/2009	53	09-4-1139	4/9/2009
18	09-4-1064	3/31/2009	36	09-4-1095	4/7/2009	54	09-4-1140	4/9/2009

### 8. EXTENSIONS - INVESTIGATIONS

The Educator Ethics Review Committee recommended granting and *Investigative Extension* to the following 40 Written Complaint cases and 10 Application cases:

#### WRITTEN COMPLAINT EXTENSIONS:

07-11-383	08-12-693	09-1-808	09-2-900	09-2-864	08-10-460	08-12-670	09-1-794
08-6-1550	09-1-735	09-1-809	09-2-903	09-2-873	08-11-578	08-12-671	09-1-807
08-10-463	09-1-757	09-2-857	09-2-915	09-2-874	08-11-600	09-1-733	09-2-869
08-11-574	09-1-759	09-2-863	09-2-923	09-2-909	08-12-628	09-1-754	09-1-911
08-12-664	09-1-762	09-2-899	09-2-924	08-8-217	08-12-629	09-1-790	09-2-861

#### APPLICATION CASE EXTENSIONS:

08-11-540	09-1-818	09-2-894	09-3-977	09-3-1007
08-11-555	09-1-822	09-3-968	09-3-1004	09-3-1009

### 9. APPLICATIONS FOR CERTIFICATION REPORT

The Educator Ethics Review Committee recommended to approve a no probable cause determination on 21 cases reflected on the *Applications for Certification Report*.

### 10. REVIEW HEARING EXTENSIONS

The Commission reviewed the *Review Hearing Extensions Report* concerning 6 hearing cases. An Administrative Law Judge rendered Initial Decisions on each case referenced in the report. The report indicates Orders were issued.

### 11. STUDENT LOAN SUSPENSION / REINSTATEMENTS

The Commission reviewed the report, which indicated that there were 5 certificates suspended from April 9, 2009 through May 14, 2009. There were 3 certificates that had been *reinstated* because restitution is now being made on those student loans. There were 8 issues where notification had been received to suspend but releases were received prior to the actual suspension being implemented. Restitution is now being made on those student loans.

### 12. FINAL DECISIONS BY OPERATION OF LAW

The Commission reviewed the report, which advised of 7 cases now closed without an appeal for a hearing before an Administrative Law Judge. The report also advised that there were 4 cases closed without an appeal for a review hearing before the Commission.

Chair Wilkes called for approval of the EERC report as presented by Mr. Stephen Dartt excluding Negotiated

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Settlement case #'s 07-5-1266.

**PSC ACTION:** Approved

Abstention: Dr. Ed Smith= Negotiated Settlement Case # 07-5-1265

**Negotiated Settlement Case #'s 07-5-1266**

**MOTION:** (Powell / Tucker) To accept a Reprimand in case number for case #1266.

**PSC ACTION:** Approved

Abstention: Dr. Ed Smith

**B. Educator Preparation Standing Committee**

Committee Vice Chair Dr. Mary Outlaw, presented the report of the Educator Preparation Standing Committee.

<b>Agency/Institution</b>	<b>Approval Recommendation</b>
<b>Fort Valley State University</b>	Developmental Approval is recommended for the following initial preparation programs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Family and Consumer Science</li><li>• Health and Physical Education</li></ul> Areas for improvement remain and are to be addressed in the Preparation Approval Annual Report (PAAR) by November 15, 2009.
<b>Reinhardt College Price School of Education</b>	Developmental Approval is recommended for the following initial preparation programs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Early Childhood Education - MAT</li><li>• Mathematics Education</li></ul> The area for improvement remains and is to be addressed in the Preparation Approval Annual Report (PAAR) by November 15, 2009.

**MOTION:** (Bullock / Hawkins) To accept the report as present by Dr. Mary Outlaw.

**PSC ACTION:** Approved

**VII. REVIEW HEARINGS**

- |                 |                               |
|-----------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Gregory Hoff | - Educator (Case # 07-6-1542) |
| Wayne Magnum    | - Hearing Officer             |
| Rebecca Mick    | - PSC Attorney                |
| Curt Thompson   | - Attorney                    |

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**MOTION:** (Bernath / Powell) To go into Executive Session and allow PSC staff and attorney (Gary Walker, Penny Hannah, Tanis Miller and Lisa Hartzler) to remain.

**ACTION:** Approved

**MOTION:** (E. Smith / Bradley) To come out of Executive Session and reconvene the Regular Session.

**ACTION:** Approved

**MOTION:** (Powell / Vasconcelos) 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 with the following specification. The Commission hereby ordered that the Georgia educator certificate held by Gregory Hoff be revoked effective May 14, 2009.

**PSC ACTION:** Approved

2. Carl Camon	- Educator (Case # 07-10-297)
Wayne Magnum	- Hearing Officer
Penny Hannah	- PSC Attorney
Herbert Benson	- Attorney

**MOTION:** (Jennette / Benton) To go into Executive Session and allow PSC staff (Gary Walker, Tanis Miller and Lisa Hartzler) to remain.

**ACTION:** Approved

**MOTION:** (Jennette / Bradley) To come out of Executive Session and reconvene the Regular Session.

**ACTION:** Approved

**MOTION:** (Vasconcelos / Powell) 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 with the following specification. The Commission hereby ordered that the Georgia educator certificate held by Carl Camon be suspended for a period of 5 contract days. The suspension shall begin on August 3, 2009 and shall conclude August 7, 2009.

**PSC ACTION:** Approved

Abstention: Jeanne Tucker

### **VIII. EXECUTIVE SECRETARY REPORT**

The Executive Secretary presented the following:

**A.** Rick Eierman asked that the commissioners review the handbook carefully and email him their thoughts/comments/changes. He also spoke about our newsletters and new website.

**B. Cottage School** – Regarding the public comments that we received about the Cottage School, PSC staff worked with Metro RESA and Metro RESA has agreed to accept private school candidates in their GA TAPP program. The Cottage School will accept only candidates that are employed at their school.

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**C. Code of Ethics** - We have received public comments and hope to come back to you at the June meeting to ask you to accept the changes based on public comments. We feel that we now have a much stronger Code of Ethics. We will put together another DVD after the amendments have been made. GPTV has been contacted to prepare this DVD.

**D. Dr. Gary Walker and Phil Blackwell** presented certification and educator ethics rules.

**MOTION:** (Bradley / Bernath) To a) amend the current rules in Chapter 505-2 Certification, effective June 15, 2009, as follows: 505-2-.96; and b) amend the current rules for Chapter 505-6 Educator Ethics, effective June 15, 2009, as follows: 505-6-.01.

**ACTION:** Approved

**MOTION:** (Hawkins / Powell) To initiate rulemaking procedures in accordance with the Georgia Administrative Procedures Act so as to provide for (1) amending the current rules in Chapter 505-2 Certification, effective August 15, 2009 as follows: 505-2-.02, 505-2-.25 and 505-2-108.

**ACTION:** Approved

**E. House Bill 280** - As you may know, in the recently completed session the General Assembly passed legislation (House Bill 280) authorizing development of mathematics and science endorsements that will result in stipends for teachers of math or science to children in kindergarten through grade five. We expect the Governor to sign this legislation into law in the near future. Since stipends can be earned upon successful completion of these endorsements, I believe the number of teachers desiring to receive one or both will dramatically increase the demand for these endorsements. Kelly also spoke about the different scenario's that might apply to each individual educator.

**F. House Bill 455** - HB 455 contains two provisions of importance to the PSC. These are:

- 1) Remove the sunset provision from the Master Teacher program allowing PSC to continue this program.
- 2) Eliminate salary increases based on leadership degrees obtained after July 1, 2010 for educators not in a leadership position. This provision of the bill will require the PSC to develop a guidance document that will answer the numerous questions that have emerged and will continue to emerge. We will secure input from external stakeholders and have a thorough internal review of the issues prior to releasing the guidance document. We expect to release the guidance document in June or July.

**G. Abandonment of Contract Clearance Date for 2009** - As you know, HB 455 extended the deadline for local systems to tender contracts from April 15th to May 15th (for 2009 only). We recommend that our "Abandonment of Contract Date" be adjusted for 2009 from May 1st to June 1st.

**MOTION:** (Vasconcelos / Bradley) To Change Abandonment of Contract Clearance Date for 2009 from May 1<sup>st</sup> to June 1<sup>st</sup>.

**ACTION:** Approved

## **IX. CHAIR'S REPORT**

Chair Wilkes announced that our next meeting will be held on Thursday, June 11, 2009 at 9 a.m. at Two Peachtree Street in our 5<sup>th</sup> floor boardroom.

**X. ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Wilkes called for the meeting to be adjourned at 11:55 am.

**PSC ACTION:** Approved