

# MINUTES

## PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS COMMISSION

### Remote Meeting via TEAMS Platform

November 4, 2021

The Georgia Professional Standards Commission (PSC) met on Thursday, November 4, 2021.

#### **Members Present**

Dr. Steve Barker  
Jeanine Bunn  
Abigail Coggin  
Daniel Dooley  
Derek Easterling

Kedriane Harris  
Dr. Karla Hull  
Nathan Lewis  
Dr. Franklin Perry  
Dr. Holley Roberts

Jane Rookard  
Dr. Brandon Seigler  
Brian Sirmans  
Beth Townsend  
Dr. Jennifer Wade  
Carol Williams

#### **Members Absent**

Jordan Frobos  
Jimmy Atkins

#### **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 / Abigail Coggin) To approve the agenda.

**PSC ACTION:** Approved

#### **IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Chair Sirmans called for approval of the October 14, 2021 minutes.

**PSC ACTION:** Approved

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

Matt Arthur spoke briefly on the following:

- He welcomed our new Commissioners – Jane Rookard, Kedriane Harris, Nathan Lewis.
- Last Thursday and Friday, October 28th and 29th, we hosted our 27th Annual Certification and Program Officials Conference. For the first time, we hosted the conference virtually. In recent years we've had between 180 and 200 individuals attend the conference in Macon. By hosting the conference virtually, we were able to accommodate more people. Over 350 people attended the conference, which consisted of 22 concurrent sessions and an opening session. The concurrent sessions were focused on our major

areas of work: Certification, Ethics, Educator Preparation, Educator Assessment, and Educational Leadership. The feedback we've received thus far has been extremely positive and we look forward to continuing to host this conference online so that more of our P-20 partners can participate.

- Dr. Holley Roberts has been appointed as the new Chair of the Educator Preparation/Certification committee. Dr. Roberts is the Interim Associate Provost for Academic Affairs and Director of The Graduate School at Georgia College and State University. We are excited for her to take on this new role. As a reminder, leadership positions on the Commission are appointed after much consideration and discussion. Committee Chairs and Vice-Chairs of committees are appointed by Brian and myself. The Governor appoints the Chair of the Commission and the Vice-Chair is appointed by the Executive committee. You can find this information in the Commission Handbook.
- Julie Beck gathered some data on the Online Teaching Endorsement and I wanted to share it with you. Before the pandemic started in March of 2020, there were 10 approved Online Endorsement programs. Since March of 2020, 12 new programs were approved via the new administrative approval process, bringing the total to 22 approved programs. Since March of 2020, 980 teachers enrolled in the program and of those, 684 have already completed it. Most of the 980 enrolled in programs offered by school systems or RESAs. Given the growth in remote learning, I think this is really good news!

## **VI. CHAIR REPORT**

- Chair Sirmans welcomed Kedrione Harris, Nathan Lewis and Jane Rookard to the Commission. He asked them to each turn on their cameras and introduce themselves.
- Chair Sirmans also congratulated Dr. Holley Roberts on being appointed as the new Chair of the Educator Preparation/Certification committee and Beth Townsend on being reappointed to the Commission.

## **VII. PREVIEW OF REVISED APPROVAL STANDARDS FOR LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE FIELD PROGRAMS**

Dr. Angie Gant presented the revised Approval Standards for Leadership and Service Field Programs. She asked Commissioners if they had any questions or comments. Dr. Gant presented a chart titled "Revised Service/Leader Standards" which were adapted from CAEP's Advanced Standards. This chart listed the current standards and the suggested revised standards. These standards will come before the Commission at the December 9, 2021 meeting for their vote.

## **VIII. 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 reviewed 32 **Probable Cause** cases during their November 3, 2021, meeting and brought the following recommendations on behalf of the committee:

<u>CASE</u>	<u>STANDARDS VIOLATED</u>	<u>RECOMMENDATION</u>	<u>EERC RECOMMENDATION</u>
21-9-345	1, 4, 5a7, 8, 9	Reprimand	Accept
21-2-692	1, 2, 9, 5a7	Revoke	Accept
21-5-1079	2, 9, 5a7	Suspend 20 days	Accept
21-5-1128	7, 9	Reprimand	Accept
21-6-1302	1, 2, 9	Suspend 1 year	Accept
21-6-1343	8, 9, 5a7	Reprimand	Accept
21-7-68	9,5a7	Suspend 90 days	Accept
21-7-69	9	Suspend 90 days	Accept
21-7-77	2, 4, 9	Suspend 10 days	Accept
21-7-95	9	Reprimand	Accept
21-7-96	4, 9, 5a7	Suspend 20 days	Accept
21-7-97	9, 5a7	NPC	Accept
21-8-105	1,4,8,9	Reprimand	Accept
21-8-127	4, 9, 5a7	Suspend 1 year	Accept
21-8-129	1, 5, 9, 5a7	Revoke	Accept
21-8-131	9, 10	Reprimand	Accept
21-8-133	5a2, 5a5, 5a7	Revoke	Accept
21-8-152	1, 2, 9, 5a7	Extend pending criminal outcome	Accept
21-8-153	1,2,9,5a7	Extend pending criminal outcome	Accept
21-8-159	4, 9, 5a7	Suspend 20 days	Accept
21-8-168	2, 7, 9, 5a7	Revoke	Accept
21-8-184	9	Suspend 90 days	Accept
21-8-187	9, 5a7	NPC	Accept
21-8-188	9	NPC	Accept
21-8-189	2, 9, 5a7	NPC	Accept
21-8-191	1, 2, 9, 5a7	Revoke	Accept
21-8-192	1, 2, 9	Suspend 1 year	Accept
21-8-196	1,4,8,9	NPC	Accept
21-8-202	2, 9, 5a7	Suspend 20 days	Accept
21-8-228	1,4,8,9	Reprimand	Accept
21-9-311	4, 5a2,8,9	Reprimand	Accept
21-9-325	1,4,5a7,8,9	Reprimand	Accept

2. Chair Townsend reported that the Educator Ethics Review Committee reviewed 3 *Petitions Issues* and brought the following recommendations on behalf of the Committee:

<u>CASE</u>	<u>PREVIOUS SANCTION</u>	<u>EERC RECOMMENDATION</u>
21-9-269	Voluntary Surrender	Deny
21-9-286	Revocation	Grant
21-9-328	Revocation	Deny

3. Chair Townsend reported that the Educator Ethics Review Committee reviewed 9 *Settlement Agreements* and brought the following recommendations on behalf of the Committee:

<u>CASE</u>	<u>SANCTION</u>	<u>EERC RECOMMENDATION</u>
20-1-1021	Reprimand	Accept
21-4-1030	Reprimand	Accept
21-7-9	Suspension 20 days	Accept
21-7-54	Suspension 90 days	Accept
21-8-128	Reprimand	Accept
21-8-140	Reprimand	Accept
21-8-173	Reprimand	Accept
21-8-248	Reprimand	Accept
21-9-343	Reprimand	Accept

4. Chair Townsend reported that the Educator Ethics Review Committee reviewed 9 *Negotiated Settlement Agreements* and brought the following recommendations on behalf of the Committee:

<u>CASE</u>	<u>NEGOTIATED SANCTION</u>	<u>EERC RECOMMENDATION</u>
17-6-1638	Suspend 30 days	Accept
18-3-1270	Reprimand	Accept
19-4-1452	Suspend 10 days	Accept
19-8-258	Reprimand	Accept
19-8-335	Suspend 90 days	Accept
20-1-934	Reprimand	Accept
21-2-658	Suspend 5 days	Accept
21-2-711	Reprimand	Accept
21-3-870	Suspend 75 days	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>
PCA 21-10-441	Reprimand	Accept

6. The Educator Ethics Review Committee recommended approval of the *Preliminary Investigative Determination Report* consisting of 52 new complaints received during the months of October and November 2021.

#### 7. **VOLUNTARY SURRENDER**

The Educator Ethics Review Committee recommended approval of the Voluntary Surrender 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>
21-9-352	2, 9, 5a7	Voluntary Surrender	Accept

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

The Educator Ethics Review Committee recommended approval of the 43 *Extensions - Preliminary Investigative Determinations* consisting of the following:

21-10-450	21-10-456	21-10-479	21-10-485	21-10-497	21-10-503	21-11-512	21-11-518
21-10-451	21-10-466	21-10-480	21-10-486	21-10-498	21-10-504	21-11-513	
21-10-452	21-10-467	21-10-481	21-10-487	21-10-499	21-10-505	21-11-514	
21-10-453	21-10-468	21-10-482	21-10-494	21-10-500	21-10-506	21-11-515	
21-10-454	21-10-469	21-10-483	21-10-495	21-10-501	21-10-507	21-11-516	
21-10-455	21-10-473	21-10-484	21-10-496	21-10-502	21-10-511	21-11-517	

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

The Educator Ethics Review Committee recommended granting an *Investigative Extension* to the following 349 cases:

<b><u>WRITTEN COMPLAINT EXTENSIONS</u></b>							
19-2-1106	20-2-1261	20-5-1578	20-8-150	20-12-519	21-3-879	21-5-1181	21-8-107
19-6-1875	20-3-1313	20-5-1579	20-8-154	20-12-524	21-3-883	21-5-1185	21-8-108
19-7-94	20-3-1315	20-5-1585	20-8-177	20-12-541	21-3-887	21-5-1188	21-8-112
19-7-97	20-3-1316	20-5-1587	20-8-178	20-12-547	21-3-892	21-5-1190	21-8-115
19-7-100	20-3-1318	20-5-1590	20-8-180	20-12-551	21-3-903	21-6-1203	21-8-118
19-7-107	20-3-1319	20-5-1594	20-8-183	20-12-552	21-3-904	21-6-1216	21-8-123
19-7-128	20-3-1321	20-5-1597	20-8-190	20-12-553	21-3-905	21-6-1224	21-8-125
19-7-138	20-3-1322	20-5-1601	20-8-191	20-12-558	21-3-906	21-6-1229	21-8-126
19-7-142	20-3-1325	20-5-1602	20-8-193	21-1-605	21-3-920	21-6-1235	21-8-132
19-7-154	20-3-1326	20-5-1604	20-8-195	21-1-610	21-3-926	21-6-1236	21-8-137
19-8-242	20-3-1330	20-6-1675	20-8-196	21-1-616	21-3-928	21-6-1241	21-8-141
19-9-376	20-3-1331	20-6-1692	20-8-201	21-1-617	21-3-929	21-6-1261	21-8-144
19-9-390	20-3-1335	20-6-1695	20-9-259	21-1-619	21-4-963	21-6-1280	21-8-145
19-9-400	20-3-1338	20-6-1698	20-9-261	21-1-629	21-4-966	21-6-1292	21-8-147
19-9-464	20-3-1379	20-6-1702	20-10-323	21-1-646	21-4-969	21-6-1295	21-8-150
19-9-488	20-3-1384	20-6-1705	20-10-335	21-2-661	21-4-984	21-6-1298	21-8-151
19-10-534	20-3-1386	20-6-1706	20-10-336	21-2-663	21-4-986	21-6-1299	21-8-154
19-10-589	20-3-1387	20-6-1707	20-10-337	21-2-666	21-4-994	21-6-1316	21-8-155
19-10-596	20-3-1411	20-6-1719	20-10-338	21-2-670	21-4-1012	21-6-1317	21-8-158
19-10-609	20-3-1413	20-6-1722	20-10-339	21-2-677	21-4-1027	21-6-1325	21-8-176
19-10-661	20-3-1417	20-7-41	20-10-340	21-2-679	21-4-1031	21-6-1326	21-8-177
19-10-674	20-4-1449	20-7-44	20-10-341	21-2-686	21-4-1032	21-6-1326	21-8-178
19-10-683	20-4-1450	20-7-45	20-10-343	21-2-687	21-4-1034	21-6-1328	21-8-179
19-10-689	20-4-1453	20-7-46	20-10-346	21-2-695	21-5-1039	21-6-1331	21-8-182
19-11-800	20-4-1454	20-7-48	20-10-347	21-2-698	21-5-1041	21-6-1333	21-8-198
19-12-857	20-4-1455	20-7-54	20-10-352	21-2-709	21-5-1042	21-6-1341	21-8-199
20-1-1047	20-4-1464	20-7-57	20-10-353	21-2-744	21-5-1046	21-7-5	21-8-210
20-1-1057	20-4-1465	20-7-59	20-10-357	21-2-745	21-5-1052	21-7-12	21-8-211
20-1-1060	20-4-1467	20-7-62	20-10-360	21-2-748	21-5-1053	21-7-16	21-8-212

<b>WRITTEN COMPLAINT EXTENSIONS</b>							
20-1-1062	20-4-1468	20-7-66	20-10-364	21-2-751	21-5-1065	21-7-27	21-8-213
20-1-1069	20-4-1469	20-7-67	20-10-396	21-2-756	21-5-1087	21-7-30	21-8-215
20-1-1080	20-5-1488	20-7-68	20-10-397	21-2-771	21-5-1101	21-7-35	21-8-216
20-1-1081	20-5-1534	20-7-69	20-10-402	21-3-785	21-5-1105	21-7-46	21-8-230
20-1-1086	20-5-1546	20-7-70	20-10-403	21-3-786	21-5-1106	21-7-56	21-8-232
20-1-1089	20-5-1551	20-7-75	20-10-404	21-3-794	21-5-1107	21-7-59	21-8-237
20-1-1090	20-5-1556	20-7-83	20-10-406	21-3-795	21-5-1111	21-7-63	21-8-238
20-1-1091	20-5-1557	20-7-94	20-11-418	21-3-808	21-5-1112	21-7-71	21-8-240
20-1-1096	20-5-1558	20-7-97	20-11-439	21-3-815	21-5-1113	21-7-73	21-8-241
20-1-1103	20-5-1562	20-7-98	20-11-440	21-3-818	21-5-1114	21-7-74	21-8-242
20-1-1105	20-5-1567	20-7-99	20-11-478	21-3-822	21-5-1117	21-7-82	21-8-245
20-2-1178	20-5-1571	20-7-100	20-11-479	21-3-827	21-5-1124	21-7-84	21-8-246
20-2-1179	20-5-1572	20-7-104	20-11-493	21-3-832	21-5-1135	21-7-86	
20-2-1250	20-5-1575	20-8-117	20-11-498	21-3-836	21-5-1174	21-7-87	
20-2-1254	20-5-1576	20-8-119	20-11-509	21-3-852	21-5-1178	21-8-104	

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

The Educator Ethics Review Committee recommended to approve a no probable cause determination on 17 cases reflected on the *Applications for Certification Report*.

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

The Commission reviewed the report, which advised of 12 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 presented by Chair, Beth Townsend.

**PSC ACTION:** Approved

Abstentions: Dr. Steve Barker – 21-10-431, Derek Easterling – 21-10-397, 21-10-430, 21-10-435, Jeanine Bunn – 21-10-403, 21-10-408, 21-10-417, 21-10-437, Dr. Franklin Perry – 21-9-359, 21-9-374, Jane Rookard – All Cases, Kedrione Harris – All Cases, Nathan Lewis – All Cases

**B. Educator Preparation Standing Committee** – This committee did not meet in November 2021.

#### IX. **ADJOURNMENT**

Our next Commission meeting will be held on Thursday, December 9<sup>th</sup>. We will meet in-person at 200 Piedmont Avenue, West Tower, Suite 1716, Atlanta, Georgia 30334, and virtually at 10:00 am. Log-in information will be posted on our website under Commission Information closer to the date. The Educator Ethics Review Committee and Educator Preparation/Certification Standing Committee meeting will meet on Wednesday, December 8<sup>th</sup>, at 4:00 pm. Chair Sirmans called for the meeting to be adjourned at 4:27 p.m.

**PSC ACTION:** Approved