

# MINUTES

## PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS COMMISSION

Two Piedmont Avenue

Atlanta, Georgia

February 12, 2015

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

### Members Present

Dr. Jim Barrett

Lauren Eckman

Dr. Penny Elkins

Phil Jacobs

David Johnson

Scott Justus

Henry Kelly

Kamila Luigs

Valerie Mateen

Christy McGill

Carol Rivera

David Smith

Sheryl Stalvey

Bettina Polite Tate

Dr. Martha Venn

Dr. Lawrence Walters

Pam Walker

### Members Absent

Terrie Ponder

## **I. WORK SESSION**

- Katherine Bassett, CEO of the national Network of State Teachers of the Year, presented the following:
  - a) An update on Teacher Leadership from a national perspective
  - b) Update of the national Code of Ethics
  - c) NNSTOY Chapter in Georgia
  - d) State Teacher Fellows Program
- Anne Marie Fenton and Dr. David Hill presented the following rules to preview. They will move forward for a March initiation.

#### Ethics:

505-6-.01 THE CODE OF ETHICS FOR EDUCATORS – amend

To make changes in terminology.

#### Educator Preparation:

505-3-.102 SPECIAL EDUCATION VISUAL IMPAIRMENT ENDORSEMENT PROGRAM – amend

The certification rule requires Special Education certification to enter a VI Endorsement Program, but the prep rule does not. The prep rule needs to be amended to require Special Ed. Certification for program admission.

505-3-.71 SPEECH AND LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY PROGRAM – repeal and initiate

Program standards have been updated to align with national standards, and there has been a change in requirements.

505-3-.105 TEACHER SUPPORT AND COACHING (TSC) ENDORSEMENT – amend

To include the policy and procedures for current holders of TSS Endorsement to convert to the TSC Endorsement. The revised rule is intended to include a phase-in timeline for converting to the TSC Endorsement.

Certification:

505-2-.90 CAREER AND TECHNICAL SPECIALIZATIONS – amend

To clarify the assessment requirements for several areas and to create a new area of specialization to accommodate a new set of courses that have been adopted by the Georgia Board of Education.

505-2-.04 INDUCTION CERTIFICATE – amend

To clarify the GPA requirement for Induction Pathway 4 certificates.

505-2-.27 CERTIFICATION APPLICATION PROCEDURES - amend

To clarify the verification of lawful presence requirement and update the name of a required form.

505-2-.40 IN-FIELD ASSIGNMENT

To amend a reference to a rule that has a new name.

505-2-.36 RENEWAL REQUIREMENTS – rescind and initiate

To change renewal requirements starting with certificates expiring in 2018.

- Kelly informed the Commissioners that they would be receiving a legislative update from Kristina Stroede and asked Commissioners to send in topics that they would like to discuss at the Commission retreat.
- Kelly also recognized Pam Williams, former Commissioner, for chairing one of the sub-committees of the Governor’s Educational Reform Commission and wished her well.
- Chair Elkins spoke briefly about STEM certification and the possibility of Georgia leading the nation. She thanked Penney McRoy for her time and advice on gathering data for this project.

**II. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Elkins 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.

**III. ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

Chair Dr. Elkins called for approval of the agenda.

**MOTION:** (kami Luigs / Pam Walker) To approve the agenda.

**PSC ACTION:** Approved

**IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Chair Elkins called for approval of the minutes from the January 8, 2015, Commission meeting.

**PSC ACTION:** Approved

## V. VISITORS

Chair Dr. Elkins welcomed the visitors.

- Leonard Williams, Professional Association of Georgia Educators
- Karen Solheim, Georgia Association of Educators (GAE)
- Linda Fortson, Warren Fortson Law Office
- Kris brown, Orr
- Jody Grogan, Georgia Association of Educators (GAE)

## VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

Chair Pam Walker of the Educator Ethics Review Committee (EERC), gave a preliminary review of the Cases.

1. Ms. Walker reported that the Committee reviewed 37 **Probable Cause** cases during its February 12, 2015, meeting and brought the following recommendations on behalf of the Committee:

<u>CASE</u>	<u>STANDARDS VIOLATED</u>	<u>EERC RECOMMENDATION</u>
14-7-82	1, 10	NPC
14-7-121	4,10	Deny
14-8-164	1	Reprimand
14-9-184	1	Reprimand
14-10-303	1, 10	Deny
14-10-313	1	NPC
14-10-331	1	Reprimand
12-8-263	5, 6, 10	Suspension - 90 days
13-11-370	4,5,10	Suspension - 1 year
13-12-375	2,10	Revoke
13-12-408	2,4,5,7,10	Suspension - 20 days
14-1-480	4,10	Suspension - 90 days
14-5-898	4,7,10,11	Suspension - 2 years
14-6-939	1,2,10	Revoke
14-6-1002	10, 11	Reprimand
14-7-97	5,10	Reprimand
14-7-109	1,4,9,10	Reprimand
14-7-110	1, 10	Revoke
14-9-183	1	Reprimand
14-9-228	1,4,9	NPC
14-9-244	10	NPC

<u>CASE</u>	<u>STANDARDS VIOLATED</u>	<u>EERC RECOMMENDATION</u>
14-9-266	1,4,9	Suspension - 20 days
14-9-276	1, 4, 9	Reprimand
14-10-289	1,4,10	Suspension - 1 year
14-10-347	1,2,10	Revoke
14-10-348	3,4,10	Suspension - 90 days
14-10-354	1,2,10	Revoke
14-10-357	1,4,9,10	Suspension - 5 days
14-11-372	2,10	Suspension - 90 days
14-11-376	2,10	Suspension - 30 days
14-11-385	4, 10	Suspension - 20 days
14-11-389	1,2,10	Revoke
14-11-399	4,8,10	NPC
14-11-403	8,10	NPC
14-11-425	2,10	Suspension - 60 days
14-12-438	1,2,10	Revoke
14-12-489	1,9,10	Revoke

2. Ms. Walker reported that the Educator Ethics Review Committee reviewed 1 *Petitions Issue* and brought the following recommendation on behalf of the Committee:

<u>CASE</u>	<u>PREVIOUS SANCTION</u>	<u>EERC RECOMMENDATION</u>
14-11-388	Revocation March 2011	Deny

3. Ms. Walker reported that the Educator Ethics Review Committee reviewed 6 *Settlement Agreements* and brought the following recommendations on behalf of the Committee:

<u>CASE</u>	<u>SANCTION</u>	<u>EERC RECOMMEND</u>
12-2-901	Suspension - 15 days	Accept
14-5-884	Suspension - 90 days	Accept
14-6-980	Deny	Accept
14-9-269	Suspension - 1 year	Accept
14-9-284	Suspension - 1 year	Accept
14-11-375	Suspension - 2 years	Accept

4. Ms. Walker reported that the Educator Ethics Review Committee reviewed 19 *Negotiated Settlement Agreements* and brought the following recommendations on behalf of the Committee:

<u>CASE</u>	<u>NEGOTIATED SANCTION</u>	<u>EERC RECOMMEND</u>
08-7-95	Reprimand	Accept

<u>CASE</u>	<u>NEGOTIATED SANCTION</u>	<u>EERC RECOMMEND</u>
09-9-315	NPC	Accept
11-8-122	Reprimand	Accept
11-8-227	NPC	Accept
12-5-1241	Suspension - 20 days	Accept
12-5-1251	Suspension - 60 days	Accept
12-7-70	Suspension - 10 days	Accept
13-1-640	Suspension - 2 years	Accept
13-2-757	Suspension - 1 year	Accept
13-4-987	Suspension - 20 days	Accept
13-4-1007	Reprimand	Accept
13-5-1096	Warning	Accept
13-6-1196	Suspension - 5 days	Accept
14-1-469	Suspension - 110 days	Accept
14-1-474	Suspension - 60 days	Accept
14-3-592	Reprimand	<b>Reject</b>
14-5-882	NPC	Accept
14-7-33	Suspension - 50 days	Accept
14-7-132	Warning	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>
PCE 14-3-638	Educator deceased	Admin Closure

6. The Educator Ethics Review Committee recommended approval of the *Preliminary Investigative Determination Report* consisting of 61 new complaints received during the months of January and February 2015.

**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>
14-12-451	1, 5, 10	Voluntary Surrender	Accept

**8. EXTENSIONS – PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATIVE DETERMINATIONS**

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

15-1-544	15-1-553	15-2-610	15-2-619	15-2-628	15-2-637	15-2-649	15-2-660
15-1-545	15-1-554	15-2-611	15-2-620	15-2-629	15-2-638	15-2-650	15-2-661
15-1-546	15-1-555	15-2-612	15-2-621	15-2-630	15-2-639	15-2-651	15-2-662
15-1-547	15-1-556	15-2-613	15-2-622	15-2-631	15-2-640	15-2-652	
15-1-548	15-1-589	15-2-614	15-2-623	15-2-632	15-2-641	15-2-653	
15-1-549	15-2-606	15-2-615	15-2-624	15-2-633	15-2-644	15-2-654	
15-1-550	15-2-607	15-2-616	15-2-625	15-2-634	15-2-646	15-2-655	
15-1-551	15-2-608	15-2-617	15-2-626	15-2-635	15-2-647	15-2-656	
15-1-552	15-2-609	15-2-618	15-2-627	15-2-636	15-2-648	15-2-657	

## 9. EXTENSIONS - INVESTIGATIONS

The Educator Ethics Review Committee recommended granting and *Investigative Extension* to the following 174 cases:

<b>WRITTEN COMPLAINT EXTENSIONS</b>							
11-8-130	13-3-865	13-12-373	14-4-723	14-6-938	14-8-136	14-9-244	14-10-350
11-8-200	13-3-869	13-12-376	14-4-737	14-6-940	14-8-139	14-9-245	14-10-353
11-9-337	13-3-878	13-12-377	14-4-744	14-6-942	14-8-139	14-9-255	14-10-353
11-9-343	13-3-891	13-12-379	14-4-752	14-6-944	14-8-142	14-9-256	14-10-359
11-9-392	13-4-983	13-12-423	14-4-757	14-6-950	14-8-149	14-9-267	14-10-361
11-9-398	13-4-1016	13-12-424	14-4-762	14-6-964	14-8-149	14-9-268	14-10-362
11-9-399	13-5-1032	13-12-425	14-4-766	14-6-969	14-8-151	14-9-270	14-10-363
11-9-402	13-5-1043	14-1-444	14-4-767	14-6-971	14-8-156	14-9-271	14-10-364
11-9-455	13-5-1049	14-2-516	14-4-772	14-6-1036	14-8-156	14-9-272	14-10-365
11-9-456	13-5-1076	14-2-558	14-4-778	14-6-1037	14-8-157	14-9-277	14-10-368
11-9-457	13-6-1176	14-2-570	14-5-819	14-7-22	14-8-169	14-10-286	14-11-370
11-9-458	13-6-1199	14-2-575	14-5-826	14-7-38	14-8-172	14-10-293	14-11-371
11-9-459	13-6-1207	14-3-581	14-5-829	14-7-54	14-8-174	14-10-300	14-11-373
11-12-702	13-6-1209	14-3-583	14-5-830	14-7-66	14-8-178	14-10-304	14-11-379
12-4-1120	13-6-1231	14-3-593	14-5-838	14-7-67	14-8-179	14-10-305	14-11-382
12-4-1133	13-6-1241	14-3-633	14-5-863	14-7-68	14-9-189	14-10-307	14-11-386
12-7-111	13-8-56	14-3-635	14-5-891	14-7-69	14-9-212	14-10-308	14-11-392
12-7-112	13-9-192	14-3-644	14-5-897	14-7-107	14-9-216	14-10-321	14-11-396
12-11-530	13-10-239	14-3-645	14-5-903	14-7-107	14-9-217	14-10-321	14-11-398
13-2-759	13-11-312	14-3-654	14-5-905	14-7-121	14-9-218	14-10-340	14-11-400
13-2-778	13-11-327	14-3-655	14-5-909	14-7-123	14-9-218	14-10-341	
13-3-838	13-11-356	14-3-680	14-5-914	14-7-135	14-9-219	14-10-349	

## 10. APPLICATIONS FOR CERTIFICATION REPORT

The Educator Ethics Review Committee recommended to approve a no probable cause determination on 22 cases reflected on the *Applications for Certification Report*.

## 11. FINAL DECISIONS BY OPERATION OF LAW

The Commission reviewed the report, which advised of 5 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.

12. **FINAL DECISIONS**

Ms. Walker reported that the Educator Ethics Review Committee reviewed 1 *Final Decision* and brought the following recommendation on behalf of the Committee:

CASE	ORIGINAL SANCTION	ALJ SANCTION	EERC RECOMMENDATION
14-4-817	Suspension 1 year	Suspension 30 days	Accept

Chair Elkins called for approval of the Educator Ethics Review Committee report as presented by Pam Walker excluding case #'s 13-11-370, 13-4-1007, 13-1-640 and 14-11-376.

**PSC ACTION:** Approved

Abstention: Scott Justus – 13-6-1196, Bettina Polite-Tate –14-1-474, Kami Luigs – 09-9-315, 11-8-122, 11-8-227, 14-5-882, 14-11-425, 14-7-97, 14-12-497, 15-1-511, 15-1-562, 15-1-582, 15-1-583, Pam Walker – 15-1-519, 15-1-520, 15-1-521, 15-1-522, 12-5-1241, 12-5-1251, Valerie Mateen, 14-7-132, 13-11-370, 14-12-500, 15-1-564, Christy McGill – 14-7-132, 13-11-370, 14-12-500, 15-1-564

**Probable Cause Case # 13-11-370**

**MOTION:** (Jim Barrett/ Bettina Polite-Tate) To accept the EERC’s recommendation of a 1-Year Suspension.

**PSC ACTION:** Approved

Abstention: Valerie Mateen, Christy McGill

Opposed: Phil Jacobs, David Smith, Kami Luigs, Dr. Larry Walters

**Negotiated Consent Order Case # 13-4-1007**

**MOTION:** (Kami Luigs / Phil Jacobs) To reject the EERC’s recommendation to accept the Negotiated Consent Order of a Reprimand.

**PSC ACTION:** Approved

**Negotiated Consent Order Case # 13-1-640**

**MOTION:** (Kami Luigs / Phil Jacobs) To reject the EERC’s recommendation to accept the Negotiated Consent Order of a 2 Year Suspension.

**PSC ACTION:** Approved

Opposed: David Smith, Jim Barrett, Bettina Polite-Tate, Henry Kelly, Pam Walker

**Probable Cause Case # 14-11-376**

**MOTION:** (Valerie Mateen / Lauren Eckman) To accept the EERC’s recommendation of a 30 Day Suspension.

**PSC ACTION:** Approved

Opposed: Phil Jacobs, Bettina Polite-Tate, Dr. Martha Venn, Christy McGill, Carol Rivera, Scott Justus

**B. Educator Preparation Standing Committee**

Committee Vice-Chair, Phil Jacobs, presented the report of the Educator Preparation Standing Committee.

	EPP	February 2015 Detailed Approval Recommendations
1.	Fulton County Schools	<p>The Committee recommends Continuing Approval of Fulton County Schools, and two educator preparation programs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• GaTaPP, Initial, Certification-only Program</li> <li>• Gifted In-field Endorsement Program</li> </ul>
2.	Liberty University	<p>The Committee recommends Denial of Approval for the following educator preparation programs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Educational Leadership (P-12; Initial; Ed.S.; PL6) Building-level</li> <li>• Educational Leadership (P-12; Initial; Ed.D.; PL7) Building-level</li> </ul> <p>GaPSC staff will send a letter to Liberty University strongly recommending the EPP provide notification to each Georgia candidate enrolled in the Educational Leadership program of the denial of approval for the Georgia Performance-based Educational Leadership programs.</p>

Chair Elkins called for approval of the Educator Preparation/Certification Committee report as presented by Vice Chair Phil Jacobs.

**PSC ACTION:** Approved

**VII. ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Dr. Elkins called for the meeting to be adjourned at 1:10 p.m.

**PSC ACTION:** Approved