#### **MINUTES**

# PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS COMMISSION Remote Meeting via TEAMS Platform

January 14, 2021

The Georgia Professional Standards Commission (PSC) met on Thursday, January 14, 2021.

## **Members Present**

Jimmy AtkinsJordan FrobosBrian SirmansDr. Steve BarkerDiane McClearenBeth TownsendJeanine BunnDr. Franklin PerryDr. Jennifer WadeAbigail CogginDr. Holley RobertsCarol Williams

Daniel Dooley Teri Schneider
Derek Easterling Dr. Brandon Seigler

### **Members Absent**

Dr. Karla Hull Barbara Ellingson

## I. <u>CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL</u>

Chair Sirmans called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m. and Commissioners answered roll call for attendance.

## II. <u>VISITORS</u>

Chair Sirmans welcomed the visitors.

## III. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Chair Sirmans called for approval of the agenda.

**MOTION:** (Beth Townsend / Dr. Holley Roberts) To approve the agenda.

**PSC ACTION:** Approved

## IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chair Sirmans called for approval of the December 10, 2020, minutes.

**PSC ACTION**: Approved

#### V. EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT

Matt Arthur announced the following:

1. Brian has been nominated by Governor Kemp and Superintendent Woods to serve on the Academic Review Committee. This committee serves as an oversight committee that will review the survey analysis, recommendations of the Working and Citizens Review Committees, and charge of the Governor and State School Superintendent to approve draft recommendations for revision and/or make

- additional recommendations. They are meeting January 12<sup>th</sup> and we hope to hear about their work from Brian at our next Commission meeting. Congratulations!
- 2. Dr. Jennifer Wade's husband, Will Wade (Republican Party) was sworn into the Georgia House of Representatives, representing District 9 today. His current term ends on January 8, 2023. He resigned from Dawson County School Board on March 6th of 2020. He has spent his entire career as a community banker with a focus on real estate, executive management, and commercial lending. We wish him the best.
- 3. Our April 8<sup>th</sup> Commission meeting will be held in the Department of Education's boardroom (2070 East Tower) at 200 Piedmont Avenue. More details will follow as we get closer to the meeting date.
- 4. Thank you for responding to the email asking what topics that you would like to learn more about. One of the topics was Provisional certification and Dr. Kelli Young will present a short presentation.

## VI. CHAIR REPORT

The next order of business will be the Chair Report. We received many suggestions from Commissioners and one was the desire to meet PSC staff. The PSC has 70 employees so we are going to meet some members of each division each month. Today we are going to meet members from the Educator Ethics division. Chair Sirmans called upon the following employees who spoke briefly about their position and interests: Dr. Paul Shaw, Director of Educator Ethics, Gina Ahlberg, Lead Investigator, Tanis Miller, Legal Counsel, Bill Van Hoose, Investigator, Kim Anderson, Case Management Coordinator

## VII. RULES ADOPTION

Anne Marie Fenton asked Commissioners to initiate the rule making process for the rules that were previewed during the December 10<sup>th</sup> Commission meeting. If adopted, these rules will be scheduled to become effective April 15, 2021. Commissioners previously received the Initiate Rules Packet that contained 5 proposed Certification Rules and 2 proposed ethics or (Professional Practices) rules.

**MOTION:** (Teri Schneider / Dr. Brandon Seigler) To: (1) amend the current rules in Chapter 505-2- Certification, effective April 15, 2021, as follows: 505-2-.24, 505-2-.36, and 505-2-.177; (2) repeal the current rules in Chapter 505-2- Certification, effective April 15, 2021, as follows: 505-2-.37, and 505-2-.187; (3) initiate the current rule in Chapter 505-6- Professional Practices, effective April 15, 2021, as follows: 505-2-.187; (4) amend the current rule in Chapter 505-6-Professional Practices, effective April 15, 2021, as follows: 505-6.01; (5) repeal the current rule in Chapter 505-6-Professional Practices, effective April 15, 2021, as follows: 505-6-.02; and (6) initiating the current rule in Chapter 505-6- Professional Practices, effective April 15, 2021, as follows: 505-6.02.

**PSC ACTION:** Approved

## 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 55 *Probable Cause* cases during the January 14, 2021, meeting and brought the following recommendations on behalf of the committee:

CASE	STANDARDS VIOLATED	RECOMMENDATION	EERC RECOMMENDATION
20-8-200	1,5a7	NPC	Accept
20-9-255	1,5a7	Reprimand	Accept
20-9-257	1,5a7	Reprimand	Accept
20-9-273	1, 5a7	Reprimand	Accept
20-9-296	1, 5a7	NPC	Accept
20-10-324	1,4,5a7	Reprimand	Accept
20-11-433	1,5a7	NPC	Accept
20-11-462	1,4,8, 5a7	NPC	Accept
20-11-491	1, 5a7	Reprimand	Accept
20-11-492	1, 5a7	Reprimand	Accept
19-6-1929	1,4,5a7,8,9	Suspension 20 days	Accept
19-7-86	5 & 9	Suspension 1 year	Accept
20-1-920	4, 9, 5a7	Suspension 20 days	Accept
20-2-1132	2, 9, 5a7	NPC	Accept
20-2-1265	9, 5a7	Suspension 90 days	Accept
20-2-1268	1,4,8,9	Suspension 20 days	Accept
20-2-1293	1,4,9,5a7	Suspension 2 years	Accept
20-3-1357	2, 9, 5a7	Reprimand	Accept
20-3-1408	1, 2, 9, 5a7	Revoke	Accept
20-4-1434	5a2, 5a7	Reprimand	Accept
20-4-1466	1,5a7,8,9	Suspension 20 days	Accept
20-4-1472	2, 9, 5a7	Revoke	Accept
20-6-1618	1, 4, 9, 5a7	Suspension 20 days	Accept
20-6-1720	1,4,5a7,8,9	Suspension 20 days	Accept
20-7-4	3, 9, 5a7	Suspension 1 year	Accept
20-7-16	5a2, 5a5, 5a7	Revoke	Accept
20-8-145	1,4,5a7,8,9	Suspension 20 days	Accept
20-9-221	4, 8, 9, 5a2, 5a7	Suspension 20 days	Accept
20-9-268	1, 2, 9, 5a7	Revoke	Accept
20-9-272	1, 4, 8, 9, 5a7	Suspension 20 days	Accept
20-9-281	4, 9, 5a7	Suspension 90 days	Accept
20-9-282	2, 4, 9, 5a7	Suspension 10 days	Accept
20-9-291	9, 5a7	Reprimand	Accept
20-9-295	7, 9, 5a7	Reprimand	Accept
20-10-307	4, 9, 5a7	NPC	Accept
20-10-313	1,2,3,9, 5a7	Suspension 1 year	Accept
20-10-316	2,4,9,5a7	Suspension 2 years	Accept
20-10-375	2, 9, 5a7	Suspension 20 days	Accept
20-10-385	3,9,5a7	Suspension 1 year	Accept
20-10-388	1,8,9,5a7	Suspension 1 year	Accept

CASE	STANDARDS VIOLATED	RECOMMENDATION	EERC RECOMMENDATION
20-10-390	2, 9, 5a7	Suspension 5 days	Accept
20-10-391	2, 9, 5a7	Suspension 20 days	Accept
20-10-392	2, 9, 5a7	Suspension 2 years	Accept
20-10-400	1,8,9,5a7	Reprimand	Accept
20-10-410	1,4,5a7,8,9	Suspension 20 days	Accept
20-11-419	9, 5a7	Suspension 10 days	Accept
20-11-420	6, 9, 5a7	NPC	Accept
20-11-421	6,9,5a7	Suspension 20 days	Accept
20-11-436	1,4,5a7,8,9	NPC	Accept
20-11-446	3, 9, 5a7	Suspension 1 year	Accept
20-11-465	2, 4, 9, 5a7	Suspension 20 days	Accept
20-11-466	2,9,5a7	Suspension 90 days	Accept
20-11-468	2, 9, 5a7	Suspension 5 days	Accept
20-11-485	3,9,5a7	Suspension 1 year	Accept
20-11-486	4, 9, 5a7	Revoke	Accept

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

CASE	PREVIOUS SANCTION	EERC RECOMMENDATION
20-1-991	Revocation	Deny
20-8-109	Voluntary Surrender	Deny

3. Chair Townsend reported that the Educator Ethics Review Committee reviewed 15 *Settlement Agreements* and brought the following recommendations on behalf of the Committee:

CASE	SANCTION	EERC RECOMMEND	
20-2-1249	Reprimand	Accept	
20-3-1401	Reprimand	Accept	
20-6-1703	Reprimand	Accept	
20-6-1714	Suspension 20 days	Accept	
20-7-87	Reprimand	Accept	
20-8-156	Reprimand	Accept	
20-8-167	Reprimand	Accept	
20-8-204	Suspension 20 days	Accept	
20-9-208	Suspension 1 year	Accept	
20-9-213	Suspension 20 days	Accept	
20-9-233	Suspension 90 days	Accept	
20-9-236	Suspension 90 days	Accept	
20-9-283	Reprimand	Accept	
20-9-292	Reprimand	Accept	

CASE	<u>SANCTION</u>	EERC RECOMMEND
20-10-326	Reprimand	Accept

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

CASE	NEGOTIATED SANCTION	EERC RECOMMENDATION
17-6-1636	Suspension 20 days	Accept
18-6-1597	Suspension 10 days	Accept
18-6-1719	Suspension 1 year 2 months	Accept
18-10-463	Reprimand	Accept
19-1-956	Reprimand	Accept
19-6-1774	Warning	Accept
19-7-66	Revocation	Accept
19-7-175	Suspension 3 days	Accept
19-8-283	Suspension 120 days	Accept
19-8-287	Suspension 3 days	Accept
19-11-729	Suspension 10 days	Accept
19-12-822	Suspension 2 years	Accept
20-1-956	Suspension 1 year	Accept
20-2-1133	Reprimand	Accept
20-2-1194	Suspension 160 days	Accept
20-2-1224	Reprimand	Accept
20-4-1426	Reprimand	Accept
20-5-1607	Suspension 30 days	Accept
20-7-31	Suspension 6 days	Accept

# 5. OTHER BUSINESS

The Educator Ethics Review Committee recommended approval of the *Other Business Report* as follows:

CASE	FINDINGS OF FACTS	EERC RECOMMENDATION
NCO 20-5-1523	Suspension 90 days	Accept
20-1-1064	Failure to respond.	Hold New App
20-7-76	Failed to provide requested docs.	Hold New App
20-7-77	Failed to provide requested docs.	Hold New App
20-7-79	Failure to respond.	Hold New App
20-7-90	Failure to respond.	Hold New App
20-7-91	Failure to respond.	Hold New App
20-7-92	Failed to provide requested docs.	Hold New App
20-7-93	Failed to provide requested docs.	Hold New App
20-8-158	Failed to provide requested docs.	Hold New App
20-8-161	Failure to respond.	Hold New App

CASE	FINDINGS OF FACTS	EERC RECOMMENDATION
20-8-164	Failure to respond.	Hold New App
20-8-165	Failed to provide requested docs.	Hold New App
20-8-169	Failure to respond.	Hold New App
20-8-176	Failure to respond.	Hold New App
20-8-199	Failure to respond.	Hold New App
20-8-201	Failure to respond.	Hold New App
20-8-202	Failure to respond.	Hold New App
20-8-205	Failure to respond.	Hold New App
20-9-253	Failure to respond.	Hold New App
20-9-258	Failure to respond.	Hold New App
20-9-264	Failed to provide requested docs.	Hold New App
20-9-266	Failure to respond.	Hold New App
20-9-274	Failure to respond.	Hold New App
20-10-319	Failure to respond.	Hold New App
20-10-321	Failed to provide requested docs.	Hold New App
20-10-322	Failure to respond.	Hold New App
20-10-325	Failure to respond.	Hold New App
20-10-358	Failed to provide requested docs.	Hold New App
20-10-398	Failed to provide requested docs.	Hold New App

6. The Educator Ethics Review Committee recommended approval of the *Preliminary Investigative Determination Report* consisting of 46 new complaints received during the months of December 2020 and January 2021.

## 7. **VOLUNTARY SURRENDER**

The Educator Ethics Review Committee recommended approval of 1 *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.

CASE	STANDARDS VIOLATED	SANCTION	EERC RECOMMENDATION
20-11-461	5a2, 5a7	VS	Accept

## 8. EXTENSIONS – PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATIVE DETERMINATIONS

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

20-12-531	20-12-537	21-1-573	21-1-579	21-1-585	21-1-592	21-1-598	21-1-604
20-12-532	20-12-538	21-1-574	21-1-580	21-1-586	21-1-593	21-1-599	
20-12-533	21-1-569	21-1-575	21-1-581	21-1-588	21-1-594	21-1-600	
20-12-534	21-1-570	21-1-576	21-1-582	21-1-589	21-1-595	21-1-601	
20-12-535	21-1-571	21-1-577	21-1-583	21-1-590	21-1-596	21-1-602	
20-12-536	21-1-572	21-1-578	21-1-584	21-1-591	21-1-597	21-1-603	

9. <u>EXTENSIONS - INVESTIGATIONS</u>
The Educator Ethics Review Committee recommended granting an *Investigative Extension* to the following 378 cases:

	WRITTEN COMPLAINT EXTENSIONS							
19-1-946	19-7-94	19-10-597	20-2-1254	20-5-1519	20-6-1722	20-8-172	20-10-343	
19-1-961	19-7-95	19-10-599	20-2-1261	20-5-1521	20-7-6	20-8-177	20-10-344	
19-1-963	19-7-97	19-10-609	20-3-1313	20-5-1534	20-7-17	20-8-178	20-10-346	
19-2-1073	19-7-98	19-10-657	20-3-1315	20-5-1535	20-7-27	20-8-179	20-10-347	
19-2-1106	19-7-100	19-10-661	20-3-1316	20-5-1546	20-7-36	20-8-180	20-10-348	
19-3-1277	19-7-102	19-10-672	20-3-1318	20-5-1551	20-7-37	20-8-182	20-10-349	
19-3-1287	19-7-103	19-10-674	20-3-1319	20-5-1556	20-7-41	20-8-183	20-10-352	
19-4-1400	19-7-105	19-10-683	20-3-1321	20-5-1557	20-7-44	20-8-184	20-10-353	
19-4-1402	19-7-106	19-10-689	20-3-1322	20-5-1558	20-7-45	20-8-185	20-10-354	
19-4-1545	19-7-107	19-11-752	20-3-1325	20-5-1561	20-7-46	20-8-190	20-10-355	
19-5-1613	19-7-128	19-11-800	20-3-1326	20-5-1562	20-7-47	20-8-191	20-10-356	
19-5-1616	19-7-138	19-12-851	20-3-1329	20-5-1567	20-7-48	20-8-193	20-10-357	
19-5-1620	19-7-140	19-12-855	20-3-1330	20-5-1571	20-7-49	20-8-195	20-10-359	
19-5-1695	19-7-142	19-12-857	20-3-1331	20-5-1572	20-7-50	20-8-196	20-10-360	
19-5-1696	19-7-144	19-12-867	20-3-1333	20-5-1575	20-7-54	20-8-198	20-10-361	
19-5-1700	19-7-154	20-1-924	20-3-1335	20-5-1576	20-7-56	20-8-201	20-10-364	
19-5-1701	19-8-194	20-1-939	20-3-1337	20-5-1578	20-7-57	20-9-215	20-10-379	
19-6-1787	19-8-213	20-1-940	20-3-1338	20-5-1579	20-7-59	20-9-222	20-10-380	
19-6-1814	19-8-219	20-1-977	20-3-1354	20-5-1582	20-7-62	20-9-228	20-10-381	
19-6-1815	19-8-227	20-1-1021	20-3-1356	20-5-1585	20-7-63	20-9-231	20-10-395	
19-6-1818	19-8-242	20-1-1022	20-3-1376	20-5-1587	20-7-66	20-9-241	20-10-396	
19-6-1821	19-8-258	20-1-1023	20-3-1379	20-5-1588	20-7-67	20-9-244	20-10-397	
19-6-1872	19-8-259	20-1-1047	20-3-1380	20-5-1590	20-7-68	20-9-259	20-10-401	
19-6-1875	19-8-309	20-1-1057	20-3-1384	20-5-1594	20-7-69	20-9-261	20-10-402	
19-6-1878	19-9-375	20-1-1060	20-3-1386	20-5-1597	20-7-70	20-9-275	20-10-403	
19-6-1886	19-9-376	20-1-1061	20-3-1387	20-5-1598	20-7-71	20-9-276	20-10-404	
19-6-1887	19-9-381	20-1-1062	20-3-1411	20-5-1601	20-7-75	20-9-284	20-10-406	
19-6-1889	19-9-383	20-1-1066	20-3-1413	20-5-1602	20-7-81	20-9-285	20-10-408	
19-6-1890	19-9-390	20-1-1069	20-3-1417	20-5-1603	20-7-83	20-9-286	20-10-409	
19-6-1891	19-9-392	20-1-1074	20-3-1420	20-5-1604	20-7-89	20-9-287	20-11-427	
19-6-1896	19-9-400	20-1-1080	20-3-1424	20-6-1620	20-7-92	20-9-297	20-11-429	
19-6-1897	19-9-407	20-1-1081	20-3-1425	20-6-1621	20-7-94	20-9-298	20-11-431	
19-6-1898	19-9-447	20-1-1083	20-4-1430	20-6-1636	20-7-95	20-9-299	20-11-434	
19-6-1899	19-9-450	20-1-1086	20-4-1447	20-6-1638	20-7-96	20-10-306	20-11-435	
19-6-1900	19-9-461	20-1-1089	20-4-1449	20-6-1639	20-7-97	20-10-308	20-11-437	
19-6-1903	19-9-464	20-1-1090	20-4-1450	20-6-1675	20-7-98	20-10-320	20-11-438	
19-6-1906	19-9-488	20-1-1091	20-4-1453	20-6-1677	20-7-99	20-10-323	20-11-439	
19-6-1908	19-9-499	20-1-1096	20-4-1454	20-6-1678	20-7-100	20-10-329	20-11-440	
19-6-1915	19-9-502	20-1-1103	20-4-1455	20-6-1692	20-7-101	20-10-330	20-11-441	
19-6-1922	19-10-505	20-1-1105	20-4-1464	20-6-1695	20-7-104	20-10-331	20-11-442	
19-6-1931	19-10-516	20-1-1107	20-4-1465	20-6-1698	20-8-117	20-10-335	20-11-443	
19-7-56	19-10-517	20-1-1108	20-4-1467	20-6-1702	20-8-118	20-10-336	20-11-444	

WRITTEN COMPLAINT EXTENSIONS							
19-7-71	19-10-533	20-2-1178	20-4-1468	20-6-1705	20-8-119	20-10-337	
19-7-72	19-10-534	20-2-1179	20-4-1469	20-6-1706	20-8-141	20-10-338	
19-7-87	19-10-545	20-2-1234	20-4-1473	20-6-1707	20-8-150	20-10-339	
19-7-90	19-10-557	20-2-1239	20-5-1488	20-6-1708	20-8-153	20-10-340	
19-7-92	19-10-589	20-2-1245	20-5-1506	20-6-1717	20-8-154	20-10-341	
19-7-93	19-10-596	20-2-1250	20-5-1514	20-6-1719	20-8-168	20-10-342	

## 10. APPLICATIONS FOR CERTIFICATION REPORT

The Educator Ethics Review Committee recommended to approve a no probable cause determination on 15 cases reflected on the *Applications for Certification Report*.

## 11. 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.

## 12. FINAL DECISIONS RENDERED BY AN ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE

The Commission reviewed the *Final Decision report*.

<u>CASE</u>	ORIGINAL SANCTION	ALJ SANCTION
18-4-1342 & 18-8-218	Denial / Denial	NPC
19-6-1817	Suspension 20 days	NPC
19-8-310	Denial	Denial

Chair Sirmans called for approval of the Educator Ethics Review Committee report as presented by Chair, Beth Townsend.

## **PSC ACTION:**

Abstentions: Dr. Jennifer Wade-PIDs-20-12-557, 20-12-558, Jordan Frobos-PCA-20-11-491, PCE-20-10-385, PID-20-12-542, 20-12-554, Jeanine Bunn-PCE-20-10-316, PIDs-20-11-501, 20-12-538, Abigail Coggin-PCE-19-7-86, PID-20-12-539, Derek Easterling-NCOs-19-7-175, 20-5-1523, PIDs-20-11-504, 505, 20-12-530, 20-12-556

## **B.** Educator Preparation Standing Committee

Committee Chair, Beth Townsend, presented the report of the Educator Preparation Standing Committee.

	EPP	January 2021 Detailed Approval Recommendations	
1.	LaGrange College	The Committee recommends Continuing Approval for the Educator	
		Preparation Provider and the following educator preparation programs	
		reviewed during the Fall 2020 Continuing Approval Review.	
		Biology (6-12; MAT degree)	
		<ul> <li>Curriculum and Instruction; (Master's degree; Specialist degree)</li> </ul>	
		<ul> <li>Educational Leadership – Tier I; (Certification-only)</li> </ul>	

		<ul> <li>Educational Leadership - Tier II; (Certification-only)</li> </ul>
		Elementary Education (P-5; Baccalaureate Degree)
		English (6-12; MAT degree)
		History (6-12; MAT degree)
		Mathematics (6-12; MAT degree)
		Middle Grades (4-8; MAT degree)
		Music (P-12; Baccalaureate degree)
		<ul> <li>Pedagogy-only Program (4-8, 6-12, P-12; MAT degree)</li> </ul>
		The Committee recommends the submission of a Progress Report by July 13,
		2021, addressing the AFI cited for the Curriculum and Instruction program.
2.	Southwest Georgia	The Committee recommends Continuing Approval for the Educator
	RESA	Preparation Provider and the following educator preparation programs
		reviewed during the Fall 2020 Continuing Approval Review.
		<ul> <li>Alternative Preparation for Tier I Educational Leadership (P-12;</li> </ul>
		Certification-only)
		<ul> <li>Georgia Teacher Academy for Preparation &amp; Pedagogy (GaTAPP)</li> </ul>
		Gifted In-field Endorsement
		Reading Endorsement
		The Committee recommends the submission of a Progress Report addressing
		areas for improvement by January 13, 2022.
3.	Wesleyan College	The Committee recommends Continuing Approval for the Educator
		Preparation Provider, and the Elementary Education (P-5; Baccalaureate;
		Certification-only) Program reviewed during the Fall 2020 Continuing Approval Review.
		Αρριοναι πενιεω.
		The Committee recommends the submission of a Progress Report addressing
		all areas for improvement by January 13, 2022.
4.	Clayton County Public	The Committee recommends Developmental Approval of the STEM Endorsement.
	Schools	

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

**PSC ACTION:** Approved

# IX. ADJOURNMENT

Our next Commission meeting will be held on Thursday, February 11<sup>th</sup>, at 4 pm. We will meet remotely and the information will be posted on our website under Commission Information. The Educator Ethics Review Committee and Educator Preparation/Certification Standing Committee meeting will meet on Wednesday, February 10<sup>th</sup>, at 4:00 pm. Chair Sirmans called for the meeting to be adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

**PSC ACTION:** Approved