

# MINUTES

## PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS COMMISSION

### Remote Meeting via TEAMS Platform

January 12, 2023

The Georgia Professional Standards Commission (PSC) met on Thursday, January 12, 2023.

#### **Members Present**

Jimmy Atkins	Kedrione Harris	Beth Townsend
Jeanine Bunn	Dr. Franklin Perry	Dr. Jennifer Wade
Abigail Coggin	Dr. Holley Roberts	Carol Williams
Derek Easterling	Jane Rookard	Dr. Judi Wilson
Jordan Frobos	Dr. Brandon Seigler	Vonda Woodall

#### **Members Absent**

Nathan Lewis

#### **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:** (Derek Easterling/Jeanine Bunn) To approve the agenda.

**PSC ACTION:** Approved

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

Chair Sirmans called for approval of the December 8, 2022 minutes.

**PSC ACTION:** Approved

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

Matt Arthur spoke briefly on the following:

- Dr. Kelli Young, Director of Certification, and Windy Fortenberry, Assistant Director of Certification, began the Two Gals Gabbings: Spilling the Dirt on Cert webinars in 2021 and just wrapped up the third edition on January 5<sup>th</sup> entitled *Ready to Plow through Renewals?* There were over 200 LUAs in attendance to learn about the newly launched batch renewal process. Next month the gals will be back at it to talk about Induction certificate conversion and in the spring will host a session on Clearance certificates.

- The Ethics Division continues to working to bring additional consistency to the filing process of complaints by districts, including complaint forms and witness documentation, as well as helping districts and schools conduct effective investigations. To assist with this, two webinars will be held in January:

January 18, 2023, 10am-11am (For HR Directors):

*Session Title: Ethics Reporting Process and New Documentation*

February 1, 2023, 10am – 11am (For HR Directors, Building Level Administrators, and Others)

*Session Title: Conducting Effective Ethics Investigations*

Should you wish to attend, please let us know.

- The Legislature is back in session and we look forward to working with many new members. I will keep you abreast of any bills that will impact our work. If you have any questions on a bill, please don't hesitate to contact me.

## **VI. CHAIR REPORT**

Chair Sirmans reminded Commissioners that the Georgia Government Transparency and Campaign Finance Commission has opened the Public Officer Affidavit filing window. Everyone should complete their filing by end of January.

Chair Sirmans congratulated Governor Brian Kemp and all of his constitutional officers on being sworn in. We are dedicated to helping Governor Kemp fulfill his agenda. He also congratulated Jan Jones on being the first female speaker of the Georgia House.

Chair Sirmans also congratulated the University of Georgia on their second straight national championship.

## **VII. RULES INITIATION**

Anne Marie Fenton presented the rules for initiation, which contained one Certification rule; and 14 Educator Preparation rules for the Commission's consideration to initiate. These rules were previewed at the December Commission meeting. Dr. Penney McRoy presented the Educator Preparation rules and Windy Fortenberry presented the Certification rule.

If initiated today and after a 30 day public comment period, these rules will be scheduled for the Commission's adoption consideration at the March 9, 2023, Commission meeting, and if adopted will become effective April 15, 2023.

**MOTION:** (Beth Townsend / Dr. Judi Wilson) To: (1) amend the current rule in Chapter 505-2- Certification, effective April 15, 2023, as follows: 505-2-.39; (2) repeal the current rules in Chapter 505-3- Educator Preparation Rules, effective April 15, 2023, as follows: 505-3-.24, 505-3-.54, 505-3-.55, 505-3-.56, 505-3-.57, 505-3-.58, 505-3-.60, 505-3-.83, 505-3-.91, 505-3-.98, 505-3-.99, 505-3-.101, and 505-3-.102. (3) initiate the current rules in Chapter 505-3- Educator Preparation Rules, effective April 15, 2023, as follows: 505-3-.24, 505-3-.54, 505-3-.55, 505-3-.56, 505-3-.57, 505-3-.58, 505-3-.60, 505-3-.83, 505-3-.91, 505-3-.98, 505-3-.99, 505-3-.101, and 505-3-.102.

**PSC ACTION:** Approved

**MOTION:** (Jeanine Bunn / Derek Easterling) To: (1) repeal the current rule in Chapter 505-3- Educator Preparation Rules, effective April 15, 2023, as follows: 505-3-.113. (2) initiate the current rule in Chapter 505-3- Educator Preparation Rules, effective April 15, 2023, as follows: 505-3-.113.

**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 49 ***Probable Cause*** cases during January 11, 2023, meeting and brought the following recommendations on behalf of the committee:

<b><u>CASE</u></b>	<b><u>STANDARDS VIOLATED</u></b>	<b><u>RECOMMENDATION</u></b>
22-5-1428	1,4,5a2, 5a7	Deny
22-8-151	5a7	NPC
22-8-156	1,4,5a7	NPC
22-8-176	1, 5a7	Reprimand
22-8-215	1,4,5a7	NPC
22-8-254	5a5	NPC
22-9-426	1,4,5a7	NPC
22-9-452	1,5a7	Reprimand
22-9-458	4,5a2,5a7	Deny
22-10-555	1,5a2,5a7	Reprimand
22-11-683	1,4,5a7	Reprimand
22-7-39	4, 9, 10	Suspension 90 days
22-8-187	9	Suspension 90 days
22-8-241	9	Suspension 90 days
22-8-247	9	Suspension 90 days
22-8-281	9	Suspension 90 days
22-8-293	9	Suspension 90 days
22-9-338	1,4,5a7,8,9	NPC
22-9-342	1, 4, 8, 9, 5a2, 5a7	Revoke
22-9-353	9	NPC
22-9-375	9	Suspension 90 days
22-9-376	9	Suspension 90 days
22-9-407	4,5a2,5a7,8,9	Revoke
22-9-414	9	Suspension 90 days
22-9-416	9	Suspension 90 days
22-9-470	4, 9	Revoke
22-9-471	3, 9	Suspension 1 year

<u>CASE</u>	<u>STANDARDS VIOLATED</u>	<u>RECOMMENDATION</u>
22-9-472	2, 9	Reprimand
22-10-484	2, 9	Reprimand
22-10-486	5, 9	Suspension 20 days
22-10-500	9	Suspension 1 year
22-10-515	9	Suspension 90 days
22-10-527	2, 9	NPC
22-10-528	2, 9	NPC
22-10-541	9	Suspension 90 days
22-10-543	9	Suspension 1 year
22-10-546	9	Suspension 90 days
22-10-547	9	Suspension 90 days
22-10-565	2,9	Suspension 10 days
22-10-589	1,4,5a7,8,9	NPC
22-10-594	1,4,5a7,8,9	NPC
22-10-606	9	Suspension 90 days
22-10-610	4, 9	NPC
22-10-612	2, 3, 9	Suspension 1 year
22-10-613	4, 8, 9	Reprimand
22-10-616	9	NPC
22-11-627	3,9	Suspension 1 year
22-11-679	3,9	NPC
22-11-686	2,9	Suspension 20 days

2. Chair Townsend reported that the Educator Ethics Review Committee reviewed 17 *Settlement Agreements* and brought the following recommendations on behalf of the Committee:

<u>CASE</u>	<u>SANCTION</u>	<u>EERC RECOMMENDATION</u>
21-12-661	Suspension 10 days	Accept
22-8-167	Reprimand	Accept
22-8-169	Reprimand	Accept
22-8-200	Reprimand	Accept
22-9-306	Reprimand	Accept
22-9-307	Reprimand	Accept
22-9-320	Reprimand	Accept
22-9-322	Suspension 5 days	Accept
22-9-403	Suspension 10 days	Accept
22-9-404	Suspension 90 days	Accept
22-9-411	Suspension 1 year & 12 mos. monitoring	Accept
22-9-417	Suspension 90 days	Accept
22-9-418	Suspension 90 days	Accept
22-9-437	Reprimand	Accept
22-9-467	Reprimand	Accept
22-10-478	Suspension 90 days	Accept

<u>CASE</u>	<u>SANCTION</u>	<u>EERC RECOMMENDATION</u>
22-11-623	Reprimand	Accept

3. Chair Townsend reported that the Educator Ethics Review Committee reviewed 7 *Negotiated Settlement Agreements* and brought the following recommendations on behalf of the Committee:

<u>CASE</u>	<u>NEGOTIATED SANCTION</u>	<u>EERC RECOMMENDATION</u>
19-2-1026	Suspension 2 years	Accept
19-8-308	Reprimand	Accept
20-10-383	Suspension 1 year	Accept
21-2-739	NPC	Reject / NFA
21-11-562	Suspension 29 days	Accept
22-3-1105	NPC	Accept
22-4-1301	Suspension 7 days	Accept

#### 4. **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>
22-5-1534	Additional complaint	Investigate
19-1-953	Failed to provide requested documents.	Hold New App
22-8-121	Failed to provide requested documents.	Hold New App
22-8-289	Failed to provide requested documents.	Hold New App
22-8-302	Failure to respond.	Hold New App
22-8-304	Failure to respond.	Hold New App
22-9-324	Failed to provide requested documents.	Hold New App
22-9-332	Failed to provide requested documents.	Hold New App
22-9-396	Failed to provide requested documents.	Hold New App
22-9-397	Failed to provide requested documents.	Hold New App
22-9-439	Failed to provide requested documents.	Hold New App
22-9-466	Failed to provide requested documents.	Hold New App
22-10-498	Failure to respond.	Hold New App
22-10-503	Failure to respond.	Hold New App
22-10-504	Failure to respond.	Hold New App
22-10-508	Failure to respond.	Hold New App
22-10-510	Failed to provide requested documents.	Hold New App
22-10-521	Failure to respond.	Hold New App
22-10-526	Failed to provide requested documents.	Hold New App
22-10-534	Failure to respond.	Hold New App
22-10-551	Failure to respond.	Hold New App
22-10-552	Failure to respond.	Hold New App
22-10-553	Failure to respond.	Hold New App

<u>CASE</u>	<u>FINDINGS OF FACTS</u>	<u>EERC RECOMMENDATION</u>
22-10-554	Failure to respond.	Hold New App
22-10-557	Failure to respond.	Hold New App
22-10-558	Failure to respond.	Hold New App
22-10-569	Failed to provide requested documents.	Hold New App
22-10-576	Failed to provide requested documents.	Hold New App
22-10-590	Failure to respond.	Hold New App
22-10-591	Failed to provide requested documents.	Hold New App
22-10-592	Failure to respond.	Hold New App
22-10-619	Failure to respond.	Hold New App
22-10-620	Failure to respond.	Hold New App
22-10-622	Failure to respond.	Hold New App
22-11-624	Failure to respond.	Hold New App
22-11-625	Failure to respond.	Hold New App
22-11-628	Failure to respond.	Hold New App

5. The Educator Ethics Review Committee recommended approval of the *Preliminary Investigative Determination Report* consisting of 81 new complaints received during the months of December 2022 and January 2023.

#### 6. VOLUNTARY SURRENDERS

The Educator Ethics Review Committee recommended approval of the Voluntary Surrender/Voluntary Denial 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>
22-9-474	1,2,9	Voluntary Surrender	Accept
22-10-487	9	Voluntary Surrender	Accept
22-10-490	2,9	Voluntary Surrender	Accept
22-11-642	2,4,9	Voluntary Surrender	Accept

#### 7. EXTENSIONS – PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATIVE DETERMINATIONS

The Educator Ethics Review Committee recommended approval of the 42 *Extensions - Preliminary Investigative Determinations* consisting of the following:

22-12-744	22-12-750	22-12-766	20-12-772	23-1-830	23-1-837	23-1-855
22-12-745	22-12-751	22-12-767	22-12-773	23-1-831	23-1-840	23-1-856
22-12-746	22-12-752	22-12-768	22-12-814	23-1-832	23-1-841	23-1-857
22-12-747	22-12-754	22-12-769	22-12-815	23-1-833	23-1-852	23-1-858
22-12-748	22-12-764	22-12-770	23-1-826	23-1-834	23-1-853	23-1-859
22-12-749	22-12-765	20-12-771	23-1-827	23-1-836	23-1-854	23-1-860

**8. EXTENSIONS - INVESTIGATIONS**

The Educator Ethics Review Committee recommended granting an *Investigative Extension* to the following 153 cases:

<b><u>WRITTEN COMPLAINT EXTENSIONS</u></b>							
21-5-1117	22-4-1274	22-5-1500	22-6-1655	22-7-86	22-8-244	22-9-465	22-10-596
21-6-1326	22-4-1276	22-5-1501	22-6-1658	22-7-89	22-8-246	22-9-475	22-10-598
21-10-411	22-4-1308	22-5-1503	22-6-1659	22-8-119	22-8-266	22-10-477	22-10-600
22-1-851	22-4-1314	22-5-1512	22-6-1667	22-8-123	22-8-282	22-10-485	22-10-602
22-1-856	22-4-1322	22-5-1521	22-6-1681	22-8-125	22-8-285	22-10-488	22-10-618
22-2-963	22-4-1323	22-5-1524	22-6-1692	22-8-139	22-8-292	22-10-489	22-10-621
22-2-982	22-4-1340	22-5-1530	22-6-1693	22-8-143	22-8-301	22-10-501	22-11-629
22-2-996	22-4-1348	22-5-1534	22-6-1695	22-8-147	22-9-310	22-10-505	22-11-631
22-3-1059	22-5-1406	22-5-1564	22-7-5	22-8-148	22-9-316	22-10-523	22-11-632
22-3-1080	22-5-1419	22-5-1573	22-7-15	22-8-150	22-9-334	22-10-530	22-11-636
22-3-1146	22-5-1421	22-5-1575	22-7-27	22-8-160	22-9-337	22-10-531	22-11-647
22-3-1172	22-5-1425	22-6-1608	22-7-31	22-8-163	22-9-378	22-10-533	22-11-649
22-3-1194	22-5-1426	22-6-1612	22-7-35	22-8-175	22-9-395	22-10-538	22-11-650
22-3-1196	22-5-1430	22-6-1613	22-7-49	22-8-204	22-9-401	22-10-539	
22-3-1197	22-5-1438	22-6-1622	22-7-51	22-8-209	22-9-431	22-10-540	
22-3-1214	22-5-1455	22-6-1626	22-7-52	22-8-211	22-9-440	22-10-549	
22-4-1223	22-5-1480	22-6-1627	22-7-59	22-8-218	22-9-444	22-10-556	
22-4-1225	22-5-1483	22-6-1633	22-7-61	22-8-237	22-9-445	22-10-559	
22-4-1263	22-5-1488	22-6-1647	22-7-64	22-8-238	22-9-451	22-10-568	
22-4-1272	22-5-1489	22-6-1654	22-7-82	22-8-242	22-9-461	22-10-571	

**9. APPLICATIONS FOR CERTIFICATION REPORT**

The Educator Ethics Review Committee recommended to approve a no probable cause determination on 12 cases reflected on the *Applications for Certification Report*.

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

The Commission reviewed the report, which advised of 23 cases now closed without an appeal for a hearing before an Administrative Law Judge.

**11. FINAL DECISIONS RENDERED BY AN ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE**

The Educator Ethics Review Committee recommended to accept the ALJ's sanction on the following:

<b><u>CASE</u></b>	<b><u>ORIGINAL SANCTION</u></b>	<b><u>ALJ SANCTION</u></b>	<b><u>EERC RECOMMENDATION</u></b>
19-9-432	Revocation	NPC	Accept
21-2-690	Revocation	Suspended indefinitely	Accept
21-7-25	Reprimand	NPC	Accept

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

**PSC ACTION:** Approved

Abstentions: Derek Easterling- 22-11-721, 22-12-773, 22-8-247, 22-9-353, Brian Sirmans 22-7-39, Dr. Jennifer Wade-22-12-768, Jeanine Bunn-22-11-713, Dr. Franklin Perry-22-12-737, 22-9-407, 22-10-503, Jimmy Atkins-22-10-504, Jordan Frobos-22-11-712, 22-11-679, Abigail Coggin-22-10-590, Jane Rookard-22-10-527, 22-10-508, 22-9-439, Beth Townsend-22-12-754, 22-10-543

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

Committee Chair, Dr. Holley Roberts, presented the report of the Educator Preparation Standing Committee.

1. Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College – As a result of satisfactory progress evident in the November 2, 2022, Progress Report, the Committee recommends removal of the AFI in Standard 2.1 cited during the Fall 2021 First Continuing Approval Review for the Educator Preparation Provider (EPP). In addition, the Committee recommends removal of the following stipulations and AFIs for the EPP.

- Standard 4.1 – Stipulation
- Standard 4.2 – Stipulation
- Standard 4.3 – Stipulation
- Standard 4.4 – Stipulation
- Standard 5.1 – Stipulation
- Standard 5.2 – AFI
- Standard 5.3 – AFI
- Standard 5.4 – Stipulation
- Standard 5.5 – AFI

As a result of satisfactory progress addressing the stipulations and AFIs in Standard 4 and Standard 5, the Committee recommends reclassifying Standard 4 and Standard 5 from Not Met to Met, in addition to reclassifying the EPP approval status from Continuing Approval with Conditions to Continuing Approval.

2. Berry College – The Committee recommends Developmental Approval for the following three educator preparation programs reviewed during the Fall 2022 Developmental Approval Review.
  - Computer Science (P-12); [Baccalaureate degree]
  - Engineering and Technology Education (P-12); [Baccalaureate degree]
  - Science Education (6-12); [Baccalaureate degree]
3. Brenau University – As a result of satisfactory progress evident in the October 27, 2022, Progress Report, the Committee recommends removal of the AFI in Standard 1.1 cited during the Fall 2020 Continuing Approval Review for the EPP and for the following four educator preparation programs.
  - Biology Education
  - Elementary Education
  - History Education
  - K-5 Mathematics Endorsement

As a result of incremental progress indicated in the October 27, 2022, Progress Report, the Committee recommends the AFI in Standard 1.1 for the Autism Endorsement remain. The Committee recommends the submission of a progress report due October 6, 2023, addressing the remaining AFI in Standard 1.1 for the Autism Endorsement. The progress report should demonstrate greater specificity in the key assessments beyond grades.

4. Brewton-Parker College – The Committee recommends Developmental Approval for the following four



educator preparation programs reviewed during the Fall 2022 Developmental Approval Review.

5. Clark Atlanta University – The Committee recommends Developmental Approval for the Music Program (P-12); [Baccalaureate degree] reviewed during the Fall 2022 Developmental Approval Review.
6. Savannah State University – The Committee recommends Continuing Approval for the Middle Grades Education Program (4-8); Language Arts, Math, Science, Social Science [Baccalaureate degree; Certification-only] reviewed during the Fall 2022 First Continuing Approval Review.
7. Shorter University – The Committee recommends Developmental Approval for the Curriculum and Instruction Program (P-12); [Master's degree] reviewed during the Fall 2022 Developmental Approval Review.
8. Technical College System of Georgia – The Committee recommends Continuing Approval for the EPP, the Georgia Teacher Academy for Preparation and Pedagogy (GaTAPP) Program, and the One Year Elementary Certification-only Program (P-5) [Certification-only] reviewed during the Fall 2022 Continuing Approval Review.
9. Central Savannah River Area (CSRA) RESA – The Committee recommends Developmental Approval for the Intervention Specialist Endorsement.

Chair Sirmans called for approval of the Educator Preparation and Certification Committee report as present by Chair, Dr. Holley Roberts.

**PSC ACTION:** Approved

Abstentions: Jordan Frobos-Brenau University, Jimmy Atkins-Brenau University, CSRA RESA

## **IX. ADJOURNMENT**

Our next Commission meeting will be held on Thursday, February 9<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 and Certification Committee meeting will meet on Wednesday, February 8<sup>th</sup>, at 4:00 pm. Chair Sirmans called for the meeting to be adjourned at 4:28 p.m.

**PSC ACTION:** Approved