

# MINUTES

**PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS COMMISSION**  
**200 Piedmont Avenue, SE**  
**Atlanta, Georgia**  
April 9, 2020

The Georgia Professional Standards Commission (PSC) met on Thursday, April 9, 2020.

## **I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Sirmans called the meeting to order at 11:30 a.m. He took roll call by asking each Commissioner to answer present when their name was called.

### **Members Present**

Dr. Steve Barker	Dr. Isiah Hill, Jr	Dr. Franklin Perry
Danielle Bruce	Scott Hollowell	Teri Schneider
Jeanine Bunn	Dr. Karla Hull	Brian Sirmans
Daniel Dooley	Catherine Jones	Beth Townsend
Derek Easterling	Diane McClearen	Katrina Young
Barbara Ellingson	Dr. Jacqueline McDowell	

### **Members Absent**

Dr. Jennifer Wade

## **II. VISITORS**

Chair Sirmans welcomed the visitors.

## **III. ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

Chair Sirmans called for approval of the agenda.

**MOTION:** (Katrina Young / Beth Townsend) To approve the agenda.

**PSC ACTION:** Approved

## **IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Chair Sirmans called for approval of the minutes from the March 12, 2020, Commission meeting.

**PSC ACTION:** Approved

## **V. EXECUTIVE SECRETARY REPORT**

Executive Secretary Matt Arthur spoke briefly on guidance related to the impact of COVID-19 on field experience and clinical practice requirements, testing, and certification. He also stressed that there are many unknowns, including how long P-12 schools will be close. This guidance may be updated as new information emerges. This information can be found on the homepage of our website. There is also a Certification Guidance document, covering specific scenarios and situations, which is also subject to change.

He also thanked everyone for their work and for our leaders and Governor Kemp for his handling of COVID-19.

## **VI. CHAIR REPORT**

Chair Sirmans thanked Matt Arthur for his solid and unwavering leadership in working together with our staff, the Department of Education and the Governor's Office to make sure that teachers, schools systems, and post-secondary institutions so that they have the tools they need to make informed decisions regarding their individual situations.

## **VI. 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 75 *Probable Cause* cases during February 13, 2020, 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>
19-8-254	1	NPC
19-10-673	1,4,5a7	Deny
19-12-839	1,5a7	Reprimand
20-2-1244	1,5a7	Reprimand
20-2-1246	1,5a7	Reprimand
20-2-1247	1,4,5a7	NPC
20-2-1256	5a7	NPC
20-2-1272	1,4,5a7	Reprimand
20-2-1279	1,5a2,5a7	Reprimand
18-10-579	2,9	Suspension 30 days
18-10-592	1,5a7,9	Revoke
18-10-595	1,4,5a7,8,9	Suspension 20 days
18-11-653	2 & 9	Revoke
18-11-666	1,5a7	Revoke
18-11-675	1, 2 & 9	Revoke
18-12-766	4,9	Suspension 20 days
19-7-149	1,5a7,4,8	Revoke
19-7-171	1,5a7,8,9	Suspension 1 year
19-7-175	1,4,5a7,8,9	Suspension 20 days
19-10-572	9, 5a7	Suspension 10 days
19-10-573	9, 5a7	Suspension 20 days
19-10-681	1,4,5a7,8,9	Suspension 20 days
19-11-709	2, 9, 5a7	Suspension 10 days

<u>CASE</u>	<u>STANDARDS VIOLATED</u>	<u>RECOMMENDATION</u>
19-11-715	3, 9, 5a7	Suspension 1 year
19-11-739	4, 9, 10	Suspension 90 days
19-11-763	4, 9, 5a7	Suspension 90 days
19-11-765	4, 9, 5a7	Suspension 10 days
19-11-789	3, 9, 5a7	Suspension 1 year
19-12-813	4,9,5a7	Suspension 20 days
19-12-822	2,9,5a7	Revoke
19-12-845	3, 9, 5a7	Suspension 1 year
19-12-850	3, 9, 5a7	Suspension 2 years
19-12-892	2, 9, 5a7	Revoke
19-12-893	2, 9, 5a7	Suspension 10 days
19-12-896	5,7,9,5a7	Revoke
19-12-900	5, 9, 5a7	Suspension 90 days
20-1-917	3,9,5a7	Suspension 1 year
20-1-922	2,9,5a7	Revoke
20-1-923	3,9,5a7	Suspension 1 year
20-1-933	1, 4, 8, 9, 5a7	Suspension 20 days
20-1-935	2, 9, 5a7	Vol Surrender
20-1-946	1,2,9,5a7	Suspension 20 days
20-1-949	2, 9, 5a7	Suspension 10 days
20-1-951	1, 3, 9, 5a7	Suspension 1 year
20-1-953	4, 5, 9, 5a7	Suspension 20 days
20-1-954	5, 9, 5a7	Reprimand
20-1-955	5, 9, 5a7	Reprimand
20-1-956	2, 3, 9, 5a7	Suspension 1 year
20-1-958	2, 9, 5a7	Suspension 20 days
20-1-959	9	Suspension 90 days
20-1-961	3,5,9,5a7	Suspension 1 year
20-1-985	1,4,5a7,8,9	Suspension 20 days
20-1-992	2, 9, 5a7	Revoke
20-1-993	9	Suspension 20 days
20-1-994	2, 9, 5a7	Suspension 10 days
20-1-995	4, 5, 9	Suspension 1 year
20-1-996	5, 9, 5a7	Suspension 1 year
20-1-997	2, 9, 5a7	Suspension 10 days
20-1-999	2,9,5a7	Suspension 45 days
20-1-1000	9, 5a7	Suspension 90 days
20-1-1006	2,9,5a7	Suspension 10 days
20-1-1010	2, 9, 5a7	Suspension 10 days
20-1-1011	2, 9, 5a7	Suspension 10 days
20-1-1025	2,9,5a7	Revoke
20-1-1026	2, 9, 5a7	Suspension 45 days
20-1-1027	4, 9, 5a7	Suspension 1 year
20-1-1028	9, 5a7	Suspension 90 days

<u>CASE</u>	<u>STANDARDS VIOLATED</u>	<u>RECOMMENDATION</u>
20-1-1029	9, 5a7	Suspension 90 days
20-1-1030	9, 5a2, 5a5, 5a7	Revoke
20-1-1031	1, 2, 9, 5a7	Revoke
20-1-1067	2, 9, 5a7	Suspension 1 year
20-2-1143	9, 5a7	Suspension 90 days
20-2-1194	3, 9, 5a7	Suspension 1 year
20-2-1206	3, 9, 5a7	Suspension 1 year
20-2-1210	2, 4, 9, 5a7	Suspension 90 days

2. Chair Townsend reported that the Educator Ethics Review Committee reviewed 1 *Petitions Issue* and brought the following recommendations on behalf of the Committee:

<u>CASE</u>	<u>PREVIOUS SANCTION</u>	<u>EERC RECOMMENDATION</u>
19-11-775	Revocation	Deny

3. Chair Townsend reported that the Educator Ethics Review Committee reviewed 14 *Settlement Agreements* and brought the following recommendations on behalf of the Committee:

<u>CASE</u>	<u>SANCTION</u>	<u>EERC RECOMMEND</u>
18-11-728	Suspension 90 days	Accept
19-4-1417	Suspension 1 year	Accept
19-10-584	Suspension 20 days	Accept
19-10-639	Suspension 1 year	Accept
19-10-692	Reprimand	Accept
19-10-693	Suspension 20 days	Accept
19-11-762	Suspension 10 days	Accept
19-12-821	Suspension 3 days	Accept
19-12-825	Suspension 10 days	Accept
19-12-848	Suspension 90 days	Accept
20-1-914	Suspension 20 days	Accept
20-1-972	Reprimand	Accept
20-1-984	Suspension 20 days	Accept
20-1-1078	Reprimand	Accept

4. Chair Townsend reported that the Educator Ethics Review Committee reviewed 22 *Negotiated Settlement Agreements* and brought the following recommendations on behalf of the Committee:

<u>CASE</u>	<u>NEGOTIATED SANCTION</u>	<u>EERC RECOMMENDATION</u>
16-12-810	NPC	Accept

<u>CASE</u>	<u>NEGOTIATED SANCTION</u>	<u>EERC RECOMMENDATION</u>
17-2-1082	Suspension 1 year	Accept
17-6-1612	Suspension 45 days	Accept
18-1-961	Warning	Accept
18-3-1129	Warning	Accept
18-6-1656	Suspension 5 days	Accept
18-10-471	Suspension 3 days	Accept
18-10-575	Reprimand	Accept
19-3-1255	Suspension 5 days	Accept
19-3-1319	Reprimand	Accept
19-7-19	NPC	Accept
19-7-57	Suspension 5 days	Accept
19-8-224	Reprimand	Accept
19-8-244	NPC	Accept
19-8-345	NPC	Accept
19-9-360	Suspension 30 days	Accept
19-9-361	Suspension 15 days	Accept
19-9-362	Suspension 18 days	Accept
19-9-366	Suspension 10 days	Accept
19-9-368	Suspension 10 days	Accept
19-9-465	Reprimand	Accept
19-9-501	Reprimand	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>
18-11-662	Failure to respond	Hold New App
18-11-665	Failure to respond	Hold New App
19-6-1918	Failed to provide documents	Hold New App
19-11-787	Failure to respond	Hold New App
19-11-798	Failure to respond	Hold New App
19-11-799	Failed to provide documents	Hold New App
19-11-802	Failure to respond	Hold New App
19-11-805	Failure to respond	Hold New App
19-12-840	Failure to respond	Hold New App
19-12-859	Failure to respond	Hold New App
19-12-860	Failure to respond	Hold New App
20-1-927	Failure to respond	Hold New App
20-1-928	Failed to provide documents	Hold New App
19-12-875	Expand current investigation	Expand
PID 20-3-1419	Companion case to PID #81 - 20-3-1372	NPC

6. The Educator Ethics Review Committee recommended approval of the *Preliminary Investigative Determination Report* consisting of 95 new complaints received during the months of March and April 2020.

### 7. VOLUNTARY SURRENDER

The Educator Ethics Review Committee recommended approval of the 2 *Voluntary Surrenders* 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>
20-1-935	2, 9	VS	Accept
20-1-938	2, 9	VS	Accept

### 8. EXTENSIONS – PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATIVE DETERMINATIONS

The Educator Ethics Review Committee recommended approval of the 20 **Extensions - Preliminary Investigative Determinations** consisting of the following:

20-3-1373	20-3-1419	20-3-1422	20-3-1425	20-4-1428	20-4-1432	20-4-1435
20-3-1408	20-3-1420	20-3-1423	20-4-1426	20-4-1429	20-4-1433	20-4-1436
20-3-1409	20-3-1421	20-3-1424	20-4-1427	20-4-1431	20-4-1434	

### 9. EXTENSIONS - INVESTIGATIONS

The Educator Ethics Review Committee recommended granting an *Investigative Extension* to the following 330 cases:

18-10-599	19-3-1289	19-6-1812	19-7-72	19-8-265	19-10-545	19-12-855	20-1-1058
18-10-605	19-3-1291	19-6-1814	19-7-82	19-8-266	19-10-557	19-12-857	20-1-1059
18-11-694	19-3-1292	19-6-1815	19-7-86	19-8-287	19-10-564	19-12-866	20-1-1060
18-12-736	19-3-1293	19-6-1818	19-7-87	19-8-309	19-10-570	19-12-867	20-1-1061
18-12-739	19-3-1298	19-6-1821	19-7-89	19-8-311	19-10-589	19-12-872	20-1-1062
19-1-828	19-3-1305	19-6-1872	19-7-90	19-8-320	19-10-596	19-12-873	20-1-1064
19-1-849	19-3-1312	19-6-1875	19-7-92	19-8-321	19-10-597	19-12-875	20-1-1066
19-1-868	19-3-1313	19-6-1877	19-7-93	19-8-324	19-10-599	19-12-876	20-1-1068
19-1-869	19-4-1368	19-6-1878	19-7-94	19-9-352	19-10-608	19-12-879	20-1-1069
19-1-895	19-4-1376	19-6-1885	19-7-95	19-9-372	19-10-609	19-12-880	20-1-1070
19-1-897	19-4-1378	19-6-1886	19-7-97	19-9-373	19-10-614	19-12-891	20-1-1071
19-1-903	19-4-1395	19-6-1887	19-7-98	19-9-375	19-10-618	20-1-924	20-1-1074
19-1-906	19-4-1400	19-6-1889	19-7-100	19-9-376	19-10-619	20-1-929	20-1-1077
19-1-923	19-4-1402	19-6-1890	19-7-102	19-9-381	19-10-623	20-1-931	20-1-1079
19-1-941	19-4-1424	19-6-1891	19-7-103	19-9-383	19-10-630	20-1-934	20-1-1080
19-1-943	19-4-1451	19-6-1892	19-7-105	19-9-390	19-10-632	20-1-962	20-1-1081
19-1-946	19-4-1452	19-6-1893	19-7-106	19-9-392	19-10-646	20-1-970	20-1-1082
19-1-950	19-4-1478	19-6-1896	19-7-107	19-9-400	19-10-657	20-1-974	20-1-1083
19-1-953	19-4-1502	19-6-1897	19-7-118	19-9-407	19-10-661	20-1-975	20-1-1086
19-1-954	19-4-1532	19-6-1898	19-7-128	19-9-420	19-10-662	20-1-976	20-1-1087

19-1-956	19-4-1545	19-6-1899	19-7-138	19-9-422	19-10-672	20-1-977	20-1-1089
19-1-961	19-5-1553	19-6-1900	19-7-140	19-9-424	19-10-674	20-1-978	20-1-1090
19-1-963	19-5-1562	19-6-1903	19-7-141	19-9-435	19-10-683	20-1-979	20-1-1091
19-2-1041	19-5-1566	19-6-1906	19-7-142	19-9-447	19-10-689	20-1-980	20-1-1092
19-2-1066	19-5-1570	19-6-1907	19-7-144	19-9-450	19-11-695	20-1-981	20-1-1093
19-2-1070	19-5-1574	19-6-1908	19-7-154	19-9-451	19-11-700	20-1-983	20-1-1094
19-2-1071	19-5-1576	19-6-1915	19-7-160	19-9-461	19-11-701	20-1-986	20-1-1096
19-2-1073	19-5-1577	19-6-1922	19-7-163	19-9-464	19-11-717	20-1-987	20-1-1098
19-2-1075	19-5-1613	19-6-1929	19-8-186	19-9-472	19-11-721	20-1-990	20-1-1099
19-2-1106	19-5-1615	19-6-1930	19-8-193	19-9-475	19-11-729	20-1-991	20-1-1100
19-2-1110	19-5-1616	19-6-1931	19-8-194	19-9-478	19-11-741	20-1-1040	20-1-1102
19-3-1240	19-5-1619	19-6-1934	19-8-213	19-9-488	19-11-752	20-1-1043	20-1-1103
19-3-1244	19-5-1620	19-7-36	19-8-219	19-9-492	19-11-777	20-1-1044	20-1-1105
19-3-1250	19-5-1670	19-7-37	19-8-223	19-9-499	19-11-778	20-1-1047	20-1-1107
19-3-1263	19-5-1692	19-7-38	19-8-226	19-9-502	19-11-779	20-1-1048	20-2-1178
19-3-1271	19-5-1695	19-7-39	19-8-227	19-10-505	19-11-790	20-1-1049	20-2-1183
19-3-1272	19-5-1696	19-7-41	19-8-242	19-10-516	19-11-796	20-1-1050	
19-3-1276	19-5-1700	19-7-42	19-8-248	19-10-517	19-11-800	20-1-1051	
19-3-1277	19-5-1701	19-7-43	19-8-258	19-10-526	19-12-838	20-1-1052	
19-3-1278	19-5-1706	19-7-44	19-8-259	19-10-527	19-12-841	20-1-1053	
19-3-1281	19-6-1746	19-7-56	19-8-260	19-10-533	19-12-851	20-1-1055	
19-3-1287	19-6-1787	19-7-71	19-8-261	19-10-534	19-12-852	20-1-1057	

#### 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 24 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 below and voted to approve the Administrative Law Judge's sanction.

<u>CASE</u>	<u>ORIGINAL SANCTION</u>	<u>ALJ SANCTION</u>
18-5-1465	Suspension 90 days	NPC

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

#### PSC ACTION: Approved

Abstentions: Teri Schneider-20-3-1392, Franklin Perry-20-1-1355, 20-3-1304, Jeanine Bunn-19-8-345, 20-1-1026, 20-1-1011, 20-1-1027, 19-11-765, 18-10-595, 20-3-1346, 20-3-1347, 20-3-1359, 20-3-1361, 20-3-1362, 20-3-1370, 20-3-1378, 19-11-763, Derek Easterling-20-3-1358, 20-3-1349, 20-3-1374, Barbara Ellingson-19-12-845

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**B. Educator Preparation/Certification Standing Committee**

The Education Preparation/Certification Standing Committee did not meet in April.

**VII. ADJOURNMENT**

Our next meeting will be held on Thursday, May 14<sup>th</sup>, remotely. The log-in information will be posted on our website. The Educator Ethics Review Committee will meet at 9:30 am and the Educator Preparation/Certification Standing Committee will meet at 9:30 am. The full Commission will meet at 11:30 am.

Chair Sirmans called for the meeting to be adjourned at 11:25 am.

**PSC ACTION:** Approved