

MINUTES

PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS COMMISSION

Remote Meeting via TEAMS Platform

April 11, 2024

The Georgia Professional Standards Commission (PSC) met on Thursday, April 11, 2024.

Members Present

Jeanine Bunn	Nathan Lewis	Beth Townsend
Abigail Coggin	Dr. Franklin Perry	Dr. Jennifer Wade
Derek Easterling	Jane Rookard	Carol Williams
Jordan Frobos	Dr. Brandon Seigler	Dr. Judi Wilson
Kedrione Harris	Brian Sirmans	Vonda Woodall

Members Absent

Mark Kauffman	Jimmy Atkins
Dr. Holley Roberts	

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/Dr. Judi Wilson) To approve the agenda.

PSC ACTION: Approved

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chair Sirmans called for approval of the March 14, 2024 minutes.

PSC ACTION: Approved

V. EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT

Matt Arthur reported the following:

Legislative Update - It has been a good session. We have a good rapport with legislators and we are pleased when they reach out to us regarding new legislation. Once Governor Kemp signs legislation, I will let you know if there is any impact on us and if we need any rule changes.

Ethics Symposium - I am pleased to report that we had over 210 register for the Ethics Symposium. The theme was *Prevention and Correction: Fostering Professional Practice* and the audience included school

administrators, school district personnel (e.g., superintendents, HR directors, certification officials, PL directors, principals), and educator preparation provider (EPP) deans/chairs, program directors, and faculty. I want to thank Chair Brian Sirmans, Kedrione, Harris, Carol Williams, and Dr. Franklin Perry for joining us for this day and a half of learning. We have received very strong, positive feedback from attendees and look forward to hopefully hosting another ethics symposium in Fall 2024. This symposium is only one of many initiatives of ours to work collaboratively with districts, schools, EPPs, and others toward the goal of fostering an intentional focus on ethics to help educators avoid missteps.

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 46 *Probable Cause* cases during April 11, 2024, 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>
23-11-910	4, 5a6, 5a7 (2019)	Reprimand	Accept
24-1-1215	1,4,5a6	Reprimand	Accept
24-1-1289	1, 5a6	NPC	Accept
24-1-1293	1,5a6	Reprimand	Accept
24-2-1452	1,4,5a6	Reprimand	Accept
24-2-1484	1,5a6	NPC	Accept
24-2-1507	1	Deny	Accept
24-2-1531	1, 2, 9	Deny	Accept
24-2-1552	1,4,5a6	Reprimand	Accept
24-2-1595	1,5a6	NPC	Accept
24-3-1643	5a2,5a6, 5a7 (2022)	Reprimand	Accept
24-3-1680	4, 5a4, 5a6	NPC	Accept
24-3-1743	1,5a6, 5a7 2018-2022)	Deny	Accept
24-3-1744	1, 5a6	NPC	Accept
23-7-51	3, 9	1 Year Suspension	Accept
23-7-106	1, 2, 9	CCE	Accept
23-8-151	1,4,5a6,5a7 (2015) 8,9	Reprimand	Accept
23-8-330	1, 9	CCE	Accept
23-9-522	9	Reprimand	Accept
23-9-606	3, 9	1 Year Suspension	Accept
23-9-614	9	90 Day Suspension	Accept
23-10-705	9	45 Day Suspension	Accept
23-10-713	9	90 Day Suspension	Accept
23-10-814	9	90 Day Suspension	Accept
23-12-1054	9	90 Day Suspension	Accept

<u>CASE</u>	<u>STANDARDS VIOLATED</u>	<u>RECOMMENDATION</u>	<u>EERC RECOMMENDATION</u>
23-12-1057	2, 4, 9	CCE	Accept
24-1-1259	3,9	1 Year Suspension	Accept
24-1-1323	4,5,9	90 Day Suspension	Accept
24-1-1324	1, 4, 8, 9	CCE	Accept
24-1-1327	4,6,9	2 Year Suspension	Accept
24-1-1333	2,9	1 Year Suspension	Accept
24-1-1339	7,9	90 Day Suspension	Accept
24-1-1342	4,5,9	90 Day Suspension	Accept
24-1-1344	8,9	NPC	Accept
24-1-1345	1, 9	CCE	Accept
24-1-1353	1,4,5a6, 5a7(2014-2022), 8,9	20 Day Suspension	Accept
24-1-1356	2, 9	15 Day Suspension	Accept
24-1-1368	2, 9	30 Days Suspension	Accept
24-2-1406	2, 9	NPC	Accept
24-2-1439	9	NFA	Accept
24-2-1474	1,4,5a6,5a7 (2020-2022), 8,9	20 Day Suspension	Accept
24-2-1482	1,4,5a6,5a7 (2020-2022), 8,9	Reprimand	Accept
24-2-1509	9	90 Day Suspension	Accept
24-2-1517	1, 2, 8, 9	Reprimand	Accept
24-2-1581	1,4,5a6, 5a7 (1999-2020), 8,9	NPC	Accept
24-3-1694	1,4,5a6,5a7 (2011-2024), 8,9	NPC	Accept

2. Chair Townsend reported that the Educator Ethics Review Committee reviewed 16 *Settlement Agreements* and brought the following recommendations on behalf of the Committee:

<u>CASE</u>	<u>SANCTION</u>	<u>EERC RECOMMENDATION</u>
23-3-1245	Reprimand	Accept
23-6-1742	90 Days Suspension	Accept
23-8-333	Reprimand	Accept
23-8-398	30 Days Suspension	Accept
23-11-990	15 Days Suspension	Accept
23-12-1070	2 years Suspension	Accept
23-12-1109	30 days Suspension	Accept
23-12-1117	60 days Suspension	Accept
23-12-1139	10 days Suspension	Accept
23-12-1180	Reprimand	Accept
23-12-1197	Reprimand	Accept
24-1-1253	5 Days Suspension	Accept
24-1-1291	Reprimand	Accept
24-1-1321	30 Days Suspension	Accept
24-1-1328	Reprimand	Accept
24-1-1394	Reprimand	Accept

3 Chair Townsend reported that the Educator Ethics Review Committee reviewed 16 *Negotiated Settlement Agreements* and brought the following recommendations on behalf of the Committee:

<u>CASE</u>	<u>NEGOTIATED SANCTION</u>	<u>EERC RECOMMEND</u>
18-4-1289	Reprimand	Accept
18-6-1602 19-9-414	Suspension 1 year	Accept
21-1-577	Revocation	Accept
21-3-852	Reprimand	Accept
21-5-1183	Suspension 66 days	Accept
21-10-400	Suspension 1 year	Accept
21-11-520	Suspension 5 days	Accept
22-6-1655	Reprimand	Rejected
23-2-1000	Suspension 2 days	Rejected
23-4-1336	Suspension 60 days	Accept
23-4-1415	Reprimand / Warning	Accept
23-7-88	Voluntary Surrender	Accept
23-8-217	NPC	Accept
23-9-608	Suspension 2 days	Accept
23-10-792	NPC	Accept
23-11-919	Suspension 30 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>
22-5-1513	Supplemental complaint	Investigate
24-3-1611	Supplemental complaint	Investigate
23-4-1433	Unable effect service.	Hold New Application
23-9-611	Unable effect service.	Hold New Application
23-10-795	Unable effect service.	Hold New Application
24-1-1260	Unable effect service.	Hold New Application

5. The Educator Ethics Review Committee recommended approval of the *Preliminary Investigative Determination Report* consisting of 96 new complaints received during the months of March and April 2024.

6. **VOLUNTARY SURRENDERS**

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.

7. **EXTENSIONS – PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATIVE DETERMINATIONS**

The Educator Ethics Review Committee recommended approval of the 64 *Extensions - Preliminary Investigative Determinations* consisting of the following:

24-3-1754	24-3-1762	24-3-1770	24-4-1779	24-4-1787	24-4-1795	24-4-1803	24-4-1849
24-3-1755	24-3-1763	24-3-1771	24-4-1780	24-4-1788	24-4-1796	24-4-1804	24-4-1850
24-3-1756	24-3-1764	24-3-1772	24-4-1781	24-4-1789	24-4-1797	24-4-1805	24-4-1852
24-3-1757	24-3-1765	24-3-1773	24-4-1782	24-4-1790	24-4-1798	24-4-1806	24-4-1854
24-3-1758	24-3-1766	24-3-1774	24-4-1783	24-4-1791	24-4-1799	24-4-1807	24-4-1855
24-3-1759	24-3-1767	24-3-1775	24-4-1784	24-4-1792	24-4-1800	24-4-1845	24-4-1856
24-3-1760	24-3-1768	24-3-1776	24-4-1785	24-4-1793	24-4-1801	24-4-1847	24-4-1857
24-3-1761	24-3-1769	24-4-1778	24-4-1786	24-4-1794	24-4-1802	24-4-1848	24-4-1858

8. EXTENSIONS - INVESTIGATIONS

The Educator Ethics Review Committee recommended granting an *Investigative Extension* to the following 182 cases:

WRITTEN COMPLAINT EXTENSIONS							
23-2-1039	23-8-163	23-8-412	23-9-596	23-10-801	23-11-987	23-12-1104	24-1-1237
23-2-1090	23-8-172	23-8-414	23-9-600	23-10-806	23-11-988	23-12-1107	24-1-1238
23-2-1127	23-8-195	23-8-416	23-10-635	23-10-813	23-11-1002	23-12-1122	24-1-1239
23-3-1191	23-8-201	23-8-417	23-10-636	23-10-824	23-11-1013	23-12-1127	24-1-1246
23-3-1264	23-8-243	23-8-421	23-10-657	23-10-825	23-11-1030	23-12-1128	24-1-1254
23-4-1308	23-8-246	23-9-434	23-10-665	23-10-826	23-11-1031	23-12-1140	24-1-1274
23-4-1320	23-8-256	23-9-435	23-10-667	23-10-832	23-11-1033	23-12-1145	24-1-1276
23-4-1373	23-8-266	23-9-440	23-10-669	23-11-836	23-11-1038	23-12-1146	24-1-1278
23-4-1426	23-8-273	23-9-460	23-10-675	23-11-842	23-11-1053	23-12-1161	24-1-1280
23-4-1427	23-8-279	23-9-472	23-10-678	23-11-851	23-12-1055	23-12-1170	24-1-1283
23-4-1428	23-8-280	23-9-478	23-10-684	23-11-859	23-12-1061	23-12-1171	24-1-1286
23-5-1466	23-8-304	23-9-485	23-10-699	23-11-864	23-12-1068	23-12-1174	24-1-1309
23-5-1491	23-8-321	23-9-502	23-10-709	23-11-876	23-12-1075	23-12-1175	24-1-1316
23-5-1517	23-8-322	23-9-504	23-10-730	23-11-877	23-12-1076	23-12-1177	24-1-1347
23-5-1541	23-8-323	23-9-513	23-10-735	23-11-878	23-12-1077	23-12-1183	24-1-1348
23-5-1568	23-8-330	23-9-522	23-10-739	23-11-879	23-12-1078	23-12-1191	24-1-1350
23-5-1593	23-8-367	23-9-524	23-10-749	23-11-883	23-12-1080	24-1-1214	24-1-1382
23-5-1664	23-8-385	23-9-526	23-10-766	23-11-894	23-12-1082	24-1-1217	24-1-1395
23-6-1727	23-8-388	23-9-551	23-10-776	23-11-927	23-12-1085	24-1-1224	24-1-1396
23-6-1729	23-8-392	23-9-552	23-10-779	23-11-945	23-12-1089	24-1-1225	24-1-1402
23-7-14	23-8-395	23-9-581	23-10-788	23-11-959	23-12-1095	24-1-1231	24-1-1405
23-7-63	23-8-397	23-9-584	23-10-791	23-11-960	23-12-1101	24-1-1233	
23-7-95	23-8-408	23-9-594	23-10-794	23-11-979	23-12-1102	24-1-1234	

9. APPLICATIONS FOR CERTIFICATION REPORT

The Educator Ethics Review Committee recommended to approve a no probable cause determination on 23 cases reflected on the *Applications for Certification Report*.

10. FINAL DECISIONS BY OPERATION OF LAW

The Commission reviewed the report, which advised of 18 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:

<u>CASE</u>	<u>ORIGINAL SANCTION</u>	<u>ALJ SANCTION</u>	<u>EERC RECOMMENDATION</u>
18-9-338, 23-2-991	Revocation	Reprimand	Accept

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

PSC ACTION: Approved

Abstentions: Derek Easterling-PID cases 24-2-1569, 24-3-1612, 24-3-1631, 24-3-1672, 24-3-1735, 24-3-1736, PCE cases 24-1-1342, 24-1-1344, 23-8-330, NCO case 23-9-608, Jeanine Bunn-PID case 24-3-1619, Jimmy Atkins—PID case 24-3-1690, PCA case 24-2-1595, Abigail Coggin- 24-3-1627, Jane Rookard-PCE case 24-1-1339, Beth Townsend-PCE case 24-1-1259, 24-1-1345

B. Educator Preparation Standing Committee

Committee Vice-Chair, Dr. Jennifer Wade, presented the report of the Educator Preparation Standing Committee.

1. University of Georgia – The Committee recommends Developmental Approval for the Literacy Specialist (P-12) [Education Specialist degree] Program.
2. Piedmont University – The Committee recommends Developmental Approval for the Dyslexia Endorsement.

Chair Sirmans called for approval of the Educator Preparation and Certification Committee report as presented by Dr. Jennifer Wade.

PSC ACTION: Approved

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Our next Commission meeting will be held on Thursday, May 9th, 2024, at 4 pm. We will meet remotely and the information will be posted on our website under Commission Information. The Educator Ethics Review Committee will meet on Wednesday, May 8th, 2024 at 4:30 pm and Educator Preparation and Certification Committee meeting will meet on Wednesday, May 8th, 2024, at 4:00 pm. Chair Sirmans called for the meeting to be adjourned at 4:41 p.m.

PSC ACTION: Approved