

MINUTES

PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS COMMISSION

Two Piedmont Avenue

Atlanta, Georgia

December 11, 2014

The Georgia Professional Standards Commission (PSC) met on Thursday, December 11, 2014, at 12:30 p.m.

Members Present

Dr. Jim Barrett
Lauren Eckman
Dr. Adrian Epps
David Johnson

Kamila Luigs
Valerie Mateen
Christy McGill
Terrie Ponder

David Smith
Sheryl Stalvey
Bettina Polite Tate
Dr. Lawrence Walters
Pam Walker

Members Absent

Henry Kelly
Phil Jacobs
Dr. Penny Elkins

Carol Rivera
Scott Justus

I. WORK SESSION

- Kelly Henson informed the Commission that we will have an information session after our January 8th Commission meeting. He also spoke about the upcoming Commission retreat in May. All Commissioners were invited to send topics for discussion for both the retreat and information session.
- Anne Marie Fenton presented the rules to adopt. Which were initiated on 12-12-14. One public comment was received. The rules will have an effective date of January 15, 2014.
- Anne Marie Fenton presented 10 certification rules for initiation for the Commissioners to preview today and that will be brought before the Commission in January. Kelli Young previewed the Certification Rules and Dr. David Hill previewed the Professional Learning Rule.

II. CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chair Luigs called the meeting to order at 12:49 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. flag and a moment of silence.

III. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Vice Chair Luigs called for approval of the agenda.

MOTION: (Pam Walker / David Smith) To approve the agenda.

PSC ACTION: Approved

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Vice Chair Luigs called for approval of the minutes from the November 13, 2014, Commission meeting.

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PSC ACTION: Approved

V. VISITORS

Vice Chair Luigs welcomed the visitors.

- Leonard Williams, Professional Association of Georgia Educators
- Maggie lee, Macon telegraph
- Linda Fortson, Warren Fortson Law Office
- Tayia Donald, Georgia Association of Educators (GAE)

VI. EMPLOYEE SERVICE AWARDS

Vice Chair Kami Luigs presented the s the employee with their award and thanked them for their service. Kelly Henson also thanked them for their service and read the following:

Nancy Teele – 10 Years - Nancy Teele began her service with the state of Georgia by working as a paralegal with the Attorney General’s office in the State Licensing Boards division. After a couple of years, she began working directly for the Georgia Composite Medical Board as their sole paralegal. After two years as the Boards’ paralegal, she was promoted. In the ensuing years, she worked as a Licensing Manager overseeing the processing of licensee applications for the Board. She later served as the Board’s Enforcement Manager tasked with overseeing the processing of complaints to the Board. Nancy’s last assignment with the Board was as their Financial Administrator. Nancy’s last four years of state service have been with the Professional Standards Commission. She is the Ethics Division’s sole paralegal, and she is charged with the processing of all new complaints, processing consent orders and processing requests for administrative law hearings. These duties are some of the most critical for the Ethics Division. Nancy is an integral and indispensable member of the Ethics Division team. She always has a cheerful disposition and a positive attitude. The Ethics Division is indeed fortunate to have Nancy.

Kevin Shumake – 15 years - Kevin began his employment with the Professional Standards Commission in September of 1999 where he worked as an investigator. As an investigator, he was known for his organizational skills and his work ethic. In November, 2010 he was promoted to his current position as Chief Case Administrator. During his time as an investigator, he conducted more than 1200 investigations. Kevin is a graduate of the University of Georgia and worked at the Security Office while a fulltime student. During his spare time, he enjoys deer hunting with a bow and fishing

Jeff Jones – 25 Years - Jeff began his career in education after graduating from the teacher education program at West Georgia College where he earned a bachelor and master’s degree in Early Childhood Education. His desire to be an educator was born of his love and admiration of his grandmother, who taught high school science for forty years. He taught elementary school for four years after college. Desiring to stay in the field of education, but move away from the classroom, he sought employment at the GaDOE and was hired to begin his career in Certification on July 1, 1990. Jeff is a caring professional who leads by example. He has continued to rise professionally in the Certification Division from an entry-level Evaluator Trainee to his current position of Program Director for Outreach and Training, not by focusing on himself, but focusing on others. He encourages, shares his knowledge, graciously works with his peers, looks for solutions to problems, and approaches his job

with enthusiasm and optimism. So, it is no surprise that the certification division's best teacher would end up leading the group responsible for educating our LUA and IHE partners on the often complex world of certification. He is the backbone of the certification division, the silent supporter that lifts others up and makes sure the light is shining on them as they learn and grow into successful professionals. You should know, Jeff is beloved by his Certification Division family, they refer to him as "Our Jeff" but share him with others who need him and he is admired by all who are lucky to have known and worked with him. On a personal note, you may not know Jeff is an actor. He has performed in countless plays and his skills are so good that they allow him to present certification topics to the most demanding or even hostile groups without losing focus or poise. He loves to travel, his friends are friends for life and his simplicity is what makes him exceptional. Whether it is his peanut butter sandwich for lunch every day or allowing an indulgence of his favorite foods: ice cream and milkshakes, Jeff is one of the good ones. You know it the moment you meet him. So, congratulations on twenty-five years of service to the State of Georgia, GaPSC and especially your Certification family. They worry as your thirty-year mark approaches because they don't know what to do without "Our Jeff".

Judy Franklin - 30 Years - Judy started her career with the state in the early 70s with The Georgia Department of Revenue as a switchboard operator. Shortly after she was employed switchboards became obsolete and Judy became a Department of Revenue clerk in the tag and title division. Judy moved on to the Georgia Department of Pardons and Parole where she spent 13 years. She started as a clerk and move up to a position as a parole officer. She left state government to become an investigator for the DeKalb County District Attorney's Office where she served for 13 years. She returned to state government at the Insurance Commissioner's Office as an investigator. She worked there until the PSC was lucky enough to convince her to accept a position as an investigator in the Ethics Division where she has been for the past 15 years. Not only has Judy worked hard during her career as an investigator. She has obtained two degrees from Georgia State University. Judy has a BS in History and a Master's in Education, Counseling and Psychological Services. Judy is the PSC senior investigator. She is a stickler for details and is often assigned the most complicated cases. Congratulations Judy!!

VII. 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 35 *Probable Cause* cases during its December 11, 2014, meeting and brought the following recommendations on behalf of the Committee:

<u>CASE</u>	<u>STANDARDS VIOLATED</u>	<u>RECOMMENDATION</u>
14-6-980	1	Deny
14-6-1040	10	Deny
14-9-197	10	Deny
13-10-279	4,10, 11	Suspension - 2 years
14-1-473	2, 10	Suspension - 5 days
14-1-483	2,10	Suspension - 10 days

<u>CASE</u>	<u>STANDARDS VIOLATED</u>	<u>RECOMMENDATION</u>
14-1-490	4,10	Suspension - 20 days
14-2-568	2,10	Suspension - 5 days
14-3-594	5,10	Suspension - 1 year
14-4-785	4,7,10,11	Suspension - 2 years
14-5-818	1,9,10	Revoke
14-5-884	4,10	Suspension - 90 days
14-5-909	10, 11	Suspension - 2 years
14-6-943	4,10	Suspension - 30 days
14-6-957	1, 10	Suspension - 20 days
14-6-979	1,10	Extend pending criminal outcome
14-6-995	10	NPC
14-6-997	1, 10	Reprimand
14-6-1003	1,9,10	Suspension - 1 year
14-6-1018	1, 10	Suspension - 20 days
14-7-15	2,10	Suspension - 1 year
14-7-61	4,10	Suspension - 1 year
14-7-62	4,10	Suspension - 2 years
14-7-63	4, 10	Revoke
14-7-65	10, 11	Suspension - 5 days
14-7-87	1,4,9	Suspension - 10 days
14-7-108	1, 10	Suspension - 1 year
14-8-160	1,4, 9	Suspension - 20 days
14-8-170	1, 10	Suspension - 1 year
14-8-171	10, 11	Suspension - 90 days
14-9-221	2,10	Suspension - 2 years
14-9-223	1,2,10	Revoke
14-9-251	4,5,9,10	NPC
14-10-288	10,11	Suspension - 90 days
14-10-320	7,10,11	Suspension - 20 days

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

<u>CASE</u>	<u>PREVIOUS SANCTION</u>	<u>EERC RECOMMENDATION</u>
14-2-559	Revocation March 2009	Grant
14-6-986	Revocation April 2007	Deny

3. Ms. Walker reported that the Educator Ethics Review Committee reviewed 2 *Settlement Agreements* and brought the following recommendations on behalf of the Committee:

<u>CASE</u>	<u>SANCTION</u>	<u>EERC RECOMMEND</u>
14-1-477	Reprimand	Accept
14-6-1042	Reprimand	Accept

4. Ms. Walker reported that the Educator Ethics Review Committee reviewed 12 *Negotiated Settlement Agreements* and brought the following recommendations on behalf of the Committee:

<u>CASE</u>	<u>NEGOTIATED SANCTION</u>	<u>EERC RECOMMENDATION</u>
11-7-25	NPC	Accept
11-8-118	Suspension - 1 year	Accept
11-8-123	Reprimand	Accept
11-9-417	NPC	Accept
13-2-723	Suspension - 60 days	Accept
13-3-859	Suspension - 5 days	Accept
13-9-191	Suspension - 30 days	Accept
14-1-446	Warning	Accept
14-5-893	Suspension - 5 days	Accept
14-6-976	NPC	Accept
14-7-78	NPC	Accept
14-7-112	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>
14-9-250	Close case due to no jurisdiction	Close - No Jurisdiction
14-10-306	Discussed setting aside previous NPC	Affirmed NPC

6. The Educator Ethics Review Committee recommended approval of the *Preliminary Investigative Determination Report* consisting of 45 new complaints received during the months of November and December 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>
14-9-259	2, 10	Voluntary Surrender	Accept
14-9-278	1, 2, 10	Voluntary Surrender	Accept

8. **EXTENSIONS – PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATIVE DETERMINATIONS**

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

14-11-415	14-11-422	14-12-429	14-12-436	14-12-442	14-12-448	14-12-454	14-12-460
14-11-416	14-11-423	14-12-430	14-12-437	14-12-443	14-12-449	14-12-455	
14-11-417	14-11-424	14-12-432	14-12-438	14-12-444	14-12-450	14-12-456	
14-11-419	14-11-425	14-12-433	14-12-439	14-12-445	14-12-451	14-12-457	
14-11-420	14-12-427	14-12-434	14-12-440	14-12-446	14-12-452	14-12-458	
14-11-421	14-12-428	14-12-435	14-12-441	14-12-447	14-12-453	14-12-459	

9. **EXTENSIONS - INVESTIGATIONS**

The Educator Ethics Review Committee recommended granting and *Investigative Extension* to the following 160 cases:

11-8-130	12-7-112	13-6-1209	14-1-444	14-4-723	14-5-905	14-7-67	14-8-157
11-8-200	12-8-263	13-6-1226	14-1-480	14-4-737	14-5-914	14-7-68	14-8-164
11-9-337	12-11-530	13-6-1231	14-2-516	14-4-744	14-6-938	14-7-69	14-8-169
11-9-343	13-2-759	13-6-1241	14-2-558	14-4-752	14-6-939	14-7-97	14-8-172
11-9-392	13-2-778	13-8-56	14-2-570	14-4-757	14-6-940	14-7-107	14-8-174
11-9-398	13-3-838	13-9-192	14-2-575	14-4-762	14-6-942	14-7-107	14-8-178
11-9-399	13-3-865	13-10-239	14-3-581	14-4-766	14-6-944	14-7-109	14-8-179
11-9-402	13-3-869	13-11-312	14-3-583	14-4-767	14-6-950	14-7-121	14-9-189
11-9-455	13-3-878	13-11-327	14-3-593	14-4-772	14-6-964	14-7-121	14-9-212
11-9-456	13-3-891	13-11-356	14-3-633	14-4-778	14-6-969	14-7-123	14-9-214
11-9-457	13-3-894	13-11-370	14-3-635	14-5-819	14-6-971	14-7-135	14-9-215
11-9-458	13-4-983	13-12-373	14-3-644	14-5-826	14-6-1002	14-8-136	14-9-216
11-9-459	13-4-1016	13-12-375	14-3-645	14-5-829	14-6-1036	14-8-139	14-9-217
11-12-702	13-5-1032	13-12-376	14-3-654	14-5-830	14-6-1037	14-8-139	14-9-218
12-2-896	13-5-1043	13-12-377	14-3-655	14-5-838	14-7-22	14-8-142	14-9-219
12-2-901	13-5-1049	13-12-379	14-3-659	14-5-863	14-7-38	14-8-149	14-9-225
12-3-1026	13-5-1076	13-12-408	14-3-660	14-5-891	14-7-49	14-8-149	14-9-226
12-4-1120	13-6-1176	13-12-423	14-3-662	14-5-897	14-7-54	14-8-151	14-9-244
12-4-1133	13-6-1199	13-12-424	14-3-663	14-5-898	14-7-64	14-8-156	14-9-245
12-7-111	13-6-1207	13-12-425	14-3-680	14-5-903	14-7-66	14-8-156	14-9-250

10. **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*.

11. **FINAL DECISIONS**

The Educator Ethics Review Committee reviewed the Final Decision below and voted to recommend the following action for approval by the Professional Standards Commission.

<u>CASE</u>	<u>ORIGINAL SANCTION</u>	<u>ALJ SANCTION</u>	<u>EERC RECOMMENDATION</u>
11-11-552	Revocation	Revocation	Accept
12-7-77	Revocation	Suspension - 3 years	Accept
12-11-531	Revocation	Revocation	Accept

12. FINAL DECISIONS BY OPERATION OF LAW

The Commission reviewed the report, which advised of 4 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.

Vice-Chair Luigs called for approval of the Educator Ethics Review Committee report as presented by Pam Walker excluding case #'s 14-6-957, 14-6-1003, 14-11-370, 14-7-61, 14-7-62, 14-7-63 and 14-9-221.

PSC ACTION: Approved

Abstention: Bettina Polite-Tate – 14-11-374, 14-1-490, Jim Barrett – 14-11-375, 14-4-785, Valerie Mateen – 14-11-377, Pam Walker – 14-10-362, 14-10-363, 14-10-364, 14-10-365, Kami Luigs – 11-7-25, 11-8-118, 11-9-417, 13-3-859, 14-11-378, 14-11-380, 14-11-381, 14-11-390

Probable Cause Determination Case # 14-6-1003

MOTION: (David Smith / Dr. Adrian Epps) To accept the EERC's recommendation of a 1 Year Suspension.

PSC ACTION: Approved

Abstention: Bettina Tate

Probable Cause Determination Case # 14-6-957

MOTION: (David Smith / Pam Walker) To accept the EERC's recommendation of a 20 Day Suspension.

PSC ACTION: Approved

Preliminary Investigation Determination Case # 14-11-370

MOTION: (Dr. Jim Barrett / Bettina Tate) To reject the EERC's recommendation of a No Probable Cause and to issue orders to Investigate.

PSC ACTION: Approved

Opposed: Pam Walker, Valerie Mateen, Bettina Tate, Lauren Eckman, Dr. Adrian Epps

Probable Cause Determination Case # 14-9-221

MOTION: (Dr. Adrian Epps / Bettina Tate) To accept the EERC's recommendation of a 2 Year Suspension.

PSC ACTION: Approved

Probable Cause Determination Case # 14-7-61

MOTION: (Dr. Adrian Epps / Bettina Tate) To accept the EERC's recommendation of a 1 year Suspension.

PSC ACTION: Approved

Abstention: Kami Luigs

Probable Cause Determination Case # 14-7-62

MOTION: (Dr. Adrian Epps / Bettina Tate) To accept the EERC's recommendation of a 2 Year Suspension.

PSC ACTION: Approved

Abstention: Kami Luigs

Probable Cause Determination Case # 14-7-63

MOTION: (Dr. Adrian Epps / Phil Jacobs) To reject the EERC’s recommendation of a Revocation and to issue a 3 Year Suspension.

PSC ACTION: Approved

Abstention: Kami Luigs

Opposed: Jim Barrett, Valerie Mateen, Christy McGill

B. Educator Preparation Standing Committee

Committee Chair, Dr. Adrian Epps, presented the report of the Educator Preparation Standing Committee.

The Committee recommends the following approval actions.

	EPP	December 2014 Detailed Approval Recommendations	Additional Action Required
1	Atlanta Public Schools	The Committee recommends Continuing Approval of the Educator Preparation Provider, and the Gifted In-field Endorsement Program.	
2	Columbus State University	The Committee recommends Developmental Approval of the Online Teaching Endorsement Program.	
3	Middle Georgia RESA	The Committee recommends Developmental Approval of the Special Education Visual Impairment Endorsement Program, and Continuing Approval for the following two educator preparation programs... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gifted In-field Endorsement Program • ESOL Endorsement Program 	
4	Thomas University	The Committee recommends Developmental Approval of the following three educator preparation programs... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teacher Leader Endorsement • Teacher Leadership (P-12; Initial, Master’s; Specialist) • Curriculum and Instruction (P-12; Initial; Master’s) 	
5	University of Georgia	The Committee recommends Developmental Approval of the Teacher Leadership Program (Initial; P-12; M.Ed.).	
6	Central Savannah River Area (CSRA) RESA	The Committee recommends Continuing Approval of the Gifted In-field Endorsement Program.	The Committee recommends a Progress Report due by April 1, 2015, addressing

	EPP	December 2014 Detailed Approval Recommendations	Additional Action Required
			the Area For Improvement
7	Dekalb County Schools	The Committee recommends Continuing Approval of the following two educator preparation programs... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gifted In-field Endorsement • ESOL Endorsement 	The Committee recommends a Progress Report due January 11, 2016, addressing the Areas for Improvement for the ESOL Endorsement.
8	Griffin RESA	The Committee recommends Continuing Approval of the Gifted In-field Endorsement Program.	
9	Metro RESA	The Committee recommends Continuing Approval of the following three educator preparation programs... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gifted In-field Endorsement • ESOL Endorsement • Reading Endorsement 	The Committee recommends a Progress Report due January 11, 2016, addressing the Area for Improvement for the ESOL Endorsement.
10	Northeast Georgia RESA	The Committee recommends Continuing Approval of the following three educator preparation programs... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gifted In-field Endorsement • ESOL Endorsement • Reading Endorsement 	The Committee recommends a Progress Report due January 11, 2016, addressing the Area for Improvement for the ESOL Endorsement.
11	Northwest Georgia RESA	The Committee recommends Developmental Approval of the K-5 Science Endorsement, and Continuing Approval of the following two educator preparation programs... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gifted In-field Endorsement • Reading Endorsement 	
12	Pioneer RESA	The Committee recommends Continuing Approval of the following three educator preparation programs... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gifted In-field Endorsement 	The Committee recommends a Progress Report

	EPP	December 2014 Detailed Approval Recommendations	Additional Action Required
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ESOL Endorsement Reading Endorsement 	due January 11, 2016, addressing the Area for Improvement for the Gifted In-field Endorsement.
13	Reinhardt University	<p>The Committee recommends Continuing Approval of the two educator preparation programs...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Early Childhood Education (P-5; Initial; M.A.T.) Mathematics Education (6-12; Initial; B.S.) 	
14	Southwest Georgia RESA	<p>The Committee recommends Continuing Approval of the following three educator preparation programs...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gifted In-field Endorsement ESOL Endorsement Reading Endorsement 	The Committee recommends a Progress Report due June 1, 2016, addressing the Areas for Improvement for the Reading Endorsement.
15	West Georgia RESA	<p>The Committee recommends Continuing Approval of the following educator preparation program...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gifted In-field Endorsement 	The Committee recommends a Progress Report due July 1, 2015, addressing the Area for Improvement for the Gifted In-field Endorsement.
16	Capella University	<p>The Committee recommends Developmental Approval of the following two educator preparation programs...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Educational Leadership Initial, Specialist degree program (PL6); online Educational Leadership Initial, Doctoral degree program (PL7); online <p>The Committee recommends the Educator Preparation Provider may begin admitting candidates effective immediately after</p>	The Committee recommends a Progress Report due June 1, 2015, addressing the Area for Improvement for the Educational Leadership Initial,

	EPP	December 2014 Detailed Approval Recommendations	Additional Action Required
		receiving the GaPSC Approval Decision Letter from the December 11, 2014, meeting.	Specialist degree program, and the (PL6); online Educational Leadership Initial, Doctoral degree program (PL7); online The Committee recommends granting the request for deferral of the Spring 2015 GaPSC Initial Performance Approval Review to Fall 2017.
17	Truett-McConnell College	The Committee recommends the Progress Report submitted October 6, 2014, is satisfactory in addressing areas for improvement for Standard 2 (element a) resulting from the Spring 2012 Developmental Approval Review. The Committee recommends the area for improvement be removed.	
18	Young Harris College	The Committee recommends the Progress Report submitted October 1, 2014, is satisfactory in addressing the areas for improvement for Standard 2 (element a & b) and Standard 3 (element c) resulting from the Spring 2011 Developmental Approval Review. The Committee recommends the areas for improvement be removed.	

Vice Chair Luigs called for approval of the Educator Preparation/Certification Committee report as presented by Chair Epps.

PSC ACTION: Approved

Abstention: Sheryl Stalvey – Thomas University, SW Georgia RESA, Terrie Ponder – NW Georgia RESA, Dr. Larry Walters – SW GA RESA, David Smith – Pioneer RESA, Dr. Adrian Epps – DeKalb County Schools, Atlanta Public Schools and Metro RESA, Kami Luigs – Atlanta Public Schools

VIII. RULES

Anne Marie Fenton presented the rules.

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MOTION: (Dr. Adrian Epps / David Smith) To (1) amend the current rules in Chapter 505-2 Certification, effective January 15, 2015, as follows: 505-2-.04, 505-2-.05, 505-2-.08, 505-2-.09, 505-2-.22, 505-2.24, 505-2-34, 505-2-.56, 505-2-.89, 505-2-.90, 505-2-.141, 505-2-.142, 505-2-.146, 505-2-.149, 505-2-.169, and 505-2-.170; (2) repeal the current rules in Chapter 505-3 Educator Preparation, effective January 15, 2015, as follows: 505-3-.19, 505-3-.69, and 505-3-.94; (3) adopt the current rules in Chapter 505-3- Educator Preparation, effective January 15, 2015, as follows: 505-3-.19 and 505-3-.69; and (4) amend the current rules in Chapter 505-3 Educator

PSC ACTION: Approved

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Vice Chair Luigs called for the meeting to be adjourned at 1:55 p.m.

PSC ACTION: Approved