

# MINUTES

## PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS COMMISSION

Two Piedmont Avenue

Atlanta, Georgia

February 9, 2017

The Georgia Professional Standards Commission (PSC) met on Thursday, February 9, 2017, at 12:30 p.m.

### Members Present

Dr. Jim Barrett	Scott Justus	Teri Schneider
Lauren Eckman	Henry Kelly	David Smith
Leon Grant, III	Kamila Luigs	Sheryl Stalvey
Rodney Green	Diane McClearn	Christy Van Meter
Dr. Isiah Hill, Jr.	Christy McGill	Dr. Martha Venn

### Members Absent

Susan Thayer  
Amanda Miliner

## I. WORK SESSION

- Executive Secretary Report – Kelly called upon Lauren Eckman to introduce Flat Stevie, Ambassador to the Academy of the Blind. Flat Stevie has traveled to many places and he gets his picture made in that locale. All the Commissioners took their picture with Flat Stevie and the Georgia State Capitol was in the background.
- CAEP Partnership Agreement – Angie Gant spoke briefly on the CAEP Partnership Agreement. If CAEP accepts the changes that Commissioners vote on today it will go into effect on April 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Anne Marie Fenton and Chuck McCampbell discussed examples of GaPSC's focus on communication, including not only each division's outreach, but also social media and each RESA's A Day with GaPSC. MyPSC was highlighted, which provides a strong tool for communication, especially to teachers and leaders. As an example, GaPSC used this internal resource to help ensure teachers and leaders were informed about the district requirement to report unsatisfactory performance. GaPSC will continue to intentionally focus on effective communication and outreach to teachers and leaders, as well as all clients.
- Anne Marie Fenton discussed with Commissions that as part of the rule revisions that will be brought to them for their consideration to initiate in March 2017, they will see a recommendation to remove the requirement that educators seeking a Professional Certificate must pass the content GACE at the Professional level, beginning July 1, 2017. The intent of this revision is that this be a temporary hold on raising the professional level passing score to earn a Professional Certificate, in part, as there is no longer a performance option in which educators do not have to pass at professional. In addition and in order to continue to raise passing standards over time, Anne Marie discussed that additional representative groups will consider making a recommendation to the Commission to raise the induction passing score to -1 SEM from -2 SEM below committee recommendation. No motion will be needed at today's Commission meeting regarding GACE.
- Kelli Young previewed Certification rules and Bobbi Ford previewed Educator Preparation rules that will be brought forward for the Commission's consideration at the March 2017 meeting. In addition, Paul Shaw previewed proposed changes to the Code of Ethics for Educators regarding abandonment of contract.
- Chair Luigs spoke briefly about the work that the Education Preparation Division is doing and how they are able to bring schools/agencies/groups together to work collaboratively.

## II. CALL TO ORDER

3/15/2017

Page 2

Chair Luigs called the meeting to order at 12:52 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. flag and a moment of silence.

### **III. ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

Chair Luigs called for the approval of the agenda after the removal of the GACE Cut Scores.

**MOTION:** (Scott Justus / Lauren Eckman) To approve the agenda.

**PSC ACTION:** Approved

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

Chair Luigs called for approval of the minutes from the January 12, 2017, Commission meeting.

**PSC ACTION:** Approved

### **V. VISITORS**

Chair Luigs welcomed the visitors.

- Leonard Williams, Professional Association of Georgia Educators
- Paige Tompkins, Georgia Association of Career and Technical Education(GACTE)
- Juanita Williams, Teach For America, Metro-Atlanta
- M. Alvarez, Teach for America, Metro-Atlanta
- D. Ford, Teach for America, Metro-Atlanta
- Linda Fortson, Warren Fortson Law Office
- Don Splinter, Georgia Association of Educational Leaders (GAEL)
- Emily Jones, Office of Planning and Budget
- Tayia Donald, Georgia Association of Educators (GAE)

### **VI. EMPLOYEE SERVICE AWARD**

Chair Luigs presented Tanis Miller with her 10 Year Service Award and thanked him for his service and Kelly also thanked her for her service and read the following:

Tanis Miller serves as legal counsel for the GaPSC. Some of her duties are responding to open record requests, reviewing language in all contracts, and working in conjunction with the Attorney General's Office. Tanis may be small in stature but she can hold her own in management meetings with Paul, John, and Kevin. She is knowledgeable in the law, firm in her convictions, but willing to listen to the opinion of others. She enjoys the flexibility of her job as it gives her an opportunity to spend quality time with her 9 year old daughter, Kayla, as well as time with her husband. She enjoys traveling and reading. The GaPSC is fortunate to have someone of her knowledge and experience in the Ethics Division.

### **VII. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

#### **A. Ethics and Professional Conduct --Recommendations and Actions on Cases**

Chair Scott Justus of the Educator Ethics Review Committee (EERC), gave a preliminary review of the Cases.

1. Chair Justus reported that the Committee reviewed 60 **Probable Cause** cases during February 9, 2017, meeting and brought the following recommendations on behalf of the committee:

<u>CASE</u>	<u>STANDARDS VIOLATED</u>	<u>RECOMMENDATION</u>
16-10-566	1, 4	Reprimand
16-10-568	5a2, 5a5	Deny
16-11-667	1	Reprimand
16-11-684	1, 4	NPC
16-12-802	1,4,5a2,9	Reprimand
12-5-1187	1, 10	NPC
13-3-869	2, 10	Reprimand
13-6-1231	2,10	NPC
14-8-149	4, 7, 10, 11	Suspension - 20 days
15-10-536	1,10	Revoke
15-12-668	2,4,10	NPC
15-12-670	9, 10	Suspension - 90 days
16-4-1187	10	NPC
16-5-1238	10	Reprimand
16-6-1401	1,9,10	Suspension - 1 yr
16-8-189	1,4,9,10	Reprimand
16-9-494	1,4,9,10	Reprimand
16-10-530	2, 10	Suspension - 10 days
16-10-531	1,2,10,5a7	Revoke
16-10-534	10	NPC
16-10-564	2,10	Suspension - 10 days
16-10-587	8, 10	NPC
16-10-589	8, 10	NPC
16-10-592	8, 10	Suspension - 90 days
16-10-595	2, 10	Suspension - 20 days
16-10-600	8, 10	Suspension - 90 days
16-10-606	2, 10	Reprimand
16-10-607	1,4, 9, 10	Suspension - 1 yr
16-11-636	8, 10	Suspension - 90 days
16-11-637	3,10	Suspension - 1 yr
16-11-638	3, 10	Suspension - 1 yr
16-11-639	3, 10	Suspension - 1 yr
16-11-640	3, 10	Suspension - 1 yr
16-11-641	3, 10	Suspension - 1 yr
16-11-642	3, 10	Suspension - 1 yr
16-11-644	8, 10	NPC
16-11-647	2, 10	Suspension - 1 yr
16-11-655	8, 10	NPC
16-11-658	8, 10	Suspension - 90 days
16-11-661	8, 10	Suspension - 90 days

<u>CASE</u>	<u>STANDARDS VIOLATED</u>	<u>RECOMMENDATION</u>
16-11-662	2, 10	Suspension - 20 days
16-11-674	1,2,10	Suspension - 10 days
16-11-675	5, 10	NPC
16-11-676	5, 10	NPC
16-11-677	2, 10	Suspension - 10 days
16-11-688	8, 10	NPC
16-11-693	4, 5, 10	Revoke
16-11-694	10	Reprimand
16-11-699	2, 9, 10	Suspension - 90 days
16-11-703	8, 10	NPC
16-11-704	8, 10	NPC
16-11-706		NPC
16-11-708	8, 10	NPC
16-11-709	8, 10	NPC
16-11-712	2, 10	Suspension - 30 days
16-11-714	2, 10	Suspension - 10 days
16-11-718	8, 10	Suspension - 90 days
16-11-719	8, 10	NPC
16-11-720	3,10	Suspension - 1 yr
16-12-785	3,10	Suspension - 1 yr

2. Chair Justus 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>
16-11-727	Revocation-March 2009	<b>Grant</b>
16-12-783	Revocation-May 2013	<b>Deny</b>

3. Chair Justus reported that the Educator Ethics Review Committee reviewed 6 *Settlement Agreements* and brought the following recommendations on behalf of the Committee:

<u>CASE</u>	<u>SANCTION</u>	<u>EERC RECOMMENDATION</u>
16-9-475	Suspension - 20 days	Accept
16-10-528	Suspension - 1 year	Accept
16-10-532	Suspension - 1 year	Accept
16-10-557	Suspension - 1 year	Accept
16-10-618	Reprimand	Accept
16-11-665	Reprimand	Accept

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

<u>CASE</u>	<u>NEGOTIATED SANCTION</u>	<u>EERC RECOMMENDATION</u>
14-4-744	Suspension - 20 days	Accept
15-5-985	Suspension - 20 days	Accept
15-5-986	Suspension - 20 days	Accept
15-5-1046	Suspension - 90 days	Accept
15-8-306	Suspension - 90 days	Accept
16-3-1006	Suspension - 40 days	Accept
16-4-1168	Suspension - 45 days	Accept
16-5-1266	Suspension - 1 year	Accept
16-5-1317	Suspension - 1 year	Accept
16-5-1333	Suspension - 10 days	Accept
16-5-1336	Warning	Accept
16-7-19	Warning	Accept
16-8-176	Suspension - 60 days	Accept
16-8-245	Suspension - 50 days	Accept

**5. OTHER BUSINESS**

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

<u>CASE</u>	<u>PROPOSED SANCTION</u>	<u>EERC RECOMMENDATION</u>
13-9-216	Warning	Reject
13-8-56	No info received from applicant	Hold New App
15-12-726	No info received from applicant	Hold New App
16-4-1208	No info received from applicant	Hold New App
16-7-103	No info received from applicant	Hold New App
16-8-303	No info received from applicant	Hold New App
16-8-312	No info received from applicant	Hold New App
16-9-462	No info received from applicant	Hold New App
16-12-807	No info received from applicant	Hold New App

6. The Educator Ethics Review Committee recommended approval of the *Preliminary Investigative Determination Report* consisting of 35 new complaints received during the months of January and February 2017.

**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>
16-11-716	2, 10	Voluntary Surrender	Accept

**8. EXTENSIONS – PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATIVE DETERMINATIONS**

The Educator Ethics Review Committee recommended approval of the 47 Extensions - Preliminary Investigative Determinations consisting of the following:

17-1-932	17-1-953	17-1-959	17-2-969	17-2-975	17-2-981	17-2-987	17-2-993
17-1-933	17-1-954	17-1-960	17-2-970	17-2-976	17-2-982	17-2-988	17-2-994
17-1-934	17-1-955	17-1-961	17-2-971	17-2-977	17-2-983	17-2-989	17-2-995
17-1-950	17-1-956	17-1-962	17-2-972	17-2-978	17-2-984	17-2-990	17-2-996
17-1-951	17-1-957	17-2-967	17-2-973	17-2-979	17-2-985	17-2-991	17-2-997
17-1-952	17-1-958	17-2-968	17-2-974	17-2-980	17-2-986	17-2-992	

### 9. EXTENSIONS - INVESTIGATIONS

The Educator Ethics Review Committee recommended granting an *Investigative Extension* to the following 281 cases:

<b>WRITTEN COMPLAINT EXTENSIONS</b>							
14-1-444	15-6-1203	16-1-836	16-5-1363	16-7-41	16-9-445	16-10-612	16-11-715
14-3-581	15-6-1215	16-2-849	16-5-1364	16-7-43	16-9-450	16-10-614	16-11-717
14-3-583	15-7-7	16-2-852	16-5-1365	16-7-53	16-9-453	16-10-615	16-11-721
14-4-762	15-7-8	16-2-859	16-5-1367	16-7-94	16-9-461	16-10-616	16-11-722
14-6-950	15-7-18	16-2-883	16-5-1371	16-7-99	16-9-463	16-10-617	16-11-723
14-6-981	15-7-32	16-2-919	16-6-1414	16-7-105	16-9-466	16-10-619	16-11-728
14-7-54	15-7-35	16-3-987	16-6-1416	16-7-107	16-9-468	16-10-622	16-11-740
14-7-86	15-7-55	16-3-994	16-6-1461	16-7-111	16-9-476	16-10-624	16-11-745
14-7-107	15-7-83	16-3-995	16-6-1489	16-7-113	16-9-477	16-10-625	16-11-747
14-10-321	15-8-208	16-3-1010	16-6-1491	16-8-152	16-9-480	16-10-629	16-11-748
14-12-427	15-8-234	16-3-1045	16-6-1495	16-8-157	16-9-486	16-10-632	16-11-751
14-12-469	15-8-304	16-4-1124	16-6-1497	16-8-177	16-9-489	16-10-633	16-11-752
14-12-492	15-8-305	16-4-1133	16-6-1512	16-8-181	16-9-490	16-10-635	16-11-754
14-12-493	15-9-371	16-4-1137	16-6-1513	16-8-195	16-9-491	16-11-643	16-11-755
15-3-733	15-9-390	16-4-1183	16-6-1517	16-8-216	16-9-492	16-11-646	16-11-756
15-3-734	15-9-396	16-4-1199	16-6-1524	16-8-222	16-9-493	16-11-649	16-12-801
15-3-761	15-9-463	16-4-1200	16-6-1525	16-8-228	16-9-499	16-11-652	16-12-805
15-3-821	15-9-464	16-4-1211	16-6-1526	16-8-268	16-10-536	16-11-659	16-12-809
15-3-836	15-9-465	16-4-1214	16-6-1529	16-8-278	16-10-539	16-11-663	16-12-810
15-4-855	15-10-510	16-4-1215	16-6-1533	16-8-287	16-10-551	16-11-664	16-12-811
15-4-947	15-10-522	16-4-1222	16-6-1542	16-8-291	16-10-555	16-11-669	16-12-812
15-5-957	15-10-532	16-4-1224	16-6-1543	16-8-295	16-10-558	16-11-670	16-12-813
15-5-982	15-11-592	16-5-1258	16-6-1545	16-8-300	16-10-559	16-11-671	16-12-815
15-5-1003	15-11-599	16-5-1269	16-6-1547	16-8-308	16-10-567	16-11-673	16-12-816
15-5-1015	15-11-604	16-5-1271	16-6-1548	16-8-317	16-10-571	16-11-678	16-12-817
15-5-1029	15-11-621	16-5-1276	16-6-1554	16-8-318	16-10-572	16-11-679	16-12-832
15-5-1045	15-11-622	16-5-1277	16-6-1557	16-9-324	16-10-573	16-11-680	16-12-844
15-6-1093	15-12-658	16-5-1278	16-6-1563	16-9-339	16-10-574	16-11-683	16-12-845
15-6-1094	15-12-660	16-5-1279	16-6-1566	16-9-353	16-10-576	16-11-685	16-12-846
15-6-1095	15-12-682	16-5-1280	16-6-1568	16-9-361	16-10-578	16-11-686	
15-6-1100	15-12-695	16-5-1281	16-7-14	16-9-365	16-10-584	16-11-687	
15-6-1107	15-12-726	16-5-1289	16-7-24	16-9-385	16-10-596	16-11-690	

WRITTEN COMPLAINT EXTENSIONS						
15-6-1125	16-1-730	16-5-1311	16-7-28	16-9-420	16-10-599	16-11-692
15-6-1129	16-1-732	16-5-1329	16-7-31	16-9-430	16-10-602	16-11-702
15-6-1170	16-1-735	16-5-1335	16-7-35	16-9-431	16-10-610	16-11-705
15-6-1173	16-1-738	16-5-1360	16-7-40	16-9-440	16-10-611	16-11-707

**10. APPLICATIONS FOR CERTIFICATION REPORT**

The Educator Ethics Review Committee recommended to approve a no probable cause determination on 13 cases reflected on the *Applications for Certification Report*.

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

The Commission reviewed the report, which advised of 13 cases now closed without an appeal for a hearing before an Administrative Law Judge. The report also advised that there were 2 cases closed without an appeal for a review hearing before the Commission.

**12. FINAL DECISIONS**

The Educator Ethics Review Committee recommended approval of the *Final Decisions* report as follows:

CASE	ORIGINAL SANCTION	ALJ SANCTION	EERC RECOMMENDATION
16-1-831	Deny	Deny	Accept

Chair Luigs called for approval of the Educator Ethics Review Committee report as presented by Chair Scott Justus excluding Case # 16-12-841.

**PSC ACTION:** Approved

Abstention: Jim Barrett – 16-10-534, Kami – 16-3-1006, 16-5-1336, 16-4-1187

**Probable Cause Case # 13-3-869**

**MOTION:** (Rodney Green / David Smith) To reject the EERC recommendation of a Reprimand and issue 6 month Suspension.

**PSC ACTION:** Approved

Opposed: Lauren Eckman, Dr. Isiah Hill, Scott Justus, Henry Kelly, Christy McGill, Dr. Marti Venn

**B. Educator Preparation Standing Committee**

Committee Chair, Dr. Marti Venn, presented the report of the Educator Preparation Standing Committee.

	EPP	February 2017 Detailed Approval Recommendations
1.	Clark Atlanta University	The Committee recommends incremental progress is evident in the Progress Report submitted October 31, 2016, addressing the Standard 2 Area for Improvement resulting from the Fall 2011 Continuing Approval Review. The Committee recommends the Area for Improvement remain

	EPP	February 2017 Detailed Approval Recommendations
		with a Progress Report due May 1, 2017, addressing the Area for Improvement.
2.	Young Harris College	The Committee recommends the Progress Report submitted September 1, 2016, is satisfactory in addressing the areas for improvement for Standard 2 (element a), Standard 6 (element a), and Standard 8 resulting from the Spring 2015 Initial Performance Approval Review. The Committee recommends the areas for improvement be removed. Additionally, the Committee recommends incremental progress is evident in the Progress Report submitted September 1, 2016, addressing the Standard 4 (elements a & d) Areas for Improvement resulting from the Spring 2015 Initial Performance Approval Review. The Committee recommends the Areas for Improvement remain. Finally, the Committee recommends the submission of a Progress Report May 15, 2017, addressing the remaining Areas for Improvement on Standard 4 (elements a & d).
3.	Teach for America	The Committee recommends a Probationary Review to include available data in Spring 2018. The Probationary Review should also include an addendum section to address all previous Areas for Improvement and Unmet Standards.
4.	Armstrong State University	The Committee recommends the Spring 2019 Continuing Approval Review is postponed until the consolidation of Georgia Southern University and Armstrong State University is complete, and until the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP) establishes the date of the review of the consolidated universities.

Chair Luigs called for approval of the Educator Preparation / Certification Report as presented by Chair Venn.  
**PSC ACTION:** Approved

**VIII. CAEP PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT**

Angie Gant presented the CAEP Partnership Agreement.

**MOTION:** (David Smith / Dr. Marti Venn) To approve the GaPSC-CAEP State Partnership Agreement and submit it to CAEP for approval.

**PSC ACTION:**

**IX. ADJOURNMENT**

3/15/2017

Page 9

Chair Luigs asked if any members had any comments before adjournment and Jim Barrett thanked Kelly Henson, Paul Shaw and David Hill for coming to his school to speak on the current work of GaPSC. Chair Luigs called for the meeting to be adjourned at 1:21p.m.

**PSC ACTION:** Approved