

MINUTES

PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS COMMISSION

Remote Meeting via TEAMS Platform

February 8, 2024

The Georgia Professional Standards Commission (PSC) met on Thursday, February 8, 2024.

Members Present

Jimmy Atkins	Mark Kauffman	Beth Townsend
Jeanine Bunn	Nathan Lewis	Dr. Jennifer Wade
Abigail Coggin	Dr. Franklin Perry	Dr. Judi Wilson
Derek Easterling	Jane Rookard	Vonda Woodall
Kedrione Harris	Brian Sirmans	

Members Absent

Jordan Frobos	Carol Williams
Dr. Brandon Seigler	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 / Jimmy Atkins) To approve the agenda.

PSC ACTION: Approved

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chair Sirmans called for approval of the January 11, 2024, minutes.

PSC ACTION:

V. EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT

February Birthdays – Vonda Woodall and Abigail Coggin

Congratulations to Abigail Coggin who was reappointed.

Winter GAEL - The Winter GAEL conference was held in Athens last week (January 28-30, 2024). Laurin Vonada spoke on *Prevention and Correction: Fostering Professional Practice*, toward our aim of helping our districts, school, and EPPs place an intentional focus on ethics. She also shared statewide ethics data. Dr. Kelli

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Young conducted a session on ***Powerful Partnerships to Support Safer Schools: Implementation of the Safe Schools Act***. The session detailed the coordinated school safety training and technical assistance for schools and educators provided by the Georgia Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency, Department of Juvenile Justice, Georgia Public Safety Training Center, and Georgia Department of Education. In addition, this session covered the new requirements for schools under the 2023 Safe Schools Act and offered a preview of the School Safety and Anti-Gang teaching endorsement, which was recently adopted by you.

Ethics Symposium - Registration opened on February 7th for the Ethics Symposium, scheduled for March 26-27th at Middle Georgia State University's Robert F. Hatcher, Sr., Conference Center. The theme is ***Prevention and Correction: Fostering Professional Practice***, and the target audience includes, but is not limited to, 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. This is yet another initiative of ours to work collaboratively with our districts, schools, EPPs, and others toward the goal of fostering an intentional focus on ethics to help educators avoid missteps. You received the registration link. We are expecting the symposium to fill up fast. We invite you to join us and please feel free to share this with your colleagues.

VI. RULES PREVIEW

Anne Marie Fenton presented the rules for preview only. At last month's Commission meeting on January 11th, Commissioners initiated rules that are currently posted for public comment. We will bring those rules to Commissioners for their adoption consideration at next month's Commission meeting on March 14th. Also, at the March Commission meeting, there will be a new set of rules for initiation consideration, which we are previewing for you today.

Windy Fortenberry previewed the Certification rule, and Penney McRoy previewed the Educator Preparation rules.

Windy

- Proposed amendments to 505-2-.143 MEDIA SPECIALIST were previewed to change the rule name to *School Librarian* to align with the recently initiated name change to Educator Preparation rule 505-3-.65 MEDIA SPECIALIST PROGRAM.

Penney:

- Proposed amendments to Rule 505-3-.01 REQUIREMENTS AND STANDARDS FOR APPROVING EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROVIDERS AND EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROGRAMS include adding dates by which EPPs must enter in the Traditional Program Management System (TPMS), the date clinical practice (e.g., student teaching or internship) begins for each candidate, and to clarify candidates must apply for the Pre-Service Certificate.
- Proposed amendments to 505-3-.76 ALTERNATIVE PREPARATION FOR EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP include clarifying that Local Units of Administration (LUA) are responsible for the determination of leadership positions, and to remove references to obsolete guidelines.

VII. 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 77 *Probable Cause* cases during February 7, 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>
23-8-193	1,5a6	NPC	Accept
23-9-572	1,5a6	Reprimand	Accept
23-10-664	1, 5a6	NPC	Accept
23-11-865	1,5a6	HNA	Accept
23-11-866	1,5a6	Deny	Accept
23-11-924	1,4,5a6,5a7 (2013-2022),8,9	Reprimand	Accept
23-11-930	1,5a6	Reprimand	Accept
23-11-936	1, 5a6	NPC	Accept
23-11-962	1,5a6	Reprimand	Accept
23-11-978	9	HNA	Accept
23-11-1028	5a6	Reprimand	Accept
23-11-1036	1,4,5a6	NPC	Accept
23-11-1048	5a2,5A6	Reprimand	Accept
23-12-1093	1, 5a6	HNA	Accept
23-12-1125	1,4,5a6,5a7 (2018-2022), 8 , 9	NPC	Accept
23-12-1157	1,5a6	Reprimand	Accept
23-12-1192	1,4,5a6	Reprimand	Accept
23-12-1193	1, 5a6	Reprimand	Accept
24-1-1303	1, 5a6	Reprimand	Accept
23-4-1421	2, 9	30 day suspension	Accept
23-5-1516	1,4,5a6, 5a7 (2018-2022),8,9	Reprimand	Accept
23-5-1522	1,4, 5a6,5a7 (2017-2022), 8 9	Reprimand	Accept
23-5-1552	2, 9	2 year suspension	Accept
23-5-1567	1,4,5a6,5a7 (2022),8,9	20 day suspension	Accept
23-5-1607	5a2, 5a5, 5a7	Suspend through 5/8/24	Accept
23-5-1649	1,4,5a6,5a7 (2010-2022), 8, 9	NPC	Accept
23-6-1707	9	90 day suspension	Accept
23-6-1712	1, 4 5a6, 5a7 (2022) 8, 9	Reprimand	Accept
23-8-236	1, 2, 9	Reprimand	Accept
23-8-347	9	90 day Suspension	Accept
23-8-393	4, 8, 9, 5a1, 5a4,5a5,5a6	Revoke	Accept
23-9-438	1,4,5a6,5a7 (2021) ,8,9	20 day Suspension	Accept
23-10-800	1,2,9	Criminal Ext	Accept

<u>CASE</u>	<u>STANDARDS VIOLATED</u>	<u>RECOMMENDATION</u>	<u>EERC RECOMMENDATION</u>
23-10-804	2, 9	5 day Suspension	Accept
23-10-805	3, 9	1 year Suspension	Accept
23-10-809	2,8,9	NPC	Accept
23-10-810	1,2, 4, 9	Criminal Ext	Accept
23-10-811	9	NPC	Accept
23-10-812	9	90 day Suspension	Accept
23-10-816	9	90 day Suspension	Accept
23-10-820	2, 8, 9	Reprimand	Accept
23-10-821	5,9	90 day Suspension	Accept
23-10-822	1,3, 9	1 year Suspension	Accept
23-10-830	3, 9	1 year Suspension	Accept
23-10-833	9,10	NPC	Accept
23-10-834	2, 9	5 day Suspension	Accept
23-11-886	2, 9	1 year + 1 year monitoring & additional class	Accept
23-11-888	9	90 day Suspension	Accept
23-11-889	9	90 day Suspension	Accept
23-11-893	2, 9	Reprimand	Accept
23-11-896	9	30 day Suspension	Accept
23-11-901	5,6,9	NPC	Accept
23-11-904	1, 2, 9	Criminal Ext	Accept
23-11-941	9	90 day Suspension	Accept
23-11-946	2,9	Reprimand	Accept
23-11-952	2, 9	5 day Suspension	Accept
23-11-956	1, 9	Criminal Ext	Accept
23-11-958	2,9	10 day Suspension	Accept
23-11-965	1,4, 5a6,5a7 (2015-2019), 8, 9	NPC	Accept
23-11-977	9	30 day Suspension	Accept
23-11-984	9	90 day Suspension	Accept
23-11-986	5,9	NPC	Accept
23-11-991	2, 9	20 day Suspension	Accept
23-11-994	2, 9	1 year Suspension	Accept
23-11-996	2, 4, 9	NPC	Accept
23-11-997	9	90 day Suspension	Accept
23-11-1003	1,4, 5a6, 5a7 (2016-2022), 8 9	Reprimand	Accept
23-12-1062	7, 9	1 year Suspension	Accept
23-12-1098	3, 9	1 year Suspension	Accept
23-12-1121	1, 4, 8, 9	20 day	Accept
23-12-1135	1, 2, 4, 9, 5a7	Criminal Ext	Accept
23-12-1147	9	90 day Suspension	Accept
23-12-1158	1,4,5a6, 5a7 (2010- 2022),8,9	NPC	Accept
23-12-1169	2,9	5 day Suspension	Accept
23-12-1172	2,9	5 day suspension	Accept

<u>CASE</u>	<u>STANDARDS VIOLATED</u>	<u>RECOMMENDATION</u>	<u>EERC RECOMMENDATION</u>
23-12-1176	1,4,5a6, 5a7 (2012-2017), 8,9	90 day Suspension	Accept
23-12-1198	1,4,5a6, 5a7 (2017-2022), 8 9	Reprimand	Accept

2. Chair Townsend 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>
23-12-1173	Denial - 12/22/2023	Grant
24-1-1264	Denial - 8/7/18 & 11/14/22	Grant

3. Chair Townsend reported that the Educator Ethics Review Committee reviewed 12 *Settlement Agreements* and brought the following recommendations on behalf of the Committee:

<u>CASE</u>	<u>SANCTION</u>	<u>EERC RECOMMENDATION</u>
23-5-1523	Reprimand	Accept
23-7-105	Suspension 90 days	Accept
23-8-351	Reprimand	Accept
23-9-446	Suspension 1 year	Accept
23-9-529	Suspension 1 year	Accept
23-10-634	Reprimand	Accept
23-10-693	Suspension 10 days	Accept
23-10-733	Reprimand	Accept
23-10-784	Reprimand	Accept
23-10-807	Reprimand	Accept
23-11-863	Suspension 20 days	Accept
23-11-926	Reprimand	Accept

4. 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>
22-7-115	Suspension 9 days	Accept
22-8-296 23-4-1323	Suspension 30 days	Accept
22-10-621	Reprimand	Accept
23-4-1348	Reprimand	Accept
23-5-1555	Warning	Accept

<u>CASE</u>	<u>NEGOTIATED SANCTION</u>	<u>EERC RECOMMENDATION</u>
23-6-1679	Reprimand	Accept
23-8-303	Reprimand	Accept

5. OTHER BUSINESS

The Educator Ethics Review Committee recommended approval of the 11 *Other Business Report* as follows:

<u>CASE</u>	<u>FINDINGS OF FACTS</u>	<u>EERC RECOMMENDATION</u>
23-5-1608	Supplemental complaint	Investigate
23-9-593	Supplemental complaint	Investigate
23-11-1010	Supplemental complaint	Investigate
23-12-1101	Supplemental complaint	Investigate
23-12-1167	Supplemental complaint	Investigate
PCA 24-1-1400	It was an HNA from the January meeting (expired application) and a new application has now been submitted.	Reprimand
23-8-340	Unable effect service	Hold New App
23-8-345	Unable effect service	Hold New App
238-346	Failure to respond.	Hold New App
23-10-803	Unable effect service	Hold New App
23-11-940	Unable effect service	Hold New App

6. The Educator Ethics Review Committee recommended approval of the *Preliminary Investigative Determination Report* consisting of 64 new complaints received during the months of January and February 2024.

7. VOLUNTARY SURRENDERS

The Educator Ethics Review Committee recommended approval of the 3 *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>
22-3-1060	1, 2, 9	Voluntary Surrender	Accept
23-10-819	1, 8, 9, 5a7	Voluntary Surrender	Accept
23-12-1116	1, 2, 9	Voluntary Surrender	Accept

8. EXTENSIONS – PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATIVE DETERMINATIONS

The Educator Ethics Review Committee recommended approval of the 59 *Extensions - Preliminary Investigative Determinations* consisting of the following:

24-1-1354	24-1-1362	24-1-1370	24-1-1378	24-2-1411	24-2-1420	24-2-1428	24-2-1436
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24-1-1355	24-1-1363	24-1-1371	24-1-1379	24-2-1412	24-2-1421	24-2-1429	24-2-1437
24-1-1356	24-1-1364	24-1-1372	24-1-1380	24-2-1413	24-2-1422	24-2-1430	24-2-1438
24-1-1357	24-1-1365	24-1-1373	24-2-1406	24-2-1414	24-2-1423	24-2-1431	
24-1-1358	24-1-1366	24-1-1374	24-2-1407	24-2-1415	24-2-1424	24-2-1432	
24-1-1359	24-1-1367	24-1-1375	24-2-1408	24-2-1417	24-2-1425	24-2-1433	
24-1-1360	24-1-1368	24-1-1376	24-2-1409	24-2-1418	24-2-1426	24-2-1434	
24-1-1361	24-1-1369	24-1-1377	24-2-1410	24-2-1419	24-2-1427	24-2-1435	

9. EXTENSIONS - INVESTIGATIONS

The Educator Ethics Review Committee recommended granting an *Investigative Extension* to the following 181 cases:

WRITTEN COMPLAINT EXTENSIONS							
23-2-1039	23-5-1541	23-8-150	23-8-333	23-9-485	23-10-636	23-10-788	23-11-964
23-2-1090	23-5-1544	23-8-151	23-8-342	23-9-488	23-10-637	23-10-791	23-11-975
23-2-1127	23-5-1568	23-8-160	23-8-358	23-9-502	23-10-648	23-10-794	23-11-1000
23-3-1191	23-5-1589	23-8-163	23-8-367	23-9-504	23-10-657	23-10-795	23-11-1002
23-3-1264	23-5-1593	23-8-167	23-8-379	23-9-505	23-10-665	23-10-826	23-11-1019
23-3-1280	23-5-1656	23-8-172	23-8-385	23-9-513	23-10-667	23-10-827	23-11-1030
23-4-1308	23-5-1664	23-8-182	23-8-388	23-9-521	23-10-669	23-11-836	23-11-1031
23-4-1320	23-6-1716	23-8-187	23-8-392	23-9-522	23-10-675	23-11-839	23-11-1033
23-4-1373	23-6-1727	23-8-195	23-8-395	23-9-524	23-10-678	23-11-842	23-11-1038
23-4-1406	23-6-1729	23-8-201	23-8-397	23-9-526	23-10-684	23-11-847	23-11-1053
23-4-1408	23-6-1772	23-8-243	23-8-406	23-9-551	23-10-699	23-11-851	23-12-1078
23-4-1426	23-6-1773	23-8-246	23-8-408	23-9-552	23-10-705	23-11-859	23-12-1080
23-4-1427	23-7-14	23-8-256	23-8-412	23-9-581	23-10-709	23-11-864	23-12-1082
23-4-1428	23-7-21	23-8-266	23-8-414	23-9-584	23-10-713	23-11-876	23-12-1083
23-4-1433	23-7-36	23-8-273	23-8-416	23-9-594	23-10-730	23-11-877	23-12-1085
23-5-1466	23-7-51	23-8-279	23-8-417	23-9-596	23-10-732	23-11-878	23-12-1086
23-5-1485	23-7-63	23-8-280	23-8-421	23-9-599	23-10-735	23-11-879	23-12-1089
23-5-1491	23-7-71	23-8-304	23-9-434	23-9-600	23-10-739	23-11-910	23-12-1092
23-5-1494	23-7-95	23-8-312	23-9-435	23-9-606	23-10-749	23-11-912	23-12-1095
23-5-1517	23-7-97	23-8-321	23-9-440	23-9-611	23-10-766	23-11-915	23-12-1097
23-5-1519	23-7-106	23-8-322	23-9-460	23-9-614	23-10-776	23-11-927	
23-5-1533	23-8-125	23-8-323	23-9-472	23-10-615	23-10-779	23-11-937	
23-5-1534	23-8-130	23-8-330	23-9-478	23-10-635	23-10-781	23-11-960	

10. APPLICATIONS FOR CERTIFICATION REPORT

The Educator Ethics Review Committee recommended to approve a no probable cause determination on 27 cases reflected on the *Applications for Certification Report*.

11. FINAL DECISIONS BY OPERATION OF LAW

The Commission reviewed the report, which advised of 15 cases now closed without an appeal for a hearing before an Administrative Law Judge.

12. FINAL DECISIONS RENDERED BY AN ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE

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

CASE	ORIGINAL SANCTION	ALJ SANCTION	EERC RECOMMENDATION
23-1-917	Revocation	NPC	Accept
23-3-1185	Revocation	NPC	Accept

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

PSC ACTION: Approved

Abstentions: Vonda Woodall-PCE Case 23-12-1158, Clearance Case 23-12-1164, Derek Easterling-PID Cases 24-1-1322, 24-1-1335, 24-1-1336, 24-1-1337, 24-1-1341, 24-1-1342, 24-1-1343, 24-1-1344, PCE Cases 23-10-822, 23-11-956, 23-11-901, 23-5-1552, Jimmy Atkins-PCS Cases 23-11-1048, 23-12-1093, Clearance Case 24-1-1273, Jane Rookard PID Cases 24-1-1318, 24-1-1339, 24-1-1340, PCS Case 23-12-1192, Beth Townsend-NCO Case 23-5-1555

B. Educator Preparation Standing Committee

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

- Brewton-Parker College – As a result of incremental progress evident in the December 8, 2023, Progress Report, the Committee recommends the Areas for Improvement (AFIs) remain in Standard 4.1 and 5.2 for the EPP. The Committee recommends the submission of a progress report on November 7, 2024, addressing the remaining AFIs. The progress report should include empirical evidence or data to assure valid and reliable measures are used by the EPP.
- Georgia Gwinnett College – The Committee recommends the December 7, 2023, Progress Report is satisfactory and removal of the AFI in Standard 5.5 for the EPP.

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

PSC ACTION: Approved

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Our next Commission meeting will be held on Thursday, March 14, 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, March 13, 2024, at 4:30 pm and Educator Preparation and Certification Committee meeting will meet on Wednesday, March 13, 2024, at 4:00 pm. Chair Sirmans called for the meeting to be adjourned at 4:24 p.m.

PSC ACTION: Approved