

MINUTES

PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS COMMISSION

Remote Meeting via ZOOM Webinar

February 13, 2025

The Georgia Professional Standards Commission (PSC) met on Thursday, February 13, 2025.

Members Present

Jimmy Atkins
Abigail Coggin
Kedriane Harris
Mark Kauffman

Nathan Lewis
Dr. Holley Roberts
Jane Rookard
Dr. Brandon Seigler

Brian Sirmans
Dr. Jennifer Wade
Carol Williams
Dr. Judi Wilson
Vonda Woodall

Members Absent

Jeanine Bunn
Dr. Franklin Perry

I. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Chair Sirmans called the meeting to order at 4:01 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: (Dr. Judi Wilson / Vonda Woodall) To approve the agenda.

PSC ACTION: Approved

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chair Sirmans called for approval of the January 9, 2025, minutes.

PSC ACTION: Approved

V. EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT

Executive Secretary, Dr. Joseph C. Barrow gave the following report:

It is great to connect with everyone again. If you recall, our first meeting was just after my official beginning just a few days in the new role. Today marks my 30th workday and I continue to learn new things daily. I feel good about our progress working through my 90-day plan. I continue to review all transition data and a number of activities in conjunction with the Governor's office. I still would like to connect with our Committee Chairs and Vice Chairs. I know you have work schedules to deal with too, so please contact Ms. Shaat and schedule a time that would be good for us to set up a Zoom meeting.

I have met individually and collectively with our Agency Directors with most of those meetings being face-to-face. We have set our weekly meeting schedule up through April, establishing a hybrid model of face to face

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and virtual meetings. I continue to be very pleased with these leaders and the amazing work they do and lead on a daily basis. I continue to meet with staff as the opportunities present themselves.

The legislative session is in full swing, and I have been attending the House and Senate Education and Appropriation Committee meetings when appropriate, particularly when a bill may have an impact on our agency. I presented to the Senate You and Education Committee this past Tuesday. Several of our directors also attended this session. I very much appreciated their presence, and believe it speaks volumes about the “great customer service” our agency provides to our stakeholders.

Ms. Fortenberry, our Director of Business Operations, and I had a meeting with representatives of the Office of Planning and Budget. Our budget is very flat with basically no changes in the Amended FY25 Budget or the proposed FY 26 budget.

We had several staff members present at the Winter GAEL meeting. I provided a general session report on Recruitment, Retention and other GaPSC highlights. I had the opportunity to recognize our staff members who were present, several of which had presentations, or a booth set up to share the work of the agency. Dr. Young and I attended the RESA Directors general meeting held at GAEL too.

Of particular interest to me is the Environmental Scan I had mentioned to the Commission. That scan was collaboratively reviewed with our directors. It was disseminated to all staff on January 23 and closed at the end of business on February 7. We received an almost 90% return rate. Those of you who do any work with marketing and data gathering know that type of return rate is very impressive. We are in the process of digesting the data and I will look forward to sharing the summary results with our staff and with the commission.

All GaPSC-approved educator preparation providers were required to submit a report to us last October describing evidence of their full implementation of the new Foundations of Reading, Literacy, and Language standards in all teacher preparation programs. After an extensive review process facilitated by the Educator Preparation Division, I am happy to share that across all 67 program providers (public and private universities and GaTAPP programs) 55, or 82% met all expectations. 7 program providers were asked to provide further clarification and 5 were asked to resubmit a portion of the report. All EPPs received their feedback yesterday. We are very proud of the work the program providers did to implement these new standards by August of 2024.

Educator Preparation Division Analyst, Joy Fethe will be leaving us next week to pursue another opportunity. Joy has been with GaPSC since 2015. Prior to joining GaPSC, she worked for the Department of Education and the Senate budget office. Joy has served our agency and the state of Georgia very well. You can see evidence of her good work when you review the Preparation Program Effectiveness Measures dashboard on our website. Joy contributed greatly to the success of the Ed Prep team, and to the success of the agency. We wish Joy well in her next opportunity

VI. RULES PREVIEW

Anne Marie Fenton thanked Commissioners for rules initiation last month of one certification rule and one educator preparation rule, which are currently posted for public comment. Those rules will come before the Commission at next month's March 13th meeting for their adoption consideration.

Commissioners previewed Educator Preparation rules and Certification rules. These rules will come before the

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Commission for their initiation consideration at next month's meeting.

Dr. Penney McRoy previewed changes to Educator Preparation rules 505-3-.01 – Mother Rule and 505-3-.76 – Alt Prep for Educational Leadership

Dr. Kelli Young previewed changes to the following Certification rules: 505-2-.04 Induction, 505-2-.05 Professional, 505-2-.10 Permit, 505-2-.22 Certification by State Approved Program, 505-2-.24 Special Georgia Requirements, 505-2-.26 Certification and Licensure Assessment, 505-2-.34 Add A Field, 505-2-.36 Renewal, 505-2-.45 Montessori, 505-2-.87 Healthcare Science, 505-2-.90 Career and Technical Specializations

There was no vote as rules were previewed only.

VII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

Chair Kedrione Harris of the Educator Ethics Review Committee (EERC), gave a preliminary review of the cases.

1. Chair Harris reported that the Committee reviewed 71 ***Probable Cause*** cases during February 13, 2025, meeting and brought the following recommendations on behalf of the committee:

<u>CASE</u>	<u>STANDARDS VIOLATED</u>	<u>EERC RECOMMENDATION</u>
24-10-584	1,5a6	NPC
24-10-677	1,5a6	Reprimand
24-11-694	1,4,5a6	NPC
24-11-697	1,4,5a6	NPC
24-11-812	5a2,5a6	Reprimand
24-11-837	4, 5a6	Reprimand
24-12-938	1, 5a6	Reprimand
24-12-950	1,4,5a6	NPC
24-12-996	1,5a2, 5a6	Reprimand
25-1-1056	1,5a6	NPC
25-1-1162	1,4,5a6	Reprimand
23-1-819	1,4, 5a6, 8,9	Reprimand
24-1-1276	1,4,5a6,5a7 (2019-2022), 8,9	NPC
24-2-1498	1,4,5a6, 5a7 (2021-2022),8,9	Reprimand
24-4-1901	2, 9	NPC
24-4-1941	2, 4, 9	CCE
24-5-2040	5, 9	Suspension 1 yr
24-7-98	5, 9	Reprimand
24-8-172	9	Suspension 90 days
24-8-253	9	Suspension 90 days
24-8-261	9	Suspension 90 days
24-8-280	9	Suspension 90 days

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<u>CASE</u>	<u>STANDARDS VIOLATED</u>	<u>EERC RECOMMENDATION</u>
24-9-443	1,4,5a6,8,9	Reprimand
24-10-637	2,9	Reprimand
24-10-652	8, 9	Suspension 3 days
24-11-688	2, 9	Revoke
24-11-691	9	Suspension 5 days
24-11-695	1,4,5a6,8,9	Reprimand
24-11-699	2, 9	Suspension 20 days
24-11-700	2, 9	Suspension 5 days
24-11-703	2,4,9	Suspension 10 days
24-11-708	4, 8, 9	Suspension 3 days
24-11-709	2, 9	Reprimand
24-11-717	9	Suspension 90 days
24-11-718	4, 6, 9	NPC
24-11-719	2,9	Suspension 5 days
24-11-727	4, 9	Suspension 2 days
24-11-730	2, 9	Suspension 5 days
24-11-736	1,2,9	CCE
24-11-743	9	Reprimand
24-11-745	9, 5a6	Suspension 10 days
24-11-746	9	Suspension 90 days
24-11-747	9	Suspension 90 days
24-11-748	9	Suspension 90 days
24-11-753	9	Suspension 90 days
24-11-754	9	Suspension 90 days
24-11-764	2, 9	Suspension 5 days
24-11-766	4, 9	Suspension 90 days
24-11-768	9	Suspension 90 days
24-11-772	2, 9	Suspension 20 days
24-11-775	2, 4, 9	Suspension 20 days
24-11-776	3,9	Suspension 1 yr
24-11-777	1, 2, 9	CCE
24-11-780	1,4,5a6,5a7 (2014-2022),8,9	NPC
24-11-786	2, 9	NPC
24-11-788	9	Suspension 90 days
24-11-793	9	NPC
24-11-860	4, 9	Suspension 1 yr
24-11-875	2, 9	Suspension 10 days
24-11-890	1, 9	Revoke
24-11-891	9	Suspension 1 yr
24-11-896	2, 8, 9	Suspension 90 days
24-12-897	3, 4, 9	Revoke
24-12-912	1, 2,4, 9, 5a7	CCE
24-12-917	3, 9	Suspension 1 yr
24-12-949	2, 9	Reprimand

<u>CASE</u>	<u>STANDARDS VIOLATED</u>	<u>EERC RECOMMENDATION</u>
24-12-951	1,4,5a6,8,9	NPC
24-12-953	1,4,5a6,5a7 (2015-2022),8,9	Reprimand
24-12-955	9	Suspension 90 days
24-12-1023	1,4,5a6,5a7 (2015-2022),8,9	Reprimand
25-1-1040	1,4,5a6,8,9	NPC

2. Chair Harris reported that the Educator Ethics Review Committee reviewed 6 *Petitions Issues* and brought the following recommendations on behalf of the Committee:

<u>CASE</u>	<u>PREVIOUS SANCTION</u>	<u>EERC RECOMMENDATION</u>
24-7-83	Revocation	Deny
24-11-823	Denial	Deny
24-11-839	Revocation	Deny
25-1-1047	Denial	Grant
25-1-1057	Revocation	Grant
25-1-1166	Revocation	Grant

3. Chair Harris 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>
24-1-1217	Suspension 20 days	Accept
24-3-1763	Suspension 90 days	Accept
24-9-396	Reprimand	Accept
24-9-501	Suspension 5 days	Accept
24-10-567	Reprimand	Accept
24-10-576	Reprimand	Accept
24-10-602	Reprimand	Accept
24-10-625	Suspension 90 days	Accept
24-10-658	Reprimand	Accept
24-10-670	Reprimand	Accept
24-11-733	Suspension 90 days	Accept
24-11-810	Reprimand	Accept

4. Chair Harris reported that the Educator Ethics Review Committee reviewed 9 *Negotiated Settlement Agreements* and brought the following recommendations on behalf of the Committee:

<u>CASE</u>	<u>NEGOTIATED SANCTION</u>	<u>EERC RECOMMENDATION</u>
18-11-731	NFA	NFA
19-12-867	Retro Suspension 3 yrs	Accept

<u>CASE</u>	<u>NEGOTIATED SANCTION</u>	<u>EERC RECOMMENDATION</u>
22-6-1589	NPC/NFA	NFA
22-8-163	NPC/NFA	NPC
23-5-1505	NPC/NFA	NPC
24-4-1842	Reprimand	Accept
24-6-2328	Retro Suspension 43 days	Reject
24-7-111	Retro Suspension 30 days	Accept
24-8-214	Warning	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>
24-1-1382	Failure to respond.	Hold New App
24-1-1395	Failure to respond.	Hold New App
24-4-1941	Supplemental complaint	Investigate
24-7-114	Supplemental complaint	Investigate
24-10-562	Regular Settlement Agreement	Accept

6. The Educator Ethics Review Committee recommended approval of the *Preliminary Investigative Determination Report* consisting of 100 new complaints received during the months of January and February 2025.

7. VOLUNTARY SURRENDERS

The Educator Ethics Review Committee recommended approval of the *Voluntary Surrenders* listed below in which an Educator/Applicant voluntarily accepted a sanction of Revocation 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>
24-11-877	2, 9	Voluntary Surrender	Accept
24-12-915	3, 9	Voluntary Surrender	Accept
24-12-923	1, 9	Voluntary Surrender	Accept
24-12-976	2, 8, 9	Voluntary Surrender	Accept

8. EXTENSIONS – PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATIVE DETERMINATIONS

The Educator Ethics Review Committee recommended approval of the 93 *Extensions - Preliminary Investigative Determinations* consisting of the following:

25-1-1165	25-1-1178	25-1-1190	25-1-1202	25-2-1280	25-2-1293	25-2-1319	25-2-1331
25-1-1167	25-1-1179	25-1-1191	25-1-1203	25-2-1281	25-2-1296	25-2-1320	25-2-1332
25-1-1168	25-1-1180	25-1-1192	25-1-1204	25-2-1282	25-2-1297	25-2-1321	25-2-1333
25-1-1169	25-1-1181	25-1-1193	25-1-1230	25-2-1283	25-2-1298	25-2-1322	25-2-1334

25-1-1170	25-1-1182	25-1-1194	25-1-1236	25-2-1284	25-2-1311	25-2-1323	25-2-1335
25-1-1171	25-1-1183	25-1-1195	25-1-1271	25-2-1285	25-2-1312	25-2-1324	25-2-1336
25-1-1172	25-1-1184	25-1-1196	25-2-1274	25-2-1286	25-2-1313	25-2-1325	25-2-1337
25-1-1173	25-1-1185	25-1-1197	25-2-1275	25-2-1287	25-2-1314	25-2-1326	25-2-1338
25-1-1174	25-1-1186	25-1-1198	25-2-1276	25-2-1288	25-2-1315	25-2-1327	25-2-1339
25-1-1175	25-1-1187	25-1-1199	25-2-1277	25-2-1289	25-2-1316	25-2-1328	
25-1-1176	25-1-1188	25-1-1200	25-2-1278	25-2-1290	25-2-1317	25-2-1329	
25-1-1177	25-1-1189	25-1-1201	25-2-1279	25-2-1291	25-2-1318	25-2-1330	

9. EXTENSIONS - INVESTIGATIONS

The Educator Ethics Review Committee recommended granting an *Investigative Extension* to the following 311 cases:

WRITTEN COMPLAINT EXTENSIONS							
22-5-1513	24-4-1916	24-5-2199	24-6-2430	24-8-243	24-9-429	24-10-640	24-11-791
23-2-1039	24-4-1935	24-5-2213	24-6-2437	24-8-252	24-9-433	24-10-641	24-11-794
23-2-1090	24-4-1937	24-5-2214	24-6-2439	24-8-272	24-9-450	24-10-648	24-11-796
23-3-1191	24-4-1948	24-5-2218	24-6-2440	24-8-276	24-9-451	24-10-649	24-11-799
23-4-1308	24-4-1953	24-5-2220	24-7-8	24-8-277	24-9-478	24-10-654	24-11-800
23-4-1320	24-4-1962	24-5-2223	24-7-9	24-8-278	24-9-479	24-10-657	24-11-801
23-5-1593	24-4-1969	24-5-2236	24-7-31	24-8-279	24-9-480	24-10-665	24-11-802
24-1-1254	24-5-1983	24-6-2246	24-7-36	24-8-282	24-9-482	24-10-666	24-11-803
24-1-1377	24-5-1998	24-6-2262	24-7-51	24-8-283	24-9-490	24-10-668	24-11-804
24-2-1420	24-5-2002	24-6-2263	24-7-52	24-8-287	24-9-493	24-10-673	24-11-807
24-2-1577	24-5-2003	24-6-2273	24-7-56	24-8-294	24-9-496	24-10-674	24-11-809
24-3-1621	24-5-2016	24-6-2280	24-7-57	24-8-296	24-9-504	24-10-678	24-11-811
24-3-1625	24-5-2017	24-6-2281	24-7-58	24-8-297	24-9-507	24-10-680	24-11-815
24-3-1637	24-5-2018	24-6-2284	24-7-66	24-8-301	24-9-510	24-10-681	24-11-817
24-3-1648	24-5-2022	24-6-2290	24-7-69	24-8-304	24-9-512	24-11-692	24-11-821
24-3-1663	24-5-2027	24-6-2299	24-7-71	24-8-306	24-10-526	24-11-693	24-11-825
24-3-1664	24-5-2028	24-6-2305	24-7-80	24-8-315	24-10-528	24-11-698	24-11-826
24-3-1671	24-5-2029	24-6-2313	24-7-82	24-8-316	24-10-532	24-11-701	24-11-827
24-3-1687	24-5-2037	24-6-2318	24-7-97	24-8-317	24-10-535	24-11-704	24-11-829
24-3-1695	24-5-2045	24-6-2332	24-7-106	24-8-319	24-10-544	24-11-705	24-11-832
24-3-1696	24-5-2057	24-6-2333	24-7-107	24-8-322	24-10-545	24-11-711	24-11-834
24-3-1711	24-5-2064	24-6-2339	24-7-115	24-8-326	24-10-555	24-11-712	24-11-840
24-3-1712	24-5-2065	24-6-2340	24-7-120	24-8-341	24-10-558	24-11-715	24-11-842
24-3-1723	24-5-2067	24-6-2348	24-7-128	24-8-348	24-10-559	24-11-720	24-11-848
24-3-1724	24-5-2080	24-6-2349	24-7-134	24-8-349	24-10-563	24-11-722	24-11-851
24-3-1728	24-5-2092	24-6-2350	24-7-142	24-9-361	24-10-565	24-11-729	24-11-852
24-3-1734	24-5-2096	24-6-2351	24-7-151	24-9-362	24-10-574	24-11-734	24-11-854
24-4-1779	24-5-2100	24-6-2355	24-7-155	24-9-366	24-10-575	24-11-735	24-11-858
24-4-1809	24-5-2113	24-6-2371	24-8-161	24-9-367	24-10-588	24-11-740	24-12-925
24-4-1814	24-5-2125	24-6-2374	24-8-162	24-9-370	24-10-594	24-11-758	24-12-929
24-4-1816	24-5-2129	24-6-2377	24-8-166	24-9-371	24-10-597	24-11-759	24-12-930
24-4-1822	24-5-2140	24-6-2398	24-8-208	24-9-372	24-10-613	24-11-761	24-12-931
24-4-1844	24-5-2142	24-6-2405	24-8-210	24-9-380	24-10-617	24-11-762	24-12-932

WRITTEN COMPLAINT EXTENSIONS							
24-4-1853	24-5-2144	24-6-2416	24-8-213	24-9-384	24-10-621	24-11-769	24-12-934
24-4-1867	24-5-2155	24-6-2417	24-8-219	24-9-385	24-10-623	24-11-770	24-12-935
24-4-1882	24-5-2169	24-6-2419	24-8-223	24-9-402	24-10-624	24-11-771	24-12-937
24-4-1891	24-5-2180	24-6-2421	24-8-236	24-9-411	24-10-632	24-11-778	24-12-940
24-4-1898	24-5-2183	24-6-2427	24-8-239	24-9-418	24-10-634	24-11-779	24-12-943
24-4-1909	24-5-2190	24-6-2429	24-8-241	24-9-425	24-10-638	24-11-784	

10. APPLICATIONS FOR CERTIFICATION REPORT

The Educator Ethics Review Committee recommended to approve a no probable cause determination on 30 cases reflected on the *Applications for Certification Report*.

11. FINAL DECISIONS BY OPERATION OF LAW

The Commission reviewed the report, which advised of 22 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:

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

PSC ACTION: Approved

Abstentions: Kedrione Harris-NCO 19-12-867, 24-11-839, Vonda Woodall-PIDs 25-1-1123, 25-1-1124, 25-1-1133, Dr. Jennifer Wade-PIDs 25-1-1145, 25-1-1146, PCE 24-11-764, Jimmy Atkins-PID 25-1-1082, Jane Rookard-PID 25-1-1137, NCO 18-11-731

B. Educator Preparation Standing Committee

Committee Chair, Dr. Holley Roberts, presented the report of the Educator Preparation Standing Committee.

Emmanuel University – The Committee recommends Developmental Approval for the Pedagogy-only Program (4-8, 6-12, P-12) [Master of Art in Teaching degree]

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

PSC ACTION: Approved

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Our next Commission meeting will be held on Thursday, March 13, 2025, 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 at 4:30 pm and the Educator Preparation and Certification Committee will meet at 4:00 pm on Wednesday, March 12, 2025. Chair Sirmans called for the meeting to be adjourned at 4:25 p.m.

PSC ACTION: Approved