# MINUTES

# PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS COMMISSION Remote Meeting via TEAMS Platform

June 8, 2023

The Georgia Professional Standards Commission (PSC) met on Thursday, June 8, 2023.

#### **Members Present**

Jimmy Atkins Jeanine Bunn Abigail Coggin Jordan Frobos

Kedrione Harris Mark Kauffman Dr. Franklin Perry Dr. Holley Roberts Jane Rookard Dr. Jennifer Wade Carol Williams Dr. Judi Wilson

#### Members Absent

Vonda Woodall Nathan Lewis Derek Easterling Beth Townsend Dr. Brandon Seigler

## I. <u>CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL</u>

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:** (Jordan Frobos/Dr. Judi Wilson) To approve the agenda. **PSC ACTION:** Approved

### IV. <u>APPROVAL OF MINUTES</u>

Chair Sirmans called for approval of the May 11, 2023 minutes.

### **PSC ACTION**: Approved

### V. EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT

• The EERC adopted new Clearance Criteria. The changes include separating the clearance criteria into initial applicants and those already certified, revised the time for certain misdemeanors to be considered from 10 to 5 years prior to initial certification, and updated types of relevant criminal history (i.e. removed bad checks).

Further, we have heard from several of you as well as Superintendents and HR Directors from across the State about the inconvenience and issues that arise with the Commission approved June 15th deadline

given for educators to "get out of" their contracts. The law clearly states that educators have until June 1st to accept or reject their contract. The EERC moved to align the Commission deadline with the law.

- We are in the process of updating our surveys of inductee teachers and leaders, and the surveys of their employers. These surveys have been administered for seven years and they are part of the PPEMs—Preparation Program Effectiveness Measures. The resulting data have been used by program providers to make improvements to their programs. We are also adding new surveys to gather feedback on programs in the service fields, such as School Counseling, Media Specialist, and Curriculum and Instruction. The revision process began last month and we are contracting with Kennesaw State University to conduct a validation study later this year. We plan to administer the new surveys next spring.
- Transitions are taking place next month in our Educator Preparation Division. Dr. Angie Gant, who has been with us since 2013, is returning to P-12 education as an elementary music teacher in White County. Angie serves as the Director of Program Approval. We appreciate her service to the agency and the state, and wish her well in her new role. I am happy to share that Dr. PaQuita Morgan is being promoted to the Program Approval Director role. PaQuita has served as an Education Specialist since 2008. She manages the approval decision making process for the Ed Prep Division, and has facilitated countless approval reviews and task forces. She has been tapped as a keynote speaker at several events and has served as a site visitor for CAEP, the national accreditor for educator preparation. Dr. Morgan holds degrees from Spelman College, the Harvard Graduate School of Education, and the University of West Georgia, and she has maintained her Georgia Certification in Elementary Education and Educational Leadership. Dr. Morgan, congratulations and welcome to the leadership team!

## VI. <u>CHAIR REPORT</u>

At today's Commission meeting, you will be asked to consider proposed Educator Preparation rules. In making your decision, it is important to note what the proposed rule amendments that address the simplification and/or removal of ambiguous terms are and are not.

The rulemaking process to amend the rules began when the University System of Georgia asked PSC to clarify expectations for educator preparation programs. We were asked to remove or simplify words that in recent years, have taken on multiple and unintended meanings. We were told these terms were leading to difficulty in interpreting program standards. As we don't want these words to distract EPPs from their work of preparing effective educators, we replaced them with commonly understood terms.

These proposed rule amendments are not intended to redefine or remove the care preparation providers place on meeting students' needs or prescribe the way EPPs choose to meet the program standards. We still expect EPPs to prepare educators who are well equipped to address the learning needs of <u>all</u> students they may encounter, and who are well prepared to meet students where they are within a positive and welcoming learning environment.

### VII. ORAL HEARING

Chair Sirmans stated that we had received a request for an oral hearing by the minimum number of 25 persons during the public comment period for the rules that Commissioners would be asked to adopt today. He called the oral hearing in the matter of the proposed rules initiated by the Commission on April 13, 2023, to order. A quorum

of the Commission was present. The currently proposed rules under adoption consideration were posted on our website. The Commission received written public comments prior to the hearing. Chair Sirmans asked that statements be concise and they were limited to three (3) minutes.

Of the twenty five (25) visitors attending the meeting, fourteen (14) requested to address the Commission during the oral hearing. Each of the fourteen speakers' expressed opposition to the adoption of the proposed rules. Chair Sirmans thanked the speakers and concluded the oral comments.

## VIII. <u>RULES INITIATION AND ADOPTION</u>

Anne Marie Fenton presented the Rules for Adoption and then presented Rules for Initiation.

The Certification rules and Educator Preparation rules that came before the Commissioner for their consideration to adopt were initiated at the April 13, 2023, Commission meeting. 66 public comments were received during the public comment period.

**MOTION:** (Jimmy Atkins /Dr. Judi Wilson) To (1) repeal the current rules in Chapter 505-2- Certification, effective July 1, 2023, as follows: 505-2-.141, 505-2-.142, and 505-2-.149; (2) adopt the current rules in Chapter 505-2- Certification, effective July 1, 2023, as follows: 505-2-.141, 505-2-.142, and 505-2-.149; 3) repeal the current rules in Chapter 505-3- Educator Preparation Rules, effective July 1, 2023, as follows: 505-3-.13, 505-3-.13, 505-3-.19, 505-3-.48, 505-3-.59, 505-3-.82, and 505-3-.100; 4) adopt the current rules in Chapter 505-3- Educator Preparation Rules, effective July 1, 2023, as follows: 505-3.03, 505-3-.13, 505-3-.48, 505-3-.59, 505-3-.82, and 505-3-.100; 4) adopt the current rules in Chapter 505-3- Educator Preparation Rules, effective July 1, 2023, as follows: 505-3.03, 505-3-.13, 505-3-.48, 505-3-.59, 505-3-.82, and 505-3-.100; 4) adopt the current rules in Chapter 505-3-.64, 505-3-.100; and 5) amend the current rules in Chapter 505-3-.13, 505-3-.14, 505-3-.51, 505-3-.66, 505-3-.76, 505-3-.77, and 505-3-.96. **PSC ACTION**: Approved

These rules will become effective July 1, 2023.

Anne Marie presented Preparation rules and one Professional Practices or Ethics rule for initiation.

**MOTION:** (Jimmy Atkins/ Kedrione Harris) To (1) amend the current rules in Chapter 505-3- Educator Preparation Rules, effective August 15, 2023, as follows: 505-3-.01, 505-3-.05, 505-3-.06, 505-3-.23, 505-3-.24, 505-3-.25, 505-3-.26, 505-3-.27, 505-3-.28, 505-3-.29, 505-3-.30, 505-3-.34, 505-3-.35, 505-3-.36, 505-3-.37, 505-3-.38, 505-3-.39, 505-3-.40, 505-3-.41, 505-3-.44, 505-3-.45, 505-3-.46, 505-3-.47, 505-3-.49, 505-3-.50, 505-3-.54, 505-3-.55, 505-3-.56, 505-3-.57, 505-3-.60, 505-3-.83, 505-3-.89, 505-3-.90, 505-3-.92, 505-3-.93, 505-3-.95, 505-3-.99, 505-3-.101, 505-3-.102, 505-3-.104, 505-3-.107, 505-3-.108, 505-3-.110, and 505-3-.112; and (2) repealing the current rule in Chapter 6-Professional Practices, effective August 15, 2023, as follows: 505-6-.08.

**PSC ACTION:** Approved

## IX. <u>COMMITTEE REPORTS</u>

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

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

1. Vice Chair Harris reported that the Committee reviewed 90 *Probable Cause* cases during the June, 2023, meeting and brought the following recommendations on behalf of the committee:

CASE	STANDARDS VIOLATED	EERC RECOMMENDATION	
23-2-1041	5a6	NPC	
23-2-1051	1, 4, 5a6	NPC	
23-2-1091	5a2,5a4, 5a6	Reprimand	
23-3-1135	1,5a6	Reprimand	
23-3-1216	1,4,5a6	Reprimand	
23-3-1226	1,5a6	Reprimand	
23-3-1250	1,4,5a6	Deny	
23-4-1364	1,5a6	NPC	
23-4-1399	1,5a6	NPC	
23-5-1458	1,4,5a6	Reprimand	
23-5-1492	1,5a6	Reprimand	
23-5-1497	1,5a6	Deny	
22-1-856	4, 7, 9	Suspension 90 days	
22-2-996	1,2,9, 5a6	Extend pending criminal outcome	
22-6-1627	4, 9	Suspension 90 days	
22-7-61	1,4,8,9, 5a6	Revoke	
22-7-82	4,8,9, 5a6	Revoke	
22-7-86	1,4,5a6,8,9	Revoke	
22-8-143	1,4,8,9	Suspension 20 days	
22-8-147	4,5a2,5a4, 5a6,8,9	Revoke	
22-8-148	4,5a2, 5a4, 5a6, 9	Revoke	
22-8-150	4,5a2, 5a4, 5a6, 9	Revoke	
22-8-163	1,4,5a6,8,9	Suspension 20 days	
22-8-242	9	Suspension 90 days	
22-8-266	1,4,8,9, 5a6	Revoke	
22-8-282	9	Suspension 90 days	
22-8-285	1,4,8,9	NPC	
22-9-443	1,4,8,9	Suspension 20 days	
22-10-489	4,8,9, 5a2,5a4, 5a6	Revoke	
22-10-523	1,4,8,9, 5a6	Revoke	
22-10-540	9	Suspension 90 days	
22-10-568	1,8, 5a6, 9 (2004), 10 (2004)	NPC	
22-10-602	4,5a2, 5a4, 5a6,8,9 Revoke		
22-10-617	5, 9 Suspension 90 days		
22-10-621	4,5a2, 5a4, 5a6,8,9	Revoke	
22-11-645	9	Suspension 10 days	
22-11-649	1,4,5a6,8,9	NPC	

CASE	STANDARDS VIOLATED	EERC RECOMMENDATION	
22-11-688	2, 4, 8, 9	Suspension 10 days	
22-12-738	1,4,5a6,8,9	Revoke	
22-12-753	2, 4, 9	Reprimand	
22-12-795	2, 9	Suspension 1 year	
22-12-798	4,5a2,5a4, 5a6,8,9	Reprimand	
22-12-812	2, 9	Reprimand	
23-2-929	1,4,8,9	Suspension 20 days	
23-2-1009	9	Suspension 90 days	
23-2-1024	9	Suspension 10 days	
23-2-1031	9	NPC	
23-2-1036	4, 5, 9	NPC	
23-2-1079	9,10	Reprimand	
23-2-1080	2, 9	Suspension 1 year	
23-2-1081	1, 2,9,5a7	Extend pending criminal outcome	
23-2-1086	1, 2, 3, 9	Extend pending criminal outcome	
23-2-1094	9	Reprimand	
23-2-1124	1, 2, 9	Extend pending criminal outcome	
23-2-1125	3,9	Suspension 1 year	
23-3-1130	2, 9	Reprimand	
23-3-1131	1,2,9	Extend pending criminal outcome	
23-3-1158	1,2,9	Suspension 10 days	
23-3-1159	2, 9	Suspension 20 days	
23-3-1165	9,10	Reprimand	
23-3-1176	9	Suspension 10 days	
23-3-1185	2, 9	Reprimand	
23-3-1205	9	Suspension 90 days	
23-3-1206	9	Suspension 90 days	
23-3-1227	2,8,9 Suspension 5 days		
23-3-1232	4, 5, 9	NPC	
23-3-1240	1,2,9	Extend pending criminal outcome	
23-3-1244	4, 8, 9	Suspension 20 days	
23-3-1248	9	NPC	
23-3-1258	2,9	NPC	
23-3-1262	2,9	NPC	
23-3-1271	2, 9	Suspension 5 days	
23-3-1278	3, 9 Reprimand		
23-3-1288	2,9 Suspension 5 days		
23-4-1307	4, 9	Reprimand	
23-4-1309	2,9	NPC	
23-4-1310	9	Suspension 20 days	
23-4-1311	9	Suspension 5 days	
23-4-1323	5, 9	Suspension 1 year	
23-4-1332	4, 8, 9, 5a2	Suspension 20 days	

CASE	STANDARDS VIOLATED	EERC RECOMMENDATION	
23-4-1335	7, 9	NPC	
23-4-1343	2, 9	Suspension 10 days	
23-4-1349	1, 2,9	Extend pending criminal outcome	
23-4-1353	8, 9	Reprimand	
23-4-1357	2, 9	Extend pending criminal outcome	
23-4-1374	9	NPC	
23-4-1376	1,4,8,9	Reprimand	
23-5-1456	1,4,5a6,8,9	Reprimand	
23-5-1565	5a2,5a4,5a6	Reprimand	
23-5-1566	5a2, 5a4, 5a6, 8 9	Reprimand	

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

<u>CASE</u>	PREVIOUS SANCTION	EERC RECOMMENDATION
23-2-925	Denial - July 24, 2020	Deny
23-2-971	Denial - Oct 19, 2020	Grant

3. Vice Chair Harris reported that the Educator Ethics Review Committee reviewed 19 *Settlement Agreements* and brought the following recommendations on behalf of the Committee:

CASE	<b>SANCTION</b>	EERC RECOMMENDATION	
22-3-1057	Reprimand	Accept	
22-7-15	Reprimand	Accept	
22-8-160	Suspension 90 days	Accept	
22-10-530	Reprimand	Accept	
22-10-531	Reprimand	Accept	
22-11-720	Suspension 90 days	Accept	
23-1-818	Reprimand	Accept	
23-1-910	Suspension 20 days	Accept	
23-2-973	Revocation	Accept	
23-2-1010	Suspension 1 year	Accept	
23-2-1014	Suspension 20 days	Accept	
23-2-1096	Suspension 1 year	Accept	
23-3-1134	Reprimand	Accept	
23-3-1164	Suspension 1 year	Accept	
23-3-1175	Reprimand	Accept	
23-3-1209	Reprimand	Accept	
23-3-1214	Reprimand	Accept	
23-3-1254	Reprimand	Accept	

CASE	<b>SANCTION</b>	EERC RECOMMENDATION	
23-4-1309	Suspension 90 days	Accept	

4. Vice Chair Harris 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>	NEGOTIATED SANCTION	EERC RECOMMENDATION	
19-4-1502	Suspension 2 years, 2 months	Accept	
19-7-84	Reprimand	Accept	
21-3-827	Suspension 1 year 9 months	Accept	
21-3-856	Suspension 5 days	Accept	
21-8-158	NPC	Accept	
22-1-751	Reprimand	Accept	
22-6-1588	Suspension 5 days	Accept	
22-8-226	Reprimand	Accept	
22-10-546	Reprimand	Accept	
22-10-615	NFA	Accept	
22-11-634	Suspension 5 days	Accept	
22-12-740	Reprimand	Accept	
22-12-751	Suspension 15 days Accept		
22-12-784	Reprimand	Accept	

### 5. OTHER BUSINESS

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

CASE	FINDINGS OF FACTS	EERC RECOMMENDATION
PCE 23-4-1318	Additional complaint	Investigate
22-4-1220	Unable effect service & failure to respond to other attempts	Hold New App
22-9-310	Unable effect service.	Hold New App
22-9-334	Unable effect service.	Hold New App
22-10-571	Unable effect service.	Hold New App
22-12-797	Unable effect service.	Hold New App

6. The Educator Ethics Review Committee recommended approval of the *Preliminary Investigative Determination Report* consisting of 99 new complaints received during the months of May and June 2023.

#### 7. VOLUNTARY SURRENDERS

The Educator Ethics Review Committee recommended approval of the 4 *Voluntary Surrenders* listed below in which an Educator/Applicant voluntarily accepted a sanction of Revocation or Denial prior to the submission of

CASE **STANDARDS VIOLATED** SANCTION EERC RECOMMENDATION 23-3-1302 2,9 **Voluntary Surrender** Accept 23-3-1305 2, 4, 9 Voluntary Surrender Accept 23-4-1347 1, 9 Voluntary Surrender Accept 23-4-1359 3, 4, 9 Voluntary Surrender Accept

an investigative case summary for a Probable Cause Determination.

### 8. EXTENSIONS – PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATIVE DETERMINATIONS

The Educator Ethics Review Committee recommended approval of the 58 *Extensions - Preliminary Investigative Determinations* consisting of the following:

23-5-1537	23-5-1623	23-5-1631	23-5-1639	23-5-1647	23-5-1669	23-6-1683	23-6-1691
23-5-1611	23-5-1624	23-5-1632	23-5-1640	23-5-1662	23-6-1670	23-6-1684	23-6-1692
23-5-1612	23-5-1625	23-5-1633	23-5-1641	23-5-1663	23-6-1677	23-6-1685	
23-5-1613	23-5-1626	23-5-1634	23-5-1642	23-5-1664	23-6-1678	23-6-1686	
23-5-1614	23-5-1627	23-5-1635	23-5-1643	23-5-1665	23-6-1679	23-6-1687	
23-5-1615	23-5-1628	23-5-1636	23-5-1644	23-5-1666	23-6-1680	23-6-1688	
23-5-1616	23-5-1629	23-5-1637	23-5-1645	23-5-1667	23-6-1681	23-6-1689	
23-5-1617	23-5-1630	23-5-1638	23-5-1646	23-5-1668	23-6-1682	23-6-1690	

### 9. EXTENSIONS - INVESTIGATIONS

The Educator Ethics Review Committee recommended granting an *Investigative Extension* to the following 56 cases:

	WRITTEN COMPLAINT EXTENSIONS						
22-11-677	22-6-1654	23-1-845	23-1-894	23-2-977	23-2-1013	23-3-1171	23-3-1252
22-3-1196	22-6-1692	23-1-847	23-1-905	23-2-984	23-2-1033	23-3-1215	23-3-1255
22-3-1197	22-9-316	23-1-848	23-2-940	23-2-993	23-2-1048	23-3-1220	23-3-1263
22-4-1322	23-1-819	23-1-865	23-2-943	23-2-995	23-2-1054	23-3-1245	23-3-1264
22-4-1323	23-1-821	23-1-871	23-2-947	23-2-1002	23-2-1084	23-3-1246	23-3-1293
22-5-1483	23-1-829	23-1-872	23-2-948	23-2-1008	23-2-1110	23-3-1249	23-3-1294
22-6-1647	23-1-844	23-1-893	23-2-960	23-2-1012	23-3-1169	23-3-1251	23-3-1304

## 10. APPLICATIONS FOR CERTIFICATION REPORT

The Educator Ethics Review Committee recommended to approve a no probable cause determination on 22 cases reflected on the *Applications for Certification Report*.

## 11. FINAL DECISIONS BY OPERATION OF LAW

The Commission reviewed the report, which advised of 23 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:

<u>CASE</u>	<b>ORIGINAL SANCTION</b>	ALJ SANCTION	EERC RECOMMENDATION
18-4-1393	Revocation	Revocation	Accept

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

## **PSC ACTION:** Approved

Abstentions: Derek Easterling-PID cases 23-4-1412; 23-4-1413; 23-4-1426; 23-4-1427; 23-4-1428; 23-5-1450; 23-5-1451; 23-5-1513; 23-5-1514; 23-5-1537; 23-5-1552; 23-5-1553; 23-5-1554; PCE cases 23-3-1205; 23-3-1244; 23-3-1248; 22-1-856; Jimmy Atkins-PCE case 23-4-1353; NCO case 22-11-634; OB cases 22-9-334; 23-4-1318; Kedrione Harris-PCE 23-2-1086; Jane Rookard-PCE cases 22-8-143; 22-8-147; 23-4-1310; 23-4-1311; Clearance case 23-5-1463;

## **B. Educator Preparation Standing Committee**

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

- 1. Bibb County School District As a result of satisfactory progress indicated in the March 16, 2023, Progress Report, the Committee recommends removal of the following areas for improvement (AFIs) cited during the Fall 2019 Continuing Approval Review for the Educator Preparation Provider (EPP).
  - Standard 4.1 (Service/Leader)
  - Standard 4.3
  - Standard 4.4

In addition, the Committee recommends removal of the AFI in Standard 1.2 for the Gifted In-field and Teacher Support and Coaching Endorsements, and removal of the AFI in Standard 1.3 for the Gifted In-field and Reading Endorsements.

As a result of incremental progress evident in the March 16, 2023, Progress Report, the Committee recommends the AFI remain in Standard 1.1 for the following programs:

- Gifted In-Field Endorsement
- Reading Endorsement
- Teacher Support and Coaching Endorsement

Also, as a result of incremental progress evident in the March 16, 2023, Progress Report, the Committee recommends the stipulations remain in Standards 5.1 and 5.3 for the EPP. As a result, the Committee recommends that Standard 5 remain unmet.

The Committee recommends that the approval status for the EPP remain as Continuing Approval with Conditions, and the submission of a progress report due May 10, 2024, addressing all remaining stipulations and AFIs.

2. Clarke County School District – As a result of satisfactory indicated in the March 16, 2023, Progress

Report, the Committee recommends removal of the stipulations in Standards 2.2 and 3.1 cited during the Spring 2021 Continuing Approval Review for the Educator Preparation Provider

In addition, the Committee recommends removal of the AFI in Standard 1.1 for the Gifted In-field Endorsement.

Also, as a result of incremental progress evident in the March 16, 2023, Progress Report, the Committee recommends the stipulations remain in Standards 5.1, 5.3, and 5.5 for the EPP. As a result, the Committee recommends that Standard 5 remain unmet.

As a result of incremental progress evident in the March 16, 2023, Progress Report for the ESOL Endorsement, the Committee recommends the stipulation in Standard 1.1 be reclassified as an AFI, and the stipulation in Standard 1.3 be removed. The Committee also recommends the AFI in Standard 1.2 remain, and the AFIs in Standards 1.4 and 6.6 be removed for the ESOL Endorsement.

The Committee recommends that the approval status for the EPP remain as Continuing Approval with Conditions with the submission of a progress report due May 10, 2024, addressing all remaining stipulations and AFIs.

- 3. Truett McConnell University As a result of satisfactory progress evident in the February 16, 2023, Progress Report, the Committee recommends removal of the following AFIs for the EPP.
  - Standard 1.1
  - Standard 5.1
  - Standard 5.3 (a)
  - Standard 5.3.(b)
  - Standard 5.4
  - Standard 5.5

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

**<u>PSC ACTION:</u>** Approved

# X. <u>ADJOURNMENT</u>

Our next Commission meeting will be held on Thursday, July 13<sup>th</sup>, at 4 pm. We will meet remotely and the information will be posted on our website under Commission Information. The Educator Ethics Review Committee and Educator Preparation and Certification Committee meeting will meet on Wednesday, July 12<sup>th</sup>, at 4:00 pm. Chair Sirmans called for the meeting to be adjourned at 5:22 p.m.

**PSC ACTION:** Approved