

# MINUTES

## PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS COMMISSION

### Remote Meeting via TEAMS Platform

May 9, 2024

The Georgia Professional Standards Commission (PSC) met on Thursday, May 9, 2024.

#### **Members Present**

Jimmy Atkins	Mark Kauffman	Brian Sirmans
Jeanine Bunn	Dr. Holley Roberts	Dr. Jennifer Wade
Jordan Frobos	Jane Rookard	Carol Williams
Kedrlone Harris	Dr. Brandon Seigler	Dr. Judi Wilson
		Vonda Woodall

#### **Members Absent**

Beth Townsend	Derek Easterling
Abigail Coggin	Nathan Lewis
	Dr. Franklin Perry

#### **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:** (Kedrlone Harris / Jane Rookard) To approve the agenda.

**PSC ACTION:** Approved

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

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

**PSC ACTION:** Approved

#### **V. EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT**

This week is Teacher Appreciation Week which is a national holiday. I want to thank all of you that are in the classroom for your dedication and hard work.

I know that you have received emails from Renee regarding our transition from Teams meetings to Zoom webinars. We're doing this to provide a more stable and secure process for our monthly meetings, while maintaining "view only" access to the public. We would like to conduct the June Commission meeting, using the Zoom webinar platform. The committee meetings will still use the Teams platform in June, and will

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transition to Zoom webinars in July assuming that we don't run into any roadblocks. I hope that you are able to attend the practice session after this meeting at 4:45. Please remember to reboot your computer before joining the Zoom webinar. If any of you can't attend this Zoom webinar demo, please contact Renee, and we'll be glad to set up another session before the June meeting.

We earlier shared with you our collaborative work with all 16 RESAs about the Paraprofessional Ethics Modules and showed you a promotional video we produced encouraging school districts to use them. The purpose of the modules is to help our state's paraprofessionals avoid ethical missteps by ensuring they know and are able to apply the Code of Ethics for Educators. The use of the modules, while not required by the state, is going well. As one example of this use, Heart of Georgia recently coordinated a celebration with Montgomery Elementary School (part of Montgomery County School District in Mount Vernon, GA) who had 100% of their paraprofessionals complete the modules. Each paraprofessional was individually recognized and received a framed certificate. We are all happy for them and their accomplishment. We continue to appreciate all 16 of Georgia RESAs' commitment to providing this structure of training and support to our state's paraprofessionals.

## **VI. RULES ADOPTION**

Anne Marie Fenton presented the rules for Educator Preparation rules for adoption that were initiated at the March 14<sup>th</sup> Commission meeting. These rules, if adopted, will become effective June 15, 2024. No public comments were received.

**MOTION:** (Dr. Judi Wilson / Jordan Frobos) To amend the current rules in Chapter 505-3- Educator Preparation Rules, effective June 15, 2024, as follows: 505-3-.01, and 505-3-.76.

**PSC ACTION:** Approved

### **505-3-.01 REQUIREMENTS AND STANDARDS FOR APPROVING EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROVIDERS AND EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROGRAMS**

It is proposed that GaPSC Rule 505-3-.01, REQUIREMENTS AND STANDARDS FOR APPROVING EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROVIDERS AND EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROGRAMS dated January 1, 2024, be AMENDED to: Clarify that candidates are responsible for applying for the Pre-Service Certificate; add EPP deadlines for entering in TPMS the beginning of clinical practice and supervising teacher Cert ID; revise the definition of LUA to make it consistent with the definition used in Certification rules; and to make non-substantive updates in terminology.

### **505-3-.76 ALTERNATIVE PREPARATION FOR EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP PROGRAM**

It is proposed that GaPSC Rule 505-3-.76, ALTERNATIVE PREPARATION FOR EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP PROGRAM dated January 1, 2024, be AMENDED to clarify determination of leadership positions. Other edits are included to remove references to an outdated set of guidelines, and to make capitalization and other minor/non-substantive adjustments.

## **VII. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

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

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Vic 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 78 ***Probable Cause*** cases during May 8, 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>
23-11-979	9	Deny	Accept
24-1-1283	1,4,5a6	Deny	Accept
24-1-1297	1,4,5a6, 5a7 (2020-2022)	NPC	Accept
24-1-1363	4,9	Deny	Accept
24-2-1457	5a2,5a6	Reprimand	Accept
24-2-1485	1,5a2,5a6	NPC	Accept
24-2-1496	1,4,5a2,5a6,	Reprimand	Accept
24-2-1538	1,4,5a6	NPC	Accept
24-2-1543	1,4,5a6	NPC	Accept
24-2-1587	5a2,5a6	Reprimand	Accept
24-3-1639	1,5a6	Deny	Accept
24-3-1642	1,5a2,5a6	Deny	Accept
24-3-1645	1, 8	NPC	Accept
24-3-1662	1,4,5a6,5a7 (2021-2022)	NPC	Accept
24-4-1829	5a2,5a6	Reprimand	Accept
24-4-1831	5a2, 5a6	Reprimand	Accept
22-2-998	1,2,9,5a6	Revoke	Accept
22-5-1409	1, 2, 8, 9	NFA	Accept
22-11-677	1, 8, 9	Reprimand	Accept
23-8-385	1,4, 5a4,5a6,5a7 (2012-2022), 8,9	Reprimand	Accept
23-9-502	9	Suspension 2 days	Accept
23-9-504	3, 9	Suspension 1 year	Accept
23-9-526	9	NPC	Accept
23-9-594	9	Suspension 90 days	Accept
23-9-596	3, 9	Suspension 1 year	Accept
23-9-600	3, 9	Suspension 1 year	Accept
23-10-684	3, 4, 9	Suspension 1 year	Accept
23-10-699	2, 3, 9	Suspension 1 year	Accept
23-10-709	3, 9	Revoke	Accept
23-10-788	1, 9	Suspension 10 days	Accept
23-11-894	9	Suspension 90 days	Accept
23-12-1145	9	Suspension 90 days	Accept
24-1-1358	9	Reprimand	Accept
24-1-1364	1,9	Suspension 1 year	Accept
24-1-1367	2,9	NPC	Accept
24-1-1370	2,9	Suspension 30 days	Accept
24-1-1372	2,9	Reprimand	Accept

<u>CASE</u>	<u>STANDARDS VIOLATED</u>	<u>RECOMMENDATION</u>	<u>EERC RECOMMENDATION</u>
24-1-1405	1,4,5a6, 5a7 (2019-2022), 8 9	NPC	Accept
24-2-1413	5,9	Suspension 1 year	Accept
24-2-1415	2,9	Suspension 1 year	Accept
24-2-1423	9	NPC	Accept
24-2-1436	4,9	Suspension 20 days	Accept
24-2-1437	1, 3, 9	NPC	Accept
24-2-1440	9	Reprimand	Accept
24-2-1444	1,3,9	Revoke	Accept
24-2-1451	1,4,5a6,5a7 (2000-2019), 8,9	NPC	Accept
24-2-1504	2, 8, 9	Suspension 90 days	Accept
24-2-1506	4, 9	Suspension 20 days	Accept
24-2-1508	1, 2, 9	CCE	Accept
24-2-1510	9	Suspension 90 days	Accept
24-2-1513	5,9	Suspension 5 days	Accept
24-2-1516	1,4,8,9	NPC	Accept
24-2-1518	2,9	NPC	Accept
24-2-1521	2, 9	CCE	Accept
24-2-1522	2, 9	CCE	Accept
24-2-1523	8, 9	CCE	Accept
24-2-1524	8,9	CCE	Accept
24-2-1525	8,9	CCE	Accept
24-2-1526	8, 9	CCE	Accept
24-2-1528	2, 4, 9	Suspension 10 days	Accept
24-2-1530	2,8,9	Suspension 5 days	Accept
24-2-1537	1,4,5a6,5a7 (2012-2022),8,9	Reprimand	Accept
24-2-1565	2,9	Revoke	Accept
24-2-1566	2,9	Suspension 10 days	Accept
24-2-1567	2,4,9	Warning	Accept
24-2-1568	2, 9	Reprimand	Accept
24-2-1572	1, 2, 9	Suspension 5 days	Accept
24-3-1629	2, 9	NPC	Accept
24-3-1631	2, 9	Suspension 10 days	Accept
24-3-1655	1,4 5a6,5a7 (2018-2022), 8,9	Reprimand	Accept
24-3-1676	2, 9	NPC	Accept
24-3-1715	1,2,9	CCE	Accept
24-3-1716	1, 2, 9	CCE	Accept
24-3-1729	9	NPC	Accept
24-3-1730	9	NPC	Accept
24-3-1733	2, 9	Suspension 90 days	Accept
24-3-1753	1,4,5a6,5a7 (2008-2022),8,9	Reprimand	Accept
24-4-1832	4, 5a5, 5a6, 5a7 (2003-2022),8,9	Reprimand	Accept

2. Vice 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>
23-8-151	Reprimand	Accept
23-9-599	Suspension 90 days	Accept
23-11-910	Reprimand	Accept
23-12-1105	Suspension 30 days	Accept
23-12-1154	Reprimand	Accept
23-12-1190	Reprimand	Accept
23-12-1196	Reprimand	Accept
24-1-1293	Reprimand	Accept
24-1-1356	Suspension 15 days	Accept
24-1-1390	Reprimand	Accept
24-2-1482	Reprimand	Accept
24-3-1643	Reprimand	Accept

3. Vice Chair Harris reported that the Educator Ethics Review Committee reviewed 17 *Negotiated Settlement Agreements* and brought the following recommendations on behalf of the Committee:

<u>CASE</u>	<u>NEGOTIATED SANCTION</u>	<u>EERC RECOMMENDATION</u>
20-2-1126	Suspension 10 days	Accept
21-6-1248	Suspension 90 days	Accept
22-4-1248	Suspension 5 days	Accept
22-8-150	NFA	Accept
22-9-356	Suspension 2 years	Accept
23-2-1000	Suspension 60 days	Accept
23-4-1321	Suspension 2 days	Accept
23-5-1567	Reprimand	Accept
23-5-1613	Suspension 9 days	Accept
23-5-1669	Suspension 18 mos.	Accept
23-8-413	Reprimand	Accept
23-9-606	Suspension 90 days	Accept
23-10-820	NFA / NPC	Accept
23-10-830	Suspension 104 days	Accept
23-11-893	Reprimand	Accept
23-11-1048	NFA	Accept
23-12-1176	Reprimand	Accept

#### 4. **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>
NCO 23-11-866	NFA / NPC	NPC
NCO 24-3-1743	Reprimand	Accept
23-5-1568	Supplemental complaint	Investigate
23-3-1491	Unable effect service.	Hold New App
23-8-246	Unable effect service.	Hold New App
23-8-266	Unable effect service.	Hold New App
23-8-273	Unable effect service.	Hold New App
23-8-408	Unable effect service.	Hold New App
23-10-813	Unable effect service.	Hold New App
24-1-1379	Unable effect service.	Hold New App
23-8-431	Reopen case and resume investigation.	Investigate
23-9-607	Reopen case and resume investigation.	Investigate
23-10-727	Reopen case and resume investigation.	Investigate
23-10-753	Reopen case and resume investigation.	Investigate
23-11-1029	Reopen case and resume investigation.	Investigate
23-10-740	Reopen case and resume investigation.	Investigate
23-11-978	Reopen case and resume investigation.	Investigate
23-12-1093	Reopen case and resume investigation.	Investigate
23-10-732	Reopen case and resume investigation.	Investigate
23-11-937	Reopen case and resume investigation.	Investigate
23-11-1000	Reopen case and resume investigation.	Investigate
24-1-1275	Reopen case and resume investigation.	Investigate
24-1-1383	Reopen case and resume investigation.	Investigate
23-3-1231	Additional information on criminal case.	Suspension 5 days

5. The Educator Ethics Review Committee recommended approval of the ***Preliminary Investigative Determination Report*** consisting of 98 new complaints received during the months of April and May 2024.

#### 6. **VOLUNTARY SURRENDERS**

The Educator Ethics Review Committee recommended approval of the 2 ***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>
23-5-1541	1,5,9	VS	Accept
24-2-1515	2, 9	VS	Accept

#### 7. **EXTENSIONS – PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATIVE DETERMINATIONS**

The Educator Ethics Review Committee recommended approval of the 78 ***Extensions - Preliminary Investigative Determinations*** consisting of the following:

24-4-1924	24-4-1934	24-4-1944	24-4-1954	24-4-1967	24-5-2029	24-5-2039	24-5-2052
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24-4-1925	24-4-1935	24-4-1945	24-4-1955	24-4-1968	24-5-2030	24-5-2040	24-5-2053
24-4-1926	24-4-1936	24-4-1946	24-4-1956	24-4-1969	24-5-2031	24-5-2041	24-5-2054
24-4-1927	24-4-1937	24-4-1947	24-4-1957	24-4-1970	24-5-2032	24-5-2042	24-5-2055
24-4-1928	24-4-1938	24-4-1948	24-4-1958	24-4-1971	24-5-2033	24-5-2043	24-5-2056
24-4-1929	24-4-1939	24-4-1949	24-4-1959	24-4-1972	24-5-2034	24-5-2047	24-5-2057
24-4-1930	24-4-1940	24-4-1950	24-4-1960	24-4-1973	24-5-2035	24-5-2048	24-5-2058
24-4-1931	24-4-1941	24-4-1951	24-4-1964	24-4-1974	24-5-2036	24-5-2049	24-5-2059
24-4-1932	24-4-1942	24-4-1952	24-4-1965	24-4-1975	24-5-2037	24-5-2050	
24-4-1933	24-4-1943	24-4-1953	24-4-1966	24-5-2026	24-5-2038	24-5-2051	

## 8. **EXTENSIONS - INVESTIGATIONS**

The Educator Ethics Review Committee recommended granting an *Investigative Extension* to the following 175 cases:

<b><u>WRITTEN COMPLAINT EXTENSIONS</u></b>							
22-5-1513	23-8-304	23-9-552	23-10-826	23-11-1033	23-12-1174	24-1-1350	24-2-1483
23-2-1039	23-8-321	23-9-551	23-10-832	23-11-1038	23-12-1175	24-1-1382	24-2-1536
23-2-1090	23-8-322	23-9-584	23-11-864	23-11-1053	23-12-1171	24-1-1396	24-2-1541
23-2-1127	23-8-392	23-9-581	23-11-851	23-12-1055	23-12-1191	24-1-1402	24-2-1540
23-3-1191	23-8-395	23-10-635	23-11-842	23-12-1076	23-12-1183	24-1-1395	24-2-1539
23-3-1264	23-8-397	23-10-636	23-11-836	23-12-1061	24-1-1217	24-2-1455	24-2-1584
23-4-1308	23-8-367	23-10-678	23-11-859	23-12-1068	24-1-1214	24-2-1445	24-2-1585
23-4-1320	23-8-388	23-10-675	23-11-877	23-12-1075	24-1-1225	24-2-1469	24-2-1601
23-4-1427	23-8-417	23-10-667	23-11-879	23-12-1077	24-1-1224	24-2-1471	24-3-1640
23-4-1428	23-8-414	23-10-730	23-11-878	23-12-1082	24-1-1234	24-2-1450	24-3-1641
23-4-1426	23-8-421	23-10-739	23-11-876	23-12-1095	24-1-1237	24-2-1466	24-3-1656
23-5-1466	23-8-416	23-10-749	23-11-883	23-12-1089	24-1-1231	24-2-1462	24-3-1650
23-5-1517	23-8-412	23-10-766	23-11-945	23-12-1085	24-1-1233	24-2-1446	24-3-1637
23-5-1568	23-9-435	23-10-735	23-11-927	23-12-1080	24-1-1238	24-2-1447	24-3-1648
23-5-1593	23-9-440	23-10-779	23-11-959	23-12-1078	24-1-1239	24-2-1476	24-3-1654
23-5-1664	23-9-434	23-10-776	23-11-960	23-12-1101	24-1-1254	24-2-1494	24-3-1634
23-6-1729	23-9-460	23-10-791	23-11-987	23-12-1107	24-1-1276	24-2-1490	24-3-1644
23-6-1727	23-9-472	23-10-794	23-11-988	23-12-1104	24-1-1274	24-2-1493	24-3-1649
23-7-14	23-9-485	23-10-801	23-11-1002	23-12-1122	24-1-1278	24-2-1498	24-3-1663
23-7-63	23-9-478	23-10-806	23-11-1013	23-12-1146	24-1-1316	24-2-1477	24-3-1664
23-7-95	23-9-513	23-10-824	23-11-1031	23-12-1170	24-1-1347	24-2-1481	24-3-1666
23-8-280	23-9-524	23-10-825	23-11-1030	23-12-1177	24-1-1348	24-2-1478	

## 9. **APPLICATIONS FOR CERTIFICATION REPORT**

The Educator Ethics Review Committee recommended to approve a no probable cause determination on 31 cases reflected on the *Applications for Certification Report*.

## 10. **FINAL DECISIONS BY OPERATION OF LAW**

The Commission reviewed the report, which advised of 27 cases now closed without an appeal for a hearing before an Administrative Law Judge.

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 24-4-1869, 24-4-1919, PCE Cases 23-9-502, 24-3-1631, Dr. Jennifer Wade-PID Case 24-4-1903, NCO Case 22-4-1248, Dr. Franklin Perry-PID Cases 24-4-1855, 24-4-1912, PCE Case 24-2-1518, Jimmy Atkins-PID Cases 24-4-1778, 24-4-1779, 24-4-1780, 24-4-1881, 24-4-1882, NCO Case 23-11-1048, Jane Rookard PID Cases 24-4-1787, 24-4-1788, 24-4-1798, 24-4-1799, 24-4-1800, 24-4-1909, 24-4-1918

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

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

	EPP	May 2024 Detailed Approval Recommendations
1.	<b>Middle Georgia RESA</b>	The Committee recommends granting the request for a one-year deferral of the Fall 2025 Continuing Approval Review to Fall 2026.
2.	<b>Piedmont University</b>	The Committee recommends Developmental Approval for the School Counseling (P-12) [Certification-only; Master's degree] Program.
3.	<b>Point University</b>	The Committee recommends Developmental Approval for the Music Education (P-12) [Baccalaureate degree] Program.
4.	<b>Reinhardt University</b>	The Committee recommends Developmental Approval for the Pedagogy-only (4-8, 6-12, P-12) [Certification-only; Master's of Arts in Teaching degree] Program.
5.	<b>Thomas University</b>	The Committee recommends Developmental Approval for the following programs. Science Education Program (6-12) [Baccalaureate degree] Special Education General Curriculum (P-12) [Baccalaureate degree; Master's of Arts in Teaching degree] Special Education General Curriculum/Elementary Education (P-5) [Baccalaureate degree; Master's of Arts 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



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**VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

Our next Commission meeting will be held on Thursday, June 13, at 4 pm. We will meet remotely and the information will be posted on our website under Commission Information. The Educator Preparation and Certification Committee will meet at 4:00 pm and the Educator Ethics Review Committee will meet at 4:30 pm on Wednesday, June 12. Chair Sirmans called for the meeting to be adjourned at 4:18 p.m.

**PSC ACTION:** Approved