

MINUTES

PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS COMMISSION

Remote Meeting via TEAMS Platform

August 13, 2020

The Georgia Professional Standards Commission (PSC) met on Thursday, August 13, 2020.

Members Present

Dr. Steve Barker Danielle Bruce Derek Easterling Dr. Isiah Hill, Jr	Scott Hollowell Catherine Jones Diane McClearn Dr. Jacqueline McDowell Dr. Franklin Perry	Teri Schneider Brian Sirmans Beth Townsend Dr. Jennifer Wade Katrina Young
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Members Absent

Jeanine Bunn Daniel Dooley	Dr. Karla Hull Barbara Ellingson
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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: (Derek Easterling / Terri Schneider) To approve the agenda.

PSC ACTION: Approved

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chair Sirmans called for approval of the minutes from the July 9, 2020, Commission meeting.

PSC ACTION: Approved

V. EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT

We received the amended FY21 and FY22 budget instructions from the Office of Planning and Budget, and we were pleased to learn that there would be no cuts in either fiscal year at this time.

We began our work on the Strategic Plan in May of this year. We have three goals and are considering adding one more. The Office of Planning and Budget has given us a due date of September 1st. The Directors are mainly in charge of the Strategic Plan. Vice Chair Katrina Young thanked Matt and the PSC for their work.

VI. CHAIR REPORT

Chair Sirmans announced that the Executive Secretary’s evaluation was concluded and that he would be drafting a letter to the Governor in this regard.

VII. PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT FOR SCHOOL LEADERS (PASL)

Anne Marie Fenton presented the following: As the PASL is required at the end of Tier II Educational Leadership programs, test volume is still low. Additional data are needed to determine if an increase is appropriate. In addition, the virtual learning environments required by COVID-19 may impact how candidates respond to the tasks within PASL. While the testing supplier is working on guidance to assist them, the timing during this challenging time is not the best to raise the required score.

Due primarily to these reasons and since the Commission decided last year not to raise the GACE content passing standard due to shortages, which also exist in Educational Leadership, we recommend the Commission keep the current passing standard.

MOTION: (Beth Townsend / Catherine Jones) PASL score reports dated on or after September 1, 2020, must reflect the currently required minimum score of 42 points or higher to be considered passing, which is equal to the recommended passing score of the PASL multi-state standard setting committee and an estimated -1 SEM below the recommended passing score of the PASL Georgia standard setting committee.

PSC ACTION: Approved

VIII. 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 61 *Probable Cause* cases during August 12, 2020, meeting and brought the following recommendations on behalf of the committee:

<u>CASE</u>	<u>STANDARDS VIOLATED</u>	<u>RECOMMENDATION</u>	<u>EERC RECOMMENDATIONS</u>
19-7-163	1,4,5a7	Deny	Accept
20-1-1070	1,4	Reprimand	Accept
20-5-1495	1,4,5a7	Reprimand	Accept
20-5-1568	1,5a7	Reprimand	Accept
20-5-1593	4, 5a2, 5a7	Reprimand	Accept
20-6-1684	1,4	Reprimand	Accept
20-6-1694	1,4,5a7	Deny	Accept
20-6-1699	1,4	NPC	Accept
20-6-1712	1,4,5a7	Reprimand	Accept
20-6-1723	1,4,5a2,5a7	Deny	Accept

<u>CASE</u>	<u>STANDARDS VIOLATED</u>	<u>RECOMMENDATION</u>	<u>EERC RECOMMENDATIONS</u>
19-7-163	1,4,5a7	Deny	Accept
20-1-1070	1,4	Reprimand	Accept
20-5-1495	1,4,5a7	Reprimand	Accept
20-5-1568	1,5a7	Reprimand	Accept
20-5-1593	4, 5a2, 5a7	Reprimand	Accept
20-6-1684	1,4	Reprimand	Accept
20-6-1694	1,4,5a7	Deny	Accept
20-6-1699	1,4	NPC	Accept
20-6-1712	1,4,5a7	Reprimand	Accept
20-6-1723	1,4,5a2,5a7	Deny	Accept
20-1-932	1, 9, 5a7	Revoke	Accept
20-1-964	2, 9, 5a7	Suspend 20 days	Accept
20-1-987	1, 4	NPC	Accept
20-1-1007	2, 9, 5a7	Suspend 90 days	Accept
20-1-1035	9, 5a7	Suspend 90 days	Accept
20-1-1036	9, 5a7	Suspend 45 days	Accept
20-1-1037	9, 5a7	Suspend 90 days	Accept
20-1-1038	9, 5a7	NPC	Accept
20-1-1039	9, 5a7	NPC	Accept
20-1-1043	5a2, 5a7	NPC	Accept
20-2-1110	1, 4, 8, 9, 5a7	Revoke	Accept
20-2-1161	2, 9, 5a7	Suspend 30 days	Accept
20-2-1288	2, 9, 5a7	Suspend 1 year	Accept
20-3-1320	2,5a7,9	Suspend 10 days	Accept
20-3-1344	2, 9, 5a7	Suspend 45 days	Accept
20-3-1409	3, 9, 5a7	Suspend 1 year	Accept
20-4-1474	4, 9, 5a7	Suspend 90 days	Accept
20-5-1500	2, 9, 5a7	Suspend 1 year	Accept
20-5-1508	1, 2,9, 5a7	Suspend 1 year	Accept
20-5-1510	1,4,8,9,5a7	Suspend 1 year	Accept
20-5-1511	4, 8, 9, 5a7	Suspend 90 days	Accept
20-5-1512	4, 8, 9, 5a7	Suspend 90 days	Accept
20-5-1516	1, 2, 9, 5a7	Suspend 10 days	Accept
20-5-1517	2, 9, 5a7	Suspend 10 days	Accept
20-5-1518	3, 9, 5a7	Suspend 1 year	Accept
20-5-1523	2,5,9,5a7	Suspend 1 year	Accept
20-5-1524	2, 9, 5a7	Suspend 5 days	Accept
20-5-1525	1, 9, 5a7	NPC	Accept
20-5-1541	2, 4, 9, 5a7	Suspend 1 year	Accept
20-5-1608	9, 5a7	Suspend 20 days	Accept
20-6-1616	4, 9, 5a7	NPC	Accept
20-6-1625	2, 9, 5a7	Suspend 90 days	Accept
20-6-1628	2,9,5a7	Suspend 10 days	Accept
20-6-1630	3,9,5a7	Suspend 1 year	Accept
20-6-1652	1, 2, 3, 9, 5a7	Suspend 1 year	Accept

<u>CASE</u>	<u>STANDARDS VIOLATED</u>	<u>RECOMMENDATION</u>	<u>EERC RECOMMENDATIONS</u>
20-6-1653	5, 9, 5a7	Suspend 5 days	Accept
20-6-1654	4, 9, 5a7	Suspend 2 years	Accept
20-6-1659	3, 9	Suspend 1 year	Accept
20-6-1667	2, 9, 5a7	Suspend 1 year	Accept
20-6-1670	2, 9, 5a7	Suspend 45 days	Accept
20-6-1691	1,4,5a7,8,9	Suspend 20 days	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>
19-10-526	VS	Deny
20-5-1515	Suspend 1 year	Deny

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

<u>CASE</u>	<u>SANCTION</u>	<u>EERC RECOMMEND</u>
19-4-1532	Reprimand	Accept
19-8-260	Reprimand	Accept
19-10-619	Suspend 10 days	Accept
20-1-913	Suspend 1 year	Accept
20-1-1052	Reprimand	Accept
20-3-1301	Suspend 2 years	Accept
20-2-1127	Reprimand	Accept
20-3-1365	Suspend 1 year	Accept
20-4-1444	Suspend 20 days	Accept
20-5-1489	Suspend 20 days	Accept
20-5-1533	Reprimand	Accept
20-5-1565	Reprimand	Accept
20-5-1573	Reprimand	Accept
20-6-1631	Reprimand	Accept

4. Chair Townsend reported that the Educator Ethics Review Committee reviewed 16 *Negotiated Settlement Agreements* and brought the following recommendations on behalf of the Committee:

<u>CASE</u>	<u>NEGOTIATED SANCTION</u>	<u>EERC RECOMMENDATION</u>
18-4-1400	Reprimand	Accept
18-10-484 and 19-5-1554	Suspend 1 year	Accept
18-10-583	Suspend 5 days	Accept
19-3-1165	Reprimand	Accept
19-4-1529	Reprimand	Accept

<u>CASE</u>	<u>NEGOTIATED SANCTION</u>	<u>EERC RECOMMENDATION</u>
19-7-132	Reprimand	Accept
19-8-199	Suspend 10 days	Accept
19-8-310	Reprimand	Reject
19-8-319	Reprimand	Accept
19-9-353	Warning	Reject
19-9-355	Warning	Accept
19-9-449	Reprimand	Accept
19-10-509	NPC	Accept
19-10-621	Reprimand	Accept
19-11-739	Suspend 83 days	Accept
20-1-996	Suspend 120 days	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>
VS 20-6-1646	The complainant school system advised that the educator self-reported a charge of an offense related to child molestation.	Accept
VS 20-7-3	The educator allegedly engaged in a sexually oriented online conversation with a person he believed to be a 14-year-old student. During the conversation, the educator reportedly admitted to having sexual contact with multiple students attending his school. {Note: Pertains to PID #15}	Accept
NCO 19-4-1528	Revoke Suspend 2 years	Accept
19-6-1930	Failed to provide requested documents.	Hold New App
20-2-1285	Failed to provide requested documents.	Hold New App
20-5-1492	Failed to provide requested documents.	Hold New App
20-5-1494	Failed to provide requested documents.	Hold New App
PCE 19-10-618	Expand current investigation	Expand

6. The Educator Ethics Review Committee recommended approval of the *Preliminary Investigative Determination Report* consisting of 49 new complaints received during the months of July and August 2020.

7. VOLUNTARY SURRENDERS

The Educator Ethics Review Committee recommended approval of the Voluntary Surrender/Voluntary Denial 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 RECOMMEND</u>
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<u>CASE</u>	<u>STANDARDS VIOLATED</u>	<u>SANCTION</u>	<u>EERC RECOMMEND</u>
19-10-630	2, 9	Voluntary Surrender	Accept
20-4-1432	5a2, 5a7	Voluntary Surrender	Accept
20-6-1617	1, 2, 9	Voluntary Surrender	Accept
20-6-1627	2, 9	Voluntary Surrender	Accept

8. EXTENSIONS – PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATIVE DETERMINATIONS

The Educator Ethics Review Committee recommended approval of the 22 *Extensions - Preliminary Investigative Determinations* consisting of the following:

20-7-6	20-7-9	20-7-12	20-7-53	20-7-74	20-8-110	20-8-113	20-8-116
20-7-7	20-7-10	20-7-39	20-7-72	20-8-106	20-8-111	20-8-114	
20-7-8	20-7-11	20-7-40	20-7-73	20-8-107	20-8-112	20-8-115	

9. EXTENSIONS - INVESTIGATIONS

The Educator Ethics Review Committee recommended granting an *Investigative Extension* to the following 323 cases:

<u>WRITTEN COMPLAINT EXTENSIONS</u>							
18-11-694	19-6-1897	19-8-258	19-10-646	20-1-1069	20-2-1268	20-4-1435	20-5-1546
19-1-946	19-6-1898	19-8-259	19-10-657	20-1-1074	20-2-1293	20-4-1436	20-5-1548
19-1-961	19-6-1899	19-8-261	19-10-661	20-1-1077	20-2-1295	20-4-1447	20-5-1549
19-1-963	19-6-1900	19-8-265	19-10-672	20-1-1080	20-3-1313	20-4-1448	20-5-1551
19-2-1073	19-6-1903	19-8-266	19-10-674	20-1-1081	20-3-1315	20-4-1449	20-5-1553
19-2-1075	19-6-1906	19-8-309	19-10-683	20-1-1083	20-3-1316	20-4-1450	20-5-1554
19-2-1106	19-6-1908	19-8-320	19-10-689	20-1-1086	20-3-1318	20-4-1452	20-5-1556
19-3-1277	19-6-1915	19-8-321	19-11-695	20-1-1089	20-3-1319	20-4-1453	20-5-1557
19-3-1287	19-6-1922	19-9-352	19-11-717	20-1-1090	20-3-1321	20-4-1454	20-5-1558
19-3-1291	19-6-1929	19-9-375	19-11-729	20-1-1091	20-3-1322	20-4-1455	20-5-1560
19-4-1400	19-6-1931	19-9-376	19-11-752	20-1-1096	20-3-1325	20-4-1464	20-5-1561
19-4-1402	19-6-1934	19-9-381	19-11-800	20-1-1103	20-3-1326	20-4-1465	20-5-1562
19-4-1451	19-7-56	19-9-383	19-12-851	20-1-1105	20-3-1329	20-4-1466	20-5-1564
19-4-1452	19-7-71	19-9-390	19-12-855	20-1-1107	20-3-1330	20-4-1467	20-5-1567
19-4-1545	19-7-72	19-9-392	19-12-857	20-1-1108	20-3-1331	20-4-1468	20-5-1569
19-5-1562	19-7-86	19-9-400	19-12-867	20-2-1121	20-3-1333	20-4-1469	20-5-1571
19-5-1613	19-7-87	19-9-407	19-12-873	20-2-1132	20-3-1335	20-4-1472	20-5-1572
19-5-1616	19-7-90	19-9-422	20-1-920	20-2-1134	20-3-1337	20-4-1473	20-5-1575
19-5-1620	19-7-92	19-9-447	20-1-924	20-2-1137	20-3-1338	20-4-1479	20-5-1576
19-5-1670	19-7-93	19-9-450	20-1-931	20-2-1149	20-3-1354	20-4-1481	20-5-1577
19-5-1695	19-7-94	19-9-461	20-1-939	20-2-1152	20-3-1356	20-4-1484	20-5-1578
19-5-1696	19-7-95	19-9-464	20-1-940	20-2-1162	20-3-1357	20-5-1488	20-5-1579
19-5-1700	19-7-97	19-9-488	20-1-977	20-2-1164	20-3-1374	20-5-1496	20-5-1580
19-5-1701	19-7-98	19-9-492	20-1-980	20-2-1173	20-3-1375	20-5-1497	20-5-1585
19-5-1706	19-7-100	19-9-499	20-1-990	20-2-1174	20-3-1376	20-5-1498	20-5-1587
19-6-1787	19-7-102	19-9-502	20-1-991	20-2-1175	20-3-1379	20-5-1506	20-5-1588

WRITTEN COMPLAINT EXTENSIONS							
19-6-1812	19-7-103	19-10-505	20-1-1008	20-2-1178	20-3-1380	20-5-1507	20-5-1590
19-6-1814	19-7-105	19-10-516	20-1-1009	20-2-1179	20-3-1384	20-5-1513	20-5-1591
19-6-1815	19-7-106	19-10-517	20-1-1019	20-2-1185	20-3-1386	20-5-1514	20-5-1594
19-6-1818	19-7-107	19-10-527	20-1-1020	20-2-1192	20-3-1387	20-5-1519	20-5-1597
19-6-1821	19-7-128	19-10-533	20-1-1021	20-2-1195	20-3-1389	20-5-1521	20-5-1598
19-6-1872	19-7-138	19-10-534	20-1-1022	20-2-1198	20-3-1401	20-5-1526	20-5-1600
19-6-1875	19-7-140	19-10-545	20-1-1023	20-2-1234	20-3-1408	20-5-1528	20-5-1601
19-6-1878	19-7-142	19-10-557	20-1-1047	20-2-1239	20-3-1411	20-5-1529	20-5-1602
19-6-1885	19-7-144	19-10-589	20-1-1050	20-2-1245	20-3-1413	20-5-1531	20-5-1603
19-6-1886	19-7-154	19-10-596	20-1-1057	20-2-1249	20-3-1417	20-5-1534	20-5-1604
19-6-1887	19-8-194	19-10-597	20-1-1060	20-2-1250	20-3-1420	20-5-1535	
19-6-1889	19-8-213	19-10-599	20-1-1061	20-2-1254	20-3-1424	20-5-1537	
19-6-1890	19-8-219	19-10-609	20-1-1062	20-2-1259	20-3-1425	20-5-1539	
19-6-1891	19-8-227	19-10-618	20-1-1064	20-2-1261	20-4-1430	20-5-1540	
19-6-1896	19-8-242	19-10-630	20-1-1066	20-2-1265	20-4-1434	20-5-1545	

10. APPLICATIONS FOR CERTIFICATION REPORT

The Educator Ethics Review Committee recommended to approve a no probable cause determination on 14 cases reflected on the *Applications for Certification Report*.

11. FINAL DECISIONS BY OPERATION OF LAW

The Commission reviewed the *Final Decision*, which advised to Accept ALJ sanction.

CASE	ORIGINAL SANCTION	ALJ SANCTION	EERC RECOMMENDATION
19-1-851	Denial	Denial	Accept
19-12-853	Denial	Grant w/ Suspension of 90 days	Accept

12. FINAL DECISIONS BY OPERATION OF LAW

The Commission reviewed the report, which advised of 9 cases now closed without an appeal for a hearing before an Administrative Law Judge.

Chair Sirmans calls for approval of the Educator Preparation/Certification report as presented by Chair Townsend.

PSC ACTION: Approved

Abstentions: Derek Easterling - 20-5-1523, 20-7-8, Dr. Steve Barker -19-9-353, 19-9-449, 20-6-1652, 20-7-1, 20-7-24, Dr. Franklin Perry – 20-5-1524, 20-5-1525, 20-6-1726

B. Educator Preparation Standing Committee

Committee Chair, Diane McClearn, presented the report of the Educator Preparation Standing Committee. The Committee recommended the following approval actions:

	EPP	August 2020 Detailed Approval Recommendations
1.	Pioneer RESA	The Committee recommends granting the request to defer the Spring 2021 Continuing Approval Review to Spring 2023.
2.	Covenant College	<p>The Committee recommends agreeing with the Evaluation Review Panel that the May 28, 2020, Progress Report is Satisfactory in addressing the Standard 5.3 Area for Improvement (AFI) cited during the Spring 2019 Continuing Approval Review. The Committee recommends the Area for Improvement (AFI) be removed for the Educator Preparation Provider (EPP).</p> <p>In addition, the Committee recommends that while incremental progress is indicated in the May 28, 2020, Progress Report, the Area for Improvement (AFI) cited in Standard 5.5 remains.</p> <p>The Committee recommends the submission of a Progress Report on or by August 13, 2021, addressing the remaining Area for Improvement (AFI) cited in Standard 5.5. The Progress Report should provide artifacts, including data indicating how stakeholders are involved in program evaluation to inform program improvement.</p>
3.	Fort Valley State University	<p>The Committee recommends agreeing with the Evaluation Review Panel that the May 22, 2020, Progress Report is Satisfactory in addressing the Standard 5.1 Area for Improvement (AFI) cited during the Fall 2019 Continuing Approval Review. The Committee recommends the Area for Improvement (AFI) be removed for the Educator Preparation Provider (EPP).</p> <p>The Committee also recommends that while incremental progress is indicated in the May 22, 2020, Progress Report, the Areas for Improvement (AFIs) cited in Standard 5.2 and Standard 5.3 remain.</p> <p>The Committee recommends the submission of a Progress Report on or by August 13, 2021, addressing the remaining Areas for Improvement (AFIs) cited in Standard 5.2 and Standard 5.3. The May 22, 2020, Progress Report demonstrated evidence that faculty have received inter-rater reliability training. The subsequent Progress Report should include evidence demonstrating that faculty have applied the content of the training, and now participate in calibration efforts to establish consistent understanding and implementation of assessments. In addition, the Progress Report should include evidence that faculty have applied conventional methods to establish assessment validity.</p>
4.	Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College	The Committee recommends Developmental Approval of the Elementary Agriculture Education (P-5) Endorsement.
5.	Thomas University	The Committee recommends Developmental Approval of the Dyslexia Endorsement.

Chair Sirmans calls for approval of the Educator Preparation/Certification report as presented by Chair McClearn.

PSC ACTION: Approved

10/9/2020

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IX. ADJOURNMENT

Our next Commission meeting will be held on Thursday, September 10th, 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/Certification Standing Committee meeting will meet on Wednesday, September 9th, at 4:00 pm. Chair Sirmans called for the meeting to be adjourned at 4:36 p.m.

PSC ACTION: Approved