

MINUTES

PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS COMMISSION

Remote Meeting via TEAMS Platform

August 10, 2023

The Georgia Professional Standards Commission (PSC) met on Thursday, August 10, 2023.

Members Present

Jimmy Atkins	Mark Kauffman	Beth Townsend
Abigail Coggin	Dr. Franklin Perry	Dr. Jennifer Wade
Derek Easterling	Dr. Holley Roberts	Carol Williams
Jordan Frobos	Jane Rookard	Vonda Woodall
Kedrione Harris	Dr. Brandon Seigler	

Members Absent

Jeanine Bunn	Dr. Judi Wilson
Nathan Lewis	

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 / Beth Townsend) To approve the agenda.

PSC ACTION: Approved

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chair Sirmans called for approval of the September 14, 2023 minutes.

V. EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT

August birthday – Brian Sirmans

The peak season for the Certification Division begins in May and remains a period of madness and mental exhaustion for our Certification staff through October's CPI deadline, the date on which all educators must hold certification in order for the district to receive state funding. This year the Certification Division has experienced an epic busy season and there's still a few months left before things settle into more manageable chaos. On this date last year, the backlog of certification cases was 351. Today, we have over 1,500 unprocessed certification cases. Since May, Certification staff have answered 14,850 emails, taken 13,338 phone calls, and issued 64,344 certificate fields to over 26,000 educators. Even with the high volume of work,

they have been able to maintain a 10-day or less processing time, which continues to be the best in the nation relative to the amount of certificates processed.

VI. CHAIR REPORT

Chair Sirmans thanked the Certification division for their work in processing cases this summer.

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 51 *Probable Cause* cases during the August 14, 2023, 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>
23-3-1230	1, 8, 9	Denial	Accept
23-4-1370	1, 5a2, 5a4, 5a6	Denial	Accept
23-4-1403	1,5a6	Reprimand	Accept
23-4-1429	1, 4,8,9, 5a6	NPC	Accept
23-5-1518	1,4,5a6	NPC	Accept
23-5-1609	1,4,5a6	Reprimand	Accept
23-6-1700	1,5a6	Reprimand	Accept
23-6-1746	1,5a2,5a4, 5a6	NPC	Accept
23-6-1752	1,5a6	Reprimand	Accept
23-7-76	5a2, 5a4, 5a6	NPC	Accept
23-1-819	1,4,5a6,8,9	Extend Pending Criminal Outcome	Accept
23-1-905	9	90 Day Suspension	Accept
23-2-995	9	Reprimand	Accept
23-2-1028	2, 9	1 Year Suspension	Accept
23-2-1078	9	NPC	Accept
23-3-1189	9	90 Day Suspension	Accept
23-3-1192	9	90 Day Suspension	Accept
23-3-1284	3, 9	1 Year Suspension	Accept
23-3-1303	2, 9	5 Day Suspension	Accept
23-3-1306	2,9	Revoke	Accept
23-4-1331	4, 8, 9, 5a2, 5a4	1 Year Suspension	Accept
23-4-1409	1,4,5a7,8,9	Reprimand	Accept
23-4-1410	1, 2, 9	Extend Pending Criminal Outcome	Accept
23-4-1422	2,9	10 Day Suspension	Accept
23-4-1424	2, 9	30 Day Suspension	Accept
23-4-1430	1, 2, 4, 9	5 Day Suspension	Accept

<u>CASE</u>	<u>STANDARDS VIOLATED</u>	<u>RECOMMENDATION</u>	<u>EERC RECOMMENDATIONS</u>
23-4-1431	2, 9	90 Day Suspension	Accept
23-4-1434	2, 9	5 Day Suspension	Accept
23-4-1435	2, 9	5 Day Suspension	Accept
23-5-1443	2, 9	3 Day Suspension	Accept
23-5-1444	2,9	5 Day Suspension	Accept
23-5-1478	8,9	Reprimand	Accept
23-5-1479	8,9	Reprimand	Accept
23-5-1483	2, 9	Warning	Accept
23-5-1511	9	90 Day Suspension	Accept
23-5-1537	5,9	Reprimand	Accept
23-5-1549	9	5 Day Suspension	Accept
23-5-1554	7, 9	2 Day Suspension	Accept
23-5-1555	2, 9	Reprimand	Accept
23-5-1580	2, 9	NPC	Accept
23-5-1592	4,9	NPC	Accept
23-5-1595	2, 9	Warning	Accept
23-5-1617	2, 9	NPC	Accept
23-5-1652	1,4,5a6,8,9	Reprimand	Accept
23-5-1662	5, 9	20 Day Suspension	Accept
23-6-1672	1,4,5a76,8,9	1 Year Suspension	Accept
23-6-1686	1,2,9	10 Day Suspension	Accept
23-6-1696	1,4,5a7,8,9	Revoke	Accept
23-6-1704	1,4,5a7,8,9	Reprimand	Accept
23-6-1739	4, 9	10 Day Suspension	Accept
23-6-1757	1, 2, 9	Extend Pending Criminal Outcome	Accept

2. Chair Townsend reported that the Educator Ethics Review Committee reviewed 1 *Petitions Issue* and brought the following recommendations on behalf of the Committee:

<u>CASE</u>	<u>PREVIOUS SANCTION</u>	<u>EERC RECOMMENDATION</u>
23-6-1735	Revocation - Oct 22, 2009	Deny

3. Chair Townsend reported that the Educator Ethics Review Committee reviewed 18 *Settlement Agreements* and brought the following recommendations on behalf of the Committee:

<u>CASE</u>	<u>SANCTION</u>	<u>EERC RECOMMENDATION</u>
23-1-894	Suspension 90 days	Accept
23-2-977	Suspension 2 years	Accept
23-3-1281	Reprimand	Accept
23-3-1163	Suspension 10 days	Accept

<u>CASE</u>	<u>SANCTION</u>	<u>EERC RECOMMENDATION</u>
23-4-1315	Reprimand	Accept
23-4-1412	Suspension 1 year	Accept
23-4-1418	Suspension 10 days	Accept
23-5-1454	Reprimand	Accept
23-5-1458	Reprimand	Accept
23-5-1484	Reprimand	Accept
23-5-1500	Reprimand	Accept
23-5-1520	Reprimand	Accept
23-5-1524	Reprimand	Accept
23-5-1548	Suspension 20 days	Accept
23-5-1556	Reprimand	Accept
23-5-1578	Reprimand	Accept
23-5-1581	Reprimand	Accept
23-5-1618	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>
20-8-181	Warning	Accept
21-7-60	Suspension 10 days	Accept
22-1-831	Warning	Accept
22-8-182	NPC	Accept
22-10-525	NFA	Accept
22-11-671	Suspension 10 days	Accept
23-3-1149	Warning	Accept

5. The Educator Ethics Review Committee recommended approval of the ***Preliminary Investigative Determination Report*** consisting of 48 new complaints received during the months of July and August 2023.

6. The Educator Ethics Review Committee recommended approval of **2 *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>
23-5-1445	2, 9	Voluntary Surrender	Accept
23-6-1769	1, 2, 9	Voluntary Surrender	Accept

7. The Educator Ethics Review Committee recommended approval of the **21 *Extensions - Preliminary Investigative Determinations*** consisting of the following:

23-7-105	23-7-108	23-7-113	23-7-118	23-8-156	23-8-165	23-8-221	
23-7-106	23-7-109	23-7-114	23-8-120	23-8-157	23-8-199	23-8-222	
23-7-107	23-7-112	23-7-117	23-8-155	23-8-158	23-8-218	23-8-223	

8. The Educator Ethics Review Committee recommended granting an *Investigative Extension* to the following 125 cases:

22-4-1322	23-2-1029	23-3-1238	23-4-1316	23-4-1372	23-5-1466	23-5-1541	23-5-1619
22-4-1323	23-2-1039	23-3-1245	23-4-1317	23-4-1373	23-5-1470	23-5-1544	23-5-1620
22-6-1647	23-2-1048	23-3-1246	23-4-1320	23-4-1387	23-5-1476	23-5-1547	23-5-1648
23-1-821	23-2-1054	23-3-1249	23-4-1321	23-4-1389	23-5-1485	23-5-1552	23-5-1649
23-1-829	23-2-1084	23-3-1255	23-4-1333	23-4-1398	23-5-1490	23-5-1567	23-5-1654
23-1-844	23-2-1090	23-3-1263	23-4-1336	23-4-1406	23-5-1491	23-5-1568	23-5-1656
23-1-847	23-2-1127	23-3-1264	23-4-1337	23-4-1408	23-5-1494	23-5-1575	23-5-1660
23-1-848	23-3-1169	23-3-1276	23-4-1338	23-4-1415	23-5-1509	23-5-1576	23-6-1672
23-1-865	23-3-1171	23-3-1280	23-4-1341	23-4-1421	23-5-1516	23-5-1579	23-6-1695
23-2-943	23-3-1181	23-3-1283	23-4-1344	23-4-1426	23-5-1517	23-5-1585	23-6-1697
23-2-947	23-3-1187	23-3-1285	23-4-1348	23-4-1427	23-5-1519	23-5-1586	23-6-1699
23-2-948	23-3-1191	23-3-1293	23-4-1354	23-4-1428	23-5-1522	23-5-1589	23-6-1701
23-2-960	23-3-1215	23-3-1294	23-4-1355	23-4-1432	23-5-1523	23-5-1593	23-6-1702
23-2-1008	23-3-1235	23-3-1304	23-4-1362	23-4-1433	23-5-1528	23-5-1606	
23-2-1012	23-3-1236	23-4-1308	23-4-1363	23-5-1442	23-5-1533	23-5-1607	
23-2-1027	23-3-1237	23-4-1313	23-4-1366	23-5-1446	23-5-1534	23-5-1608	

9. The Educator Ethics Review Committee recommended to approve a no probable cause determination on 20 cases reflected on the *Applications for Certification Report*.

10. **FINAL DECISIONS BY OPERATION OF LAW** - The Commission reviewed the report, which advised of 21 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 Chair Beth Townsend.

PSC ACTION: Approved

Abstentions: Derek Easterling- PID cases 23-7-8, 23-7-46, 23-7-93, PCE cases 23-5-1537, 23-5-1554, Clearance case 23-5-1507, Dr. Franklin Perry, PID case 23-7-9, Jimmy Atkins – PID case 23-7-63, Beth Townsend, PCE case 23-5-1555, Vonda Woodall, PID 23-5-1617

B. Educator Preparation Standing Committee

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

- Morehouse College – As a result of satisfactory progress indicated in the June 8, 2023, Progress Report, the Committee recommends removal of the areas for improvement (AFIs) in Standard 1.5 and 5.1 for the Educator Preparation Provider (EPP), as well as the removal of the AFI in Standard 6.6 for the Computer Science and Biology Education programs.

As a result of incremental progress evident in the June 8, 2023, Progress report, the Committee recommends the AFI remain in Standard 5.2 for the EPP.

The Committee recommends the submission of a progress report due February 9, 2024, addressing the remaining AFI in Standard 5.2 for the EPP. The progress report should clarify how the EPP will assure that all faculty, including new faculty will participate in inter-rater reliability exercises and training so that data interpretations are valid and consistent. The progress report should also indicate how the EPP will assure that validity and reliability of all assessments will be a continuous process of the provider's quality assurance system.

- Young Harris College – The Committee recommends Continuing Approval with Probation for the EPP, and the eight educator preparation programs reviewed during the Spring 2023 Continuing Approval Review.

The Committee recommends the submission of a progress report due February 9, 2024, indicating a plan for addressing the not met standards, stipulations, and areas for improvement from the Spring 2023 Continuing Approval Review.

- University of North Georgia – The Committee recommends Developmental Approval for the Dyslexia Endorsement.

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, September 14, 2023, 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, September 13, at 4:00 pm. Chair Sirmans called for the meeting to be adjourned at 4:24 p.m.