

MINUTES
In Person Meeting
PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS COMMISSION
200 Piedmont Avenue, Suite 1716, Atlanta, GA 30334
December 14, 2023

The Georgia Professional Standards Commission (PSC) met on Thursday, December 14, 2023.

Members Present

Jimmy Atkins	Dr. Franklin Perry	Beth Townsend
Jeanine Bunn	Dr. Holley Roberts	Carol Williams
Kedrione Harris	Jane Rookard	Vonda Woodall
Mark Kauffman		

Members Absent

Jordan Frobos	Dr. Judi Wilson
Nathan Lewis	Dr. Brandon Seigler
Abigail Coggin	Brian Sirmans
Derek Easterling	Dr. Jennifer Wade

I. CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Kedrione Harris called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and everyone recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. VISITORS

Kedrione Harris welcomed the visitors.

III. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Kedrione Harris called for approval of the agenda.

MOTION: (Jimmy Atkins / Jane Rookard) To approve the agenda.

PSC ACTION: Approved

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Kedrione Harris called for approval of the November 9, 2023 minutes.

PSC ACTION: Approved

V. EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT

Matt Arthur wished Dr. Holley Roberts a happy birthday. He mentioned that we are attending the Literary committee meetings and that he will provide Commissioners with updates periodically.

We hosted our 29th Annual Certification and Program Officials Conference on the mornings of November 30th and December 1st. Attendees included representatives of local school districts, RESAs, Georgia and out-of-state colleges and universities, and other state agencies. During the keynote address, Matt provided updates on the

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educator workforce and our work on literacy. Four concurrent strands were offered over the two days, each featuring sessions focused on our core work of Certification, Educator Ethics, Educator Preparation, and Assessment. Exit survey results were very positive, with 75% of respondents saying the conference met, exceeded, or far exceeded their expectations. He thanked the planning team, comprised of representatives of each of our divisions, for their work on planning and delivering a highly engaging and beneficial conference.

VI. RULES PREVIEW AND ADOPTION

Windy Fortenberry presented the rules for preview and adoption. These rules, if adopted, will become effective January 1, 2024. Three public comments were received and they were included in the rule packet emailed to Commissioners.

MOTION: (Jimmy Atkins /Jane Rookard) To (1) adopt the current rule in Chapter 505-2- Certification, effective January 1, 2024, as follows: 505-2-.195; (2) repeal the current rules in Chapter 505-3- Educator Preparation Rules, effective January 1, 2024, as follows: 505-3-.63, 505-3-.72, 505-3-.92, and 505-3-.104; (3) adopt the current rules in Chapter 505-3- Educator Preparation rules, effective January 1, 2024, as follows 505-3-.63, 505-3-.70, 505-3-.72, 505-3-.92, and 505-3-.104; (4) amend the current rules in Chapter 505-3- Educator Preparation Rules, effective January 1, 2024, as follows: 505-3-.01, 505-3-.02, 505-3-.71, and 505-3-.76; and (5) amend the current rules in Chapter 6- Professional Practices, effective January 1, 2024, as follows: 505-6-.01, and 505-6-.02.

PSC ACTION: Approved

Windy Fortenberry previewed the Certification rules, and Penney McRoy previewed the Educator Preparation rules that will come before the Commission for their initiation consideration at the January 11th Commission meeting.

VII. UPGRADING: 13 YEARS LATER

Dr. Kelli Young and Windy Fortenberry gave a presentation titled “Upgrading: 13 Years Later.”

VIII. VIDEO RESOURCES TO PREVENT ETHICAL MISSTEPS

Laurin Vonada presented our newest ethics video and gave a presentation on Resources to Prevent Ethical Missteps.

IX. 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 79 *Probable Cause* cases during December, 2023, 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>
23-7-23	5a2, 5a6	NPC	Accept
23-8-291	1,5a6	NPC	Accept
23-9-445	1, 5a6	Deny	Accept
23-10-632	1,4,5a6	NPC	Accept
23-10-634	1,4,5a6, 5a7 (2022)	Reprimand	Accept
23-10-645	1,4,5a6	Deny	Accept
23-10-651	1,4,5a2,5a4,5a6	Deny	Accept
23-10-655	1, 5a6	Reprimand	Accept
23-10-661	1,4,5a6	Reprimand	Accept
23-10-733	4,5a2	Reprimand	Accept
23-10-744	5a1,5a6	NPC	Accept
23-10-789	1,4,5a6	Reprimand	Accept
23-10-792	1,5a6	Reprimand	Accept
23-11-838	5a6	Reprimand	Accept
23-11-911	4,5a5,5a6	Deny	Accept
23-3-1181	4, 5	Suspension 10 days	Accept
23-4-1337	3, 9	Suspension 1 year	Accept
23-4-1344	4, 5, 9	Suspension 1 year	Accept
23-4-1372	1, 8, 9	Extend	Accept
23-4-1387	4, 5, 9	Suspension 10 days	Accept
23-4-1415	5, 9	Suspension 20 days	Accept
23-4-1432	2, 9	Suspension 30 days	Accept
23-5-1476	1, 4, 8, 9	Suspension 20 days	Accept
23-5-1629	2, 4, 9	Suspension 2 years	Accept
23-5-1660	1,4,5a6,5a7 (2021), 8 9	Reprimand	Accept
23-6-1678	9	Reprimand	Accept
23-6-1741	1, 4, 8, 9	Extend	Accept
23-6-1758	1, 9	NPC	Accept
23-6-1774	3, 9	Suspension 20 days	Accept
23-7-27	2,4,5a6,5a7 (2022), 8,9	NPC	Accept
23-8-313	9, 5a2, 5a5, 5a7	Reprimand	Accept
23-8-341	9	NPC	Accept
23-8-348	2, 7, 9	NPC	Accept
23-8-351	4,9	Reprimand	Accept
23-8-352	7, 9	Reprimand	Accept
23-8-361	1,8, 9	Extend	Accept
23-8-365	2,9	Suspension 90 days	Accept
23-8-398	1, 2, 9	Extend	Accept
23-8-403	4, 5, 9	Suspension 20 days	Accept
23-8-404	4,9,10	Reprimand	Accept
23-8-411	2,4,9	Suspension 10 days	Accept

<u>CASE</u>	<u>STANDARDS VIOLATED</u>	<u>RECOMMENDATION</u>	<u>EERC RECOMMENDATION</u>
23-8-413	1,4,5a6, 5a7 (2022), 8,9	Suspension 90 days	Accept
23-8-430	1, 4, 8, 9	Suspension 2 years	Accept
23-8-432	4,9	Suspension 90 days	Accept
23-9-446	5,9	Suspension 1 year	Accept
23-9-451	2, 9	Suspension 10 days	Accept
23-9-452	2, 9	Revocation	Accept
23-9-454	2,9	Revoke	Accept
23-9-489	4,9	Revoke	Accept
23-9-493	1, 3, 9	Suspension 1 year	Accept
23-9-499	2, 4, 9	Reprimand	Accept
23-9-507	9	Suspension 5 days	Accept
23-9-514	1,4, 5a6, 5a7 (2019-2022), 8,9	Reprimand	Accept
23-9-515	4, 8, 9,	Reprimand	Accept
23-9-516	4, 9	Suspension 20 days	Accept
23-9-527	1,9	Reprimand	Accept
23-9-528	2, 8, 9	Suspension 10 days	Accept
23-9-529	1,4,8,9	Suspension 1 year	Accept
23-9-538	1,4,5a6,8,9	Reprimand	Accept
23-9-565	2,8,9	Revoke	Accept
23-9-583	1,4,5a6, 5a7 (2015-2022), 8 9	Reprimand	Accept
23-9-589	6,9	NPC	Accept
23-9-608	4, 9	Suspension 90 days	Accept
23-10-624	2, 4, 9	Suspension 10 days	Accept
23-10-626	2, 9	Suspension 10 days	Accept
23-10-627	2, 4, 9	Suspension 5 days	Accept
23-10-682	1, 9	Extend	Accept
23-10-693	2,8,9	Suspension 10 days	Accept
23-10-695	2, 9	NPC	Accept
23-10-696	2, 9	NPC	Accept
23-10-697	2, 9	NPC	Accept
23-10-716	2, 9	NPC	Accept
23-10-724	8,9, 5a2, 5a4, 5a6	Suspension 90 days	Accept
23-10-726	1,4,5a6, 5a (2015-2022), 8, 9	Reprimand	Accept
23-10-762	7, 9	Suspension 10 days	Accept
23-10-767	1, 4, 7, 8, 9	Extend	Accept
23-10-780	1,4,5a6,5a7 (2018-2022),8 9	Suspension 20 days	Accept
23-10-784	1,4,5a6,5a7 (pre-2022), 8 9	Reprimand	Accept

<u>CASE</u>	<u>STANDARDS VIOLATED</u>	<u>RECOMMENDATION</u>	<u>EERC RECOMMENDATION</u>
23-11-852	1,4,5a6, 5a7 (2022), 8,9	Reprimand	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>
23-9-598	Denial - December 21, 2020	Grant

3. Chair Townsend reported that the Educator Ethics Review Committee reviewed 10 *Settlement Agreements* and brought the following recommendations on behalf of the Committee:

<u>CASE</u>	<u>SANCTION</u>	<u>EERC RECOMMENDATION</u>
23-2-1084	Suspension 20 days	Accept
23-6-1755	Reprimand	Accept
23-8-247	Reprimand	Accept
23-8-282	Reprimand	Accept
23-8-287	Reprimand	Accept
23-8-402	Suspension 1 year	Accept
23-9-510	Suspension 2 days	Accept
23-9-553	Suspension 90 days	Accept
23-9-575	Reprimand	Accept
23-10-639	Reprimand	Accept

4. Chair Townsend reported that the Educator Ethics Review Committee reviewed 13 *Negotiated Settlement Agreements* and brought the following recommendations on behalf of the Committee:

<u>CASE</u>	<u>NEGOTIATED SANCTION</u>	<u>EERC RECOMMENDATION</u>
19-4-1390	NFA / NPC	Accept
20-1-932	NPC	Accept
20-11-485	NFA	Accept
22-2-880	Suspension 10 days	Accept
22-2-1010	NFA	Accept
22-11-661	Reprimand	Accept
22-12-812	Warning	Accept
23-2-945	NFA / NPC	Accept
23-3-1165	Warning	Accept
23-3-1250	NFA / NPC	Accept
23-3-1284	Suspension 127 days	Accept
23-5-1511	NFA	Accept

<u>CASE</u>	<u>NEGOTIATED SANCTION</u>	<u>EERC RECOMMENDATION</u>
23-8-123	NFA / NPC	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>
22-10-586	Investigate original allegations.	Investigate
PCE 23-8-171	Incorrect sanction for PCA	Reprimand
23-9-524	Supplemental complaint	Investigate
19-2-1071	Educator is deceased.	Admin Close
23-1-829	Unable effect service	Hold New App
23-9-497	Unable effect service	Hold New App

6. The Educator Ethics Review Committee recommended approval of the *Preliminary Investigative Determination Report* consisting of 106 new complaints received during the months of November and December 2023.

7. VOLUNTARY SURRENDERS

The Educator Ethics Review Committee recommended approval of the 3 *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>
23-8-375	5a5, 5a7	Voluntary Denial	Accept
23-10-619	2, 9	Voluntary Surrender	Accept
23-10-725	8, 9, 5a2, 5a5	Voluntary Surrender	Accept

8. EXTENSIONS – PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATIVE DETERMINATIONS

The Educator Ethics Review Committee recommended approval of the 61 *Extensions - Preliminary Investigative Determinations* consisting of the following:

23-11-901	23-11-1006	23-11-1014	23-12-1055	23-12-1063	23-12-1071	23-12-1099	23-12-1107
23-11-902	23-11-1007	23-11-1015	23-12-1056	23-12-1064	23-12-1072	23-12-1100	23-12-1108
23-11-903	23-11-1008	23-11-1016	23-12-1057	23-12-1065	23-12-1073	23-12-1101	23-12-1109
23-11-904	23-11-1009	23-11-1017	23-12-1058	23-12-1066	23-12-1074	23-12-1102	23-12-1110
23-11-905	23-11-1010	23-11-1049	23-12-1059	23-12-1067	23-12-1075	23-12-1103	23-12-1111
23-11-906	23-11-1011	23-11-1050	23-12-1060	23-12-1068	23-12-1076	23-12-1104	
23-11-907	23-11-1012	23-11-1051	23-12-1061	23-12-1069	23-12-1077	23-12-1105	
23-11-908	23-11-1013	23-12-1054	23-12-1062	23-12-1070	23-12-1098	23-12-1106	

9. EXTENSIONS - INVESTIGATIONS

The Educator Ethics Review Committee recommended granting an *Investigative Extension* to the following 193 cases:

WRITTEN COMPLAINT EXTENSIONS							
23-2-1039	23-5-1466	23-5-1664	23-7-97	23-8-266	23-8-392	23-9-502	23-10-648
23-2-1090	23-5-1485	23-6-1681	23-7-98	23-8-273	23-8-393	23-9-504	23-10-649
23-2-1127	23-5-1491	23-6-1683	23-7-105	23-8-279	23-8-395	23-9-505	23-10-650
23-3-1169	23-5-1494	23-6-1697	23-7-106	23-8-280	23-8-397	23-9-513	23-10-654
23-3-1171	23-5-1516	23-6-1707	23-8-125	23-8-304	23-8-406	23-9-521	23-10-656
23-3-1191	23-5-1517	23-6-1712	23-8-130	23-8-312	23-8-407	23-9-522	23-10-657
23-3-1215	23-5-1519	23-6-1716	23-8-150	23-8-314	23-8-408	23-9-524	23-10-662
23-3-1245	23-5-1522	23-6-1727	23-8-151	23-8-316	23-8-412	23-9-526	23-10-664
23-3-1249	23-5-1523	23-6-1729	23-8-155	23-8-321	23-8-414	23-9-546	23-10-665
23-3-1255	23-5-1533	23-6-1733	23-8-160	23-8-322	23-8-416	23-9-549	23-10-667
23-3-1264	23-5-1534	23-6-1742	23-8-163	23-8-323	23-8-417	23-9-551	23-10-668
23-3-1280	23-5-1541	23-6-1766	23-8-165	23-8-325	23-8-421	23-9-552	23-10-669
23-4-1308	23-5-1544	23-6-1772	23-8-167	23-8-330	23-8-431	23-9-571	23-10-670
23-4-1320	23-5-1547	23-6-1773	23-8-172	23-8-333	23-9-434	23-9-572	23-10-672
23-4-1363	23-5-1552	23-7-14	23-8-182	23-8-340	23-9-435	23-9-579	23-10-673
23-4-1366	23-5-1567	23-7-21	23-8-187	23-8-342	23-9-438	23-9-581	23-10-675
23-4-1373	23-5-1568	23-7-35	23-8-188	23-8-345	23-9-440	23-9-584	23-10-678
23-4-1389	23-5-1576	23-7-36	23-8-191	23-8-346	23-9-444	23-9-585	23-10-707
23-4-1406	23-5-1585	23-7-51	23-8-193	23-8-347	23-9-460	23-10-615	
23-4-1408	23-5-1589	23-7-56	23-8-195	23-8-358	23-9-469	23-10-635	
23-4-1421	23-5-1593	23-7-63	23-8-196	23-8-360	23-9-472	23-10-636	
23-4-1426	23-5-1607	23-7-71	23-8-201	23-8-367	23-9-478	23-10-637	
23-4-1427	23-5-1608	23-7-82	23-8-243	23-8-379	23-9-480	23-10-641	
23-4-1428	23-5-1649	23-7-93	23-8-246	23-8-385	23-9-485	23-10-642	
23-4-1433	23-5-1656	23-7-95	23-8-256	23-8-388	23-9-488	23-10-647	

10. APPLICATIONS FOR CERTIFICATION REPORT

The Educator Ethics Review Committee recommended to approve a no probable cause determination on 28 cases reflected on the *Applications for Certification Report*.

11. FINAL DECISIONS BY OPERATION OF LAW

The Commission reviewed the report, which advised of 7 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:

Kedriane Harris called for approval of the Educator Ethics Review Committee report as present by Beth Townsend.

PSC ACTION: Approved

Abstentions: Derek Easterling-PIDs 23-10-797, 23-10-798, 23-10-799, 23-10-822, 23-11-901, 23-11-956, PCE

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23-8-411, 23-9-489, 23-9-608, 23-10-716, 23-10-762, 23-5-1629, NCO 22-2-1010, Dr. Franklin Perry-23-10-789, Jimmy Atkins-23-11-892, 23-10-682, Abigail Coggin-23-10-831, 23-10-661, Jane Rookard-23-10-693, Beth Townsend-23-11-867

B. Educator Preparation Standing Committee

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

1. Brenau University – The Committee recommends the October 6, 2023, Progress Report is satisfactory in addressing the Standard 1.1 area for improvement (AFI) cited during the Fall 2020 Continuing Approval Review. The Committee recommends the removal of the AFI in Standard 1.1 for the Autism Endorsement.
2. Mercer University – The Committee recommends Developmental Approval for the following programs reviewed during the Fall 2023 Developmental Approval Review.
 - Computer Science (P-12) [Baccalaureate degree; Certification-only]
 - Health and Physical education (P-12) [Baccalaureate degree; Certification-only]
3. Forsyth County Schools Teacher Academy – The Committee recommends Developmental Approval for the Gifted Endorsement.
4. University of Georgia – The Committee recommends Developmental Approval for the Financial Literacy Endorsement.
5. Emmanuel University – The Committee recommends Developmental Approval for the Elementary Agriculture Education Endorsement.
6. 2024 Georgia Standards for the Approval of Educator Preparation Providers and Educator Preparation Programs – The Committee previewed the new 2024 standards aligned to Rule 505-3-.03 Foundations of Reading, Literacy and Language.

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

PSC ACTION: Approved

Abstentions, UGA-Vonda Woodall, Mark Kauffman – Brenau University-Jimmy Atkins

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Our next Commission meeting will be held on Thursday, January 11, 2023, at 4:00 p.m. 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, January 10, 2023, at 4:00 p.m. Kedriane Harris called for the meeting to be adjourned at 11:35 a.m.

PSC ACTION: Approved