

MINUTES

PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS COMMISSION

Two Peachtree Street

Atlanta, Georgia

February 10, 2011

The Georgia Professional Standards Commission (PSC) met on Thursday, February 10, 2011, at 12:30 p.m.

Members Present

Julia Bernath

Alice Clements

Penny Elkins

Dr. Adrian Epps

Bill Haskin

David Johnson

Stephanie Leggett

Andre Mountain

Rose Powell

Bettina Polite Tate

Jeannie Tucker

Dr. Lawrence Walters

Pam Walker

Dr. Debbie Wilkes

Valerie Williams

Members Absent

Marci Cawthon

Meredith Hodges

Dan Weber

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Wilkes called the meeting to order at 12:30 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. flag and a moment of silence.

II. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Chair Wilkes called for approval of the agenda.

MOTION: (Leggett / Epps) To approve the agenda.

PSC ACTION: Approved

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chair Wilkes called for approval of the minutes from the December 9, 2010 and January 25, 2011 Commission meeting.

PSC ACTION: Approved

IV. VISITORS

Chair Wilkes welcomed the visitors.

- Margaret Elliott, Professional Association of Georgia Educators
- Gayle Wooten, Professional Association of Georgia Educators
- James Washington
- Greg Fields
- Tayia Donald, Georgia Association of Educators (GAE)
- Kevin McCarthy
- John Hooper, Georgia School

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- Dr. Edwin Smith, Former Commissioner
- Ethan Armentrout, Intern

Superintendents Association

V. COMMISSIONER RECOGNITION

Chair Wilkes presented Dr. Ed Smith with the picture of the capitol and read the following: Presented to Dr. Edwin Smith as a token of deep appreciation for his leadership and dedicated service as a Commissioner to the Professional Standards Commission from January 2009 through December 2010.

Kelly Henson also thanked Ed for his service to the Commission.

VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

Commissioner Rose Powell of the Educator Ethics Review Committee (EERC), gave a preliminary review of the Cases.

1. Chair Powell reported that the Committee reviewed 62 *Probable Cause* cases during its February 10, 2011, meeting and brought the following recommendations on behalf of the Committee:

<u>CASE #</u>	<u>STANDARDS VIOLATED</u>	<u>RECOMMENDATION</u>
10-12-579	10	Reprimand
10-2-846	4, 6, 10	Suspension - 20 days
10-4-1101	10	NPC
10-4-1105	10	Suspension - 5 days
10-6-1277	3, 10	Suspension - 1 year
10-6-1278	10	Suspension - 20 days
10-6-1299	2, 5, 10	NPC
10-6-1305	7, 10, 11	Reprimand
10-6-1306	7, 10, 11	Reprimand
10-6-1307	7, 10, 11	Reprimand
10-6-1308	7, 10, 11	Reprimand
10-6-1309	7, 10, 11	Reprimand
10-6-1388	3, 10	Suspension - 1 Year
10-6-1403	10	NPC
10-6-1413	4, 10	Suspension - 5 days
10-6-1418	4, 10	Suspension - 1 Year
10-6-1419	4, 10	Suspension - 2 Years
10-7-20	4, 10	NPC
10-7-21	4, 10	NPC
10-7-23	4, 10	Suspension - 5 days
10-7-25	7, 10, 11	Suspension - 90 days
10-7-33	2, 10	Revoke
10-7-35	2, 10	Suspension - 20 days

<u>CASE #</u>	<u>STANDARDS VIOLATED</u>	<u>RECOMMENDATION</u>
10-7-38	10, 11	Suspension - 20 days
10-7-41	2, 10	Suspension - 90 days
10-7-42	2, 10	Suspension - 5 days
10-7-57	7, 11	Suspension - 10 days
10-8-116	4, 10, 11	Suspension - 1 Year
10-8-122	4, 10	NPC
10-8-124	2, 10	Suspension - 10 days
10-8-132	9, 10	Suspension - 20 days
10-8-157	3, 10	Suspension - 1 Year
10-8-158	9, 10	Extend
10-8-184	10	Suspension - 1 Year
10-9-248	4,9,10	Suspension - 20 days
10-9-251	10	NPC
10-9-271	1, 4, 10	Suspension - 5 days
10-9-289	3, 10	Suspension - 1 year
10-9-290	4, 10	Suspension - 5 days
10-9-293	2, 4, 10	NPC
10-9-298	1, 4, 10	Suspension - 1 year
10-9-299	2, 10	Reprimand
10-9-300	3, 10	Suspension - 1 year
10-9-301	2, 10	Suspension - 20 days
10-9-304	4, 5, 10	Suspension - 90 days
10-9-305	1, 10	Suspension - 2 years
10-9-324	1, 10	Suspension - 5 days
10-9-340	3, 10	Suspension - 1 year
10-9-344	5, 10	Suspension - 10 days
10-10-350	10	Suspension - 20 days
10-10-351	NA	NPC
10-10-358	3, 10	Suspension - 1 year
10-10-359	8, 10	Suspension - 90 days
10-10-394	1, 2, 10	Revoke
10-10-427	1, 7, 10	Suspension - 5 days
10-10-442	10	Suspension - 5 days
10-10-443	3, 10	Suspension - 2 years
10-10-444	2, 10	Reprimand
10-11-465	10	Reprimand
10-12-579	10	Reprimand
10-12-587	1, 10	Extend
10-12-600	1, 9, 10, Law	Revoke

2. Chair Powell reported that the Educator Ethics Review Committee reviewed 1 *Initial Decision* and brought the following recommendation on behalf of the Committee:

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<u>CASE</u>	<u>STANDARDS VIOLATED</u>	<u>ALJ SANCTION</u>
07-6-1393	2,10	Reprimand

3. Chair Powell reported that the Educator Ethics Review Committee reviewed 4 *Petitions Issues* and brought the following recommendations on behalf of the Committee:

<u>CASE</u>	<u>PREVIOUS SANCTION</u>
10-9-295	Revocation
10-10-375	Revocation
10-12-634	Denial
11-1-675	Denial

4. Chair Powell reported that the Educator Ethics Review Committee reviewed 7 *Settlement Agreements* and brought the following recommendations on behalf of the Committee:

<u>CASE</u>	<u>SANCTION</u>
10-6-1272	Suspension - 90 days
10-6-1275	Reprimand
10-6-1314	Suspension - 2 Years
10-7-24	Suspension - 10 days
10-10-408	Reprimand
10-10-415	Reprimand
10-10-431	Suspension - 1 Year

5. Ms. Powell reported that the Educator Ethics Review Committee reviewed 27 *Negotiated Settlement Agreements* and brought the following recommendations on behalf of the Committee:

<u>CASE</u>	<u>NEGOTIATED SANCTION</u>	<u>EERC RECOMMEND</u>
07-9-205	NPC	Accept
08-3-1007	Suspension - 3 Years	Accept
08-3-1018	Suspension - 35 Days	Accept
08-12-670	Suspension - 2 Years	Accept
09-1-757	Suspension - 20 Days	Accept
09-2-924	Suspension - 10 Days	Accept
09-3-1018	Suspension - 5 Days	Accept
09-4-1168 10-1-470	Suspension - 30 Days (Both cases)	Accept
09-7-58	Suspension - 6 mos.	Accept
09-7-104	Suspension - 20 Days	Accept
09-9-301	Suspension - 45 Days	Accept

CASE	NEGOTIATED SANCTION	EERC RECOMMEND
09-9-317	Revocation	Accept
09-9-346	Suspension - 3 Years	Accept
09-12-671	Suspension - 90 Days	Accept
10-2-827	NPC	Reject
10-2-845	NPC or Remand	Accept
10-2-879	Reprimand	Accept
10-3-948	Suspension - 1 Year	Accept
10-3-939	Reprimand	Accept
10-3-997	Suspension - 110 Days	Accept
10-4-1012	NPC	Reject
10-4-1013	Suspension - 5 Days	Accept
10-4-1063	Suspension - 90 Days	Accept
10-5-1159	Reprimand	Accept
10-5-1162	Suspension - 20 Days	Accept
10-5-1189	Reprimand	Accept
10-8-140	Suspension - 90 Days	Accept

7. The Educator Ethics Review Committee recommended approval of the ***Preliminary Investigative Determination Report*** consisting of 119 new complaints received during the months of January 2011 and February 2011.

8. **EXTENSIONS – PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATIVE DETERMINATIONS**

The Educator Ethics Review Committee recommended approval of the 24 Extensions - Preliminary Investigative Determinations consisting of the following:

11-1-637	11-1-640	11-1-643	11-1-646	11-1-649	11-1-652	11-1-655	11-1-658
11-1-638	11-1-641	11-1-644	11-1-647	11-1-650	11-1-653	11-1-656	11-1-659
11-1-639	11-1-642	11-1-645	11-1-648	11-1-651	11-1-654	11-1-657	11-1-660

9. **EXTENSIONS - INVESTIGATIONS**

The Educator Ethics Review Committee recommended granting an ***Investigative Extension*** to the following 86 cases:

09-8-200	10-8-168	10-8-193	10-9-321	10-10-393	10-10-449	10-12-557	10-10-441
10-5-1209	10-8-171	10-8-194	10-9-322	10-10-398	10-11-452	10-12-562	10-12-553
10-6-1286	10-8-172	10-8-195	10-9-326	10-10-399	10-11-455	10-12-566	
10-6-1292	10-8-173	10-8-196	10-9-331	10-10-400	10-11-478	10-12-567	
10-6-1397	10-8-174	10-8-197	10-9-332	10-10-402	10-11-502	10-12-585	
10-6-1398	10-8-175	10-8-198	10-9-334	10-10-416	10-11-511	10-12-605	
10-7-34	10-8-176	10-8-199	10-10-349	10-10-419	10-11-512	10-12-623	
10-8-117	10-8-177	10-8-200	10-10-359	10-10-430	10-11-513	10-12-625	
10-8-147	10-8-178	10-9-254	10-10-371	10-10-432	10-11-514	10-8-151	
10-8-148	10-8-180	10-9-280	10-10-386	10-10-433	10-11-515	10-8-192	
10-8-149	10-8-186	10-9-310	10-10-388	10-10-434	10-11-530	10-9-315	
10-8-150	10-8-187	10-9-313	10-10-389	10-10-435	10-11-544	10-10-391	

10. **APPLICATIONS FOR CERTIFICATION REPORT**

The Educator Ethics Review Committee recommended to approve a no probable cause determination on 1 case reflected on the *Applications for Certification Report*.

11. **REVIEW HEARING EXTENSIONS**

The Commission reviewed the *Review Hearing Extensions Report* concerning 1 hearing case. An Administrative Law Judge rendered Initial Decisions on each case referenced in the report. The report indicates Orders were issued.

12. **STUDENT LOAN SUSPENSION / REINSTATEMENTS**

The Commission reviewed the Student Finance Commission Report concerning educators in which notification has been received to suspend certificates for default on repayment of student loans. The report indicated that there were 2 certificate suspended from January 13, 2011 through February 10, 2011. The Commission was also advised that there were 4 certificates that had been reinstated because restitution is now being made on those student loans. The Commission was also advised that there was 1 issue where notification had been received to suspend but a release was received prior to the actual suspension being implemented. Restitution is now being made on that student loan.

13. **FINAL DECISIONS BY OPERATION OF LAW**

The Commission reviewed the report, which advised of 12 cases now closed without an appeal for a hearing before an Administrative Law Judge. The report also advised that there were 3 cases closed without an appeal for a review hearing before the Commission.

Chair Wilkes called for approval of the Educator Ethics Review Committee report as presented by Rose Powell Excluding the following cases: 10-12-592, 10-12-626 and 10-12-629.

PSC ACTION: Approved

Preliminary Investigative Determination Case # 10-12-592

MOTION: (Leggett / Bernath) To accept the EERC recommendation for a No Probable Cause.

PSC ACTION: Approved

Opposed: David Johnson

Preliminary Investigative Determination Case # 10-12-626

MOTION: (Johnson / Tucker) To accept the EERC recommendation for a No Probable Cause.

PSC ACTION: Approved

Preliminary Investigative Determination Case # 10-12-629

MOTION: (Tucker / Leggett) To accept the EERC recommendation for a No Probable Cause.

PSC ACTION: Approved

Opposed: David Johnson, Pam Walker, Rose Powell, Bill Haskin

B. Educator Preparation Standing Committee

Committee Chair, Dr. Penny Elkins, presented the following report of the Educator Preparation Standing Committee:

DEVELOPMENTAL APPROVAL UNIT AND PROGRAMS	
Georgia Gwinnett College	The Committee recommends Developmental Approval for the professional education unit and the Biology Education, Early Childhood Education, English Education, History Education, Mathematics Education, Political Science Education, Special Education General Curriculum Program and ESOL Endorsement.
Bartow County Schools	The Committee recommends Developmental Approval for the professional education unit and the Gifted In-Field Endorsement and the Reading Endorsement-Classroom Teacher of Reading.
DEVELOPMENTAL APPROVAL PROGRAMS	
Shorter University	The Committee recommends Developmental Approval for the Early Childhood Education Program.
DEVELOPMENTAL APPROVAL PROGRAMS - GROUP ENDORSEMENT REVIEW	
Georgia Southern University	The Committee recommends Developmental Approval for the K-5 Mathematics Endorsement.
University of Georgia	The Committee recommends Developmental Approval for the K-5 Mathematics Endorsement.
Griffin RESA	The Committee recommends Developmental Approval for the K-5 Mathematics Endorsement.
Middle Georgia RESA	The Committee recommends Developmental Approval for the K-5 Mathematics Endorsement.
Oconee RESA	The Committee recommends Developmental Approval for the K-5 Mathematics Endorsement and K-5 Science Endorsement.
Okefenokee RESA	The Committee recommends Developmental Approval for the K-5 Mathematics Endorsement.
Cobb County School District	The Committee recommends Developmental Approval for the Coaching Endorsement.
Gwinnett County School System	The Committee recommends Developmental Approval for the Coaching Endorsement.
CONTINUING APPROVAL UNIT AND PROGRAMS	
Dalton State College	The Committee recommends Continuing Approval for the professional education unit and the Early Childhood Education, Biology Education, Chemistry Education, English Education, History Education, Mathematics Education and ESOL Endorsement.

PROGRESS REPORTS	
Columbus State University	<p>The Committee recommends that the Progress Report submitted November 15, 2010, demonstrates satisfactory progress in addressing the Standard 2 area for improvement cited for the Educational Leadership (PL6) program; the area for improvement may be removed.</p> <p>The Committee recommends that the Progress Report submitted November 15, 2010, demonstrates satisfactory progress in addressing the Standard 4 area for improvement cited for the Computer Science Endorsement, Educational Leadership (PL6) and Media Specialist programs; the area for improvement may be removed.</p>
Georgia State University	<p>The Committee recommends that the Progress Report submitted October 27, 2010, demonstrates satisfactory progress in addressing the Standard 3 and 4 areas for improvement cited for the ESOL Education Program, ESOL Endorsement and Reading Endorsement; the areas for improvement may be removed.</p>
Spelman College	<p>The Committee recommends that the Progress Report submitted November 29, 2010, demonstrates satisfactory progress in describing preparations for the 2012 Fall Semester Joint PSC/NCATE Continuing Approval Review.</p> <p>The Panel recommends that the following information be included in the next Progress Report describing the continued progress in preparing for the Continuing Review due May 15, 2011.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current status of search for part-time Accreditation/NCATE Coordinator (1 year appt.) • Current status of search for Education Studies Program Chair • Status of Program Reports due February 15, 2011, for the 2012 Fall Semester Review • Timeline by semester including each task to be completed in preparation for the 2012 Fall Semester Review • Education Studies Program budget including budget for the 2012 Fall Semester Review • Clarify the non-teaching responsibilities of the Education Studies Program Chair
Thomas University	<p>The Committee recommends that the Progress Report submitted September 10, 2010, demonstrates satisfactory progress in addressing the unmet standards and the areas for improvement cited in the Board of Examiners' Report from the April 2009 Continuing Approval Review and preparations for the fall 2011 Probationary Review. The unmet standards and areas for improvement remain.</p>

Truett-McConnell College	The Committee recommends that the Progress Report submitted September 15, 2010, demonstrates satisfactory progress in addressing the Standard 4 areas for improvement cited for the professional education unit and the Early Childhood Education program; the areas for improvement may be removed and the status of Standard 4 is changed from Not Met to Met, therefore, approval status changed from Developmental Provisional to Developmental.
Valdosta State University	The Committee recommends that the Progress Report submitted November 15, 2010, demonstrates satisfactory progress in addressing the Standard 4 areas for improvement cited for the Special Education Adapted Curriculum Program, Special Education General Curriculum Program and Special Education General Curriculum/Early Childhood Education Program; the areas for improvement may be removed.
First District RESA	The Committee recommends that the Progress Report submitted October 22, 2010, demonstrates satisfactory progress in addressing the Standard 2 areas for improvement cited for the Special Education Preschool Endorsement program; the areas for improvement may be removed.
Metro RESA	The Committee recommends that the Progress Report submitted October 10, 2010, demonstrates satisfactory progress in addressing the Standard 2 and 6 areas for improvement cited for the Teacher Leader Endorsement program; the areas for improvement may be removed.
DeKalb County School System	The Committee recommends that the Progress Report submitted September 1, 2010, demonstrates satisfactory progress in addressing the unmet Standard 2 and all areas for improvement cited for the professional education unit and the GaTAPP program. The unmet Standard 2 and all areas for improvement remain.

Chair Wilkes called for approval of the Educator Preparation Committee report as presented by Dr. Penny Elkins.

ACTION: Approved

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Wilkes called for the meeting to be adjourned at 1:15 pm.

PSC ACTION: Approved