

MINUTES

PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS COMMISSION

DHR Board Room

Two Peachtree Street

Atlanta, Georgia 30303-3141

Thursday, February 12, 2004

The Georgia Professional Standards Commission (PSC) met on Thursday, February 12, 2004, at 9 a.m.

Members Present

Steven Dartt	Carolyn Lee Hart	Janet Scott
Terri DeLoach (via telephone)	Gwenda Johnson	Bo Slack
Amy Denty	Dottie McClain	Dr. Craig Smith
Jean Ebron	Maria Miller	Dr. Gary Walker
Mary Gomez	Lee Muns	

Members Absent

Gary Bechtel

I. CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chair Gary Walker called the meeting to order at 9:08 a.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. flag and a moment of silence.

II. RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

Vice Chair Gary Walker recognized the visitors.

- Margaret Elliott, Professional Association of Georgia Educators
- Mike McGonigle, Georgia Association of Educators (GAE)
- Gayle Wooten, Professional Association of Georgia Educators
- Bill Ware, Brenau University
- Bobby Stephens
- Candace Norton, Forsyth County Schools
- Betty Matthews, Griffin-Spalding Schools
- Shari Williams, Douglas County Schools
- Dianne Holt, Douglas County Schools
- Bernard McGhee, Associated Press
- Linda I. Dillis, GC & SU
- Carol Bader, GC & SU
- Eddie Johnson
- M. Cooper, GSW
- L. Fleming, CCSU
- Debbie Reis, Fulton County Schools
- Elizabeth Fogartie, Fulton County Schools
- R. Jarrett, Fulton County Schools
- Vickie Dennark, Fulton County Schools
- Ron Calarusso, Georgia State University
- Mike Griffiths, Georgia State University
- Alice Taylor-Colbert, Shorter College
- John Hooper, GA. Schools Superintendents Association
- Cindi Chance, GA Assoc. of Colleges of Teacher Ed.
- Phil Horton
- Ann Duffy, Board of Regents
- Christine Smith, OPB
- Beth Roberts, Oglethorpe University
- Kiana Tennyson, GTRR
- Joyce Oscar, WSB-TV
- Jim Bridges, WSB-TV

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III. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Vice Chair Gary Walker called for approval of the agenda.

MOTION: (Miller / Scott) To approve agenda.

PSC ACTION: Approved

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Vice Chair Gary Walker called for approval of the minutes from the January 8, 2004, Commission meeting.

PSC ACTION: Approved

V. NEW COMMISSIONERS

The new Commissioners were welcomed and introduced.

Stephen Dartt – Gwinnett County, Shiloh High School Math Teacher

Jean Ebron – Muskogee County, Fort Middle School Math Teacher

Lee Muns – Columbia County, Local Board of Education

VI. SERVICE AWARDS

Vice Chair Gary Walker presented service awards to the following:

Beverly Taylor – 25 Years of Service

Betty Jean Wyatt – 20 Years of Service

Fran Watkins – 15 Years of Service

Maggie Cole – 5 Years of Service

VII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

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

1. Ms. Scott reported that the Committee reviewed 65 *Probable Cause* cases during its February 11, 2004, meeting and brought the following recommendations on behalf of the Committee excluding cases # 14, 24, 38 and 60:

PC #	Case Number	STANDARD(S)	EERC Recommendation
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PC #	Case Number	STANDARD(S)	EERC Recommendation
1	03-10-514 Applicant	Criminal Acts Professional Conduct	No Probable Cause
2	03-10-526	Criminal Acts Professional Conduct	Extend Probable Cause Determination until April 8, 2004
3	03-11-692 Applicant	Criminal Acts Professional Conduct	Denial
4	03-11-747	Criminal Acts Professional Conduct	No Probable Cause
5	03-11-804	Criminal Acts Alcohol or Drugs Professional Conduct	Revocation
6	03-11-814 Applicant	Criminal Acts Professional Conduct	Denial
7	03-12-869 Applicant	Criminal Acts Professional Conduct	No Probable Cause
8	03-12-885 Applicant	Criminal Acts Professional Conduct	No Probable Cause
9	03-10-540	Abuse of Students Professional Conduct	No Probable Cause
10	03-10-563	Abuse of Students Professional Conduct	Suspension for One Year
11	03-10-580	Abuse of Students Professional Conduct	No Probable Cause
12	03-10-600	Abuse of Students Professional Conduct	No Probable Cause
13	03-10-603	Abuse of Students Professional Conduct Criminal Acts	Reprimand
14	03-10-630	Abuse of Students Professional Conduct	Suspension for Two Years
15	03-11-720	Abuse of Students Professional Conduct	Reprimand
16	03-11-778	Abuse of Students Professional Conduct	No Probable Cause
17	03-11-809	Abuse of Students Professional Conduct	Reprimand
18	03-09-383	Alcohol or Drugs	No Probable Cause

PC #	Case Number	STANDARD(S)	EERC Recommendation
19	03-11-784	Alcohol or Drugs Professional Conduct	Suspension for Two Years
20	03-12-843	Alcohol or Drugs Professional Conduct	Suspension for One Week
21	03-12-844	Alcohol or Drugs Professional Conduct	Suspension for One Week
22	03-10-551	Misrepresentation or Falsification Professional Conduct	Reprimand
23	03-10-638	Misrepresentation or Falsification Professional Conduct	Warning
24	03-11-780	Misrepresentation or Falsification Professional Conduct	Reprimand
25	03-11-781	Misrepresentation or Falsification Professional Conduct	Reprimand
26	03-11-806	Misrepresentation or Falsification Professional Conduct	Suspension for Two Years
27	03-11-811 Applicant	Misrepresentation or Falsification Professional Conduct	Denial
28	03-12-897	Misrepresentation or Falsification Professional Conduct	Reprimand
29	03-12-898	Misrepresentation or Falsification Professional Conduct	Reprimand
30	03-11-699	Public Funds and Property Professional Conduct	Reprimand
31	03-11-783	Public Funds and Property	Suspension for One Month
32	03-12-845	Public Funds and Property	No Probable Cause
33	03-11-752 Applicant	Abandonment of Contract	Denial
34	03-11-755 Applicant	Abandonment of Contract	No Probable Cause
35	03-11-761	Abandonment of Contract	Suspension for Six Months
36	03-11-765	Abandonment of Contract Misrepresentation or Falsification	Suspension for Six Months
37	03-11-768	Abandonment of Contract	Suspension for Six Months
38	03-11-769	Abandonment of Contract	Suspension for Six Months
39	03-11-776	Abandonment of Contract Professional Conduct	Suspension for Six Months

PC #	Case Number	STANDARD(S)	EERC Recommendation
40	03-11-810	Abandonment of Contract	Suspension for Six Months
41	03-12-823	Abandonment of Contract Professional Conduct	Suspension for Six Months
42	03-10-457	Failure to Make a Required Report Misrepresentation or Falsification	No Probable Cause
43	03-10-568	Failure to Make a Required Report Misrepresentation or Falsification	Warning
44	03-11-748 Applicant	Failure to Make a Required Report Misrepresentation or Falsification	Warning
45	03-11-801 Applicant	Failure to Make a Required Report Misrepresentation or Falsification Criminal Acts	Reprimand
46	03-11-808	Failure to Make a Required Report	Warning
47	03-12-864	Failure to Make a Required Report Misrepresentation or Falsification	No Probable Cause
48	03-12-866	Failure to Make a Required Report Misrepresentation or Falsification	Suspension for One Month
49	03-12-877	Failure to Make a Required Report Misrepresentation or Falsification	Warning
50	03-12-881	Failure to Make a Required Report Misrepresentation or Falsification	Warning
51	03-08-273	Professional Conduct Criminal Acts	Revocation
52	03-11-758	Professional Conduct	Warning
53	03-11-759	Professional Conduct	Warning
54	03-11-757	Professional Conduct	Reprimand
55	03-11-756	Professional Conduct	No Probable Cause
56	03-11-760	Professional Conduct Abuse of Students	No Probable Cause
57	03-11-764	Professional Conduct Abuse of Students	Reprimand
58	03-11-771	Professional Conduct	Reprimand
59	03-11-777	Professional Conduct	Warning
60	03-11-779	Professional Conduct	Suspension for One Month

PC #	Case Number	STANDARD(S)	EERC Recommendation
61	03-12-827	Action Taken In Another State Failure to Make a Required Report Misrepresentation or Falsification	Revocation
62	03-12-868 Applicant	Action Taken In Another State Criminal Acts Professional Conduct Failure to Make a Required Report Misrepresentation or Falsification	Denial
63	03-12-822	Failure to Make a Required Report Misrepresentation or Falsification	Warning
64	03-12-930	Failure to Make a Required Report Misrepresentation or Falsification	Warning
65	03-11-793	Failure to Make a Required Report Misrepresentation or Falsification	Warning

PSC ACTION: Approved

Abstention: Gwenda Johnson-Case # 58

Case # 14

To accept the EERC recommendation for a Suspension of Two Years.

PSC ACTION: Approved

Case # 24

To accept the EERC recommendation for a Reprimand.

PSC ACTION: Approved

Case # 38

To accept the EERC recommendation for a Suspension of Six Months.

PSC ACTION: Approved

Case # 60

MOTION: (Hart / Miller) To amend the EERC recommendation from a Suspension of One Month to a Suspension for Three Months.

PSC ACTION: Approved

To adopt case #60 as an amended motion.

PSC ACTION: Approved

2. Ms. Scott reported that the Educator Ethics Review Committee reviewed 4 ***Initial Decisions*** and brought the following recommendations on behalf of the Committee:

Case Number	Ethical Violation	ALJ Initial Decision	EERC Recomm.
03-06-2211	Abuse of Students Professional Conduct	Suspension for Six Months	Accept
02-08-715	Failure to Make a Required Report Misrepresentation or Falsification	No Probable Cause	Review
03-04-2013	Misrepresentation or Falsification Professional Conduct	Revocation	Accept
02-05-1897	Misrepresentation or Falsification Professional Conduct	Suspension for One Year	Accept

PSC ACTION: Approved

3. Ms. Scott reported that the Educator Ethics Review Committee reviewed 5 *Petitions-Certificate Issues* and brought the following recommendations on behalf of the Committee:

Case Number	Educator	Nature of Petition	Previous Decision (Violation)	EERC Recomm.
03-08-224	Curtis Randolph	Right to Reapply	Revocation - November 5, 1998	Deny
03-08-283	Ronald Harrison	Right to Reapply	Denial - January 26, 2000	Deny
03-08-286	Shari Ashe-Bates	Early Reinstatement of a Suspended Certificate	Suspension – Jan. 23, 2004 – Feb. 23, 2004	Deny
02-10-1123	Suzanne Laisney	Stay of Suspension Pending Judicial Review	Suspension – Jan. 23, 2004 – June 23, 2004	Deny
02-12-1320 03-03-1887 03-08-218	Gregory Rhodes	Reconsideration and Dismissal	Revocation – Nov. 21, 2003 (03-8-218) Professional Conduct Revocation – Dec. 24, 2003 (02-12-1320 & 03-03-1887) Abuse of Students; Professional Conduct Misrepresentation or Falsification; Public Funds and Property	Deny

PSC ACTION: Approved

Abstention: Maria Miller – Case # 4

4. Ms. Scott reported that the Educator Ethics Review Committee reviewed 15 *Negotiated Settlement Agreements* and brought the following recommendations on behalf of the Committee:

Case Number	Violation	Negotiated Proposal	EERC Recomm.
02-07-009	Professional Conduct; Public Funds & Property	Warning	Accept
03-03-1709	Criminal Acts; Professional Conduct	No Probable Cause – Expunge File	Accept
03-04-2024	Misrepresentation or Falsification; Professional Conduct	Suspension for Three Years	Accept
03-07-125	Criminal Acts; Professional Conduct	Reprimand	Accept
03-08-226	Criminal Acts; Professional Conduct	Reprimand	Accept
03-02-1574	Criminal Acts; Professional Conduct	Denial	Accept
03-01-1414	Criminal Acts; Professional Conduct	Educator Requests to Withdraw Georgia Application Administratively Close Due to no Longer Having Jurisdiction	Reject
02-11-1303	Misrepresentation or Falsification Public Funds and Property Professional Conduct	Warning	Accept
02-11-1302	Misrepresentation or Falsification Public Funds and Property Professional Conduct	Warning	Accept
03-03-1782	Misrepresentation or Falsification Failure to Make a Required Report Criminal Acts; Professional Conduct	Denial	Accept
03-04-2029	Professional Conduct	Suspension for Five Months	Accept
03-06-2350	Professional Conduct Abuse of Students	Suspension for Four Months	Accept
02-07-286	Criminal Acts Failure to Make a Required Report	Suspension for Eighteen Months	Accept
03-01-1500	Criminal Acts Professional Conduct	Educator Requests to Withdraw Georgia Application Administratively Close Due to no Longer Having Jurisdiction	Reject
02-02-1379	Criminal Acts Professional Conduct	Revocation	Accept

PSC ACTION: Approved

5. Ms. Scott reported that the Educator Ethics Review Committee reviewed 23 *Settlement Agreements* and brought the following recommendations on behalf of the Committee:

Case Number	Sanction	Violation	EERC Recommendation
03-10-438	Suspension for Six Months	Public Funds and Property Professional Conduct	Accept
03-10-503	Warning	Failure to Make a Required Report Misrepresentation or Falsification: Criminal History	Accept

Case Number	Sanction	Violation	EERC Recommendation
03-10-536	Warning	Failure to Make a Required Report	Accept
03-10-539	Reprimand	Misrepresentation or Falsification: Criminal History Alcohol or Drugs; Professional conduct	Accept
03-10-554	Reprimand	Professional Conduct; Abuse of Students	Accept
03-10-584	Reprimand	Professional Conduct	Accept
03-10-590	Reprimand	Misrepresentation or Falsification: Inquiry/Investigation Professional Conduct	Accept
03-10-614	Suspension for One Month	Misrepresentation or Falsification: Compliance Reports Professional Conduct	Accept
03-10-628	Warning	Failure to Make a Required Report	Accept
03-10-629	Suspension for Three Months	Misrepresentation or Falsification: Criminal History Public Funds and Property Professional Conduct	Accept
03-10-640	Warning	Failure to Make a Required Report	Accept
03-10-649	Reprimand	Misrepresentation or Falsification: Criminal History Criminal Acts; Professional Conduct	Accept
03-10-654	Warning	Failure to Make a Required Report	Accept
03-10-655	Reprimand	Misrepresentation or Falsification: Previous Suspension Failure to Make a Required Report	Accept
03-10-657	Warning	Misrepresentation or Falsification: Previous Suspension Failure to Make a Required Report	Accept
03-11-660	Warning	Misrepresentation or Falsification: Previous Suspension Failure to Make a Required Report	Accept
03-11-667	Warning	Misrepresentation or Falsification: Previous Suspension Failure to Make a Required Report	Accept
03-11-676	Reprimand	Misrepresentation or Falsification: Previous Suspension Criminal Acts; Professional Conduct	Accept
03-11-719	Reprimand	Misrepresentation or Falsification: Testing Professional Conduct	Accept
03-11-745	Warning	Failure to Make a Required Report	Accept
03-11-792	Warning	Misrepresentation or Falsification: Criminal History Failure to Make a Required Report	Accept
03-11-799	Warning	Misrepresentation or Falsification: Previous Suspension Failure to Make a Required Report	Accept
03-12-847	Revocation***	Misrepresentation or Falsification: Previous Suspension Public Funds and Property; Professional Conduct	Accept

*****Indicates Educator/Applicant Voluntarily Accepted a Sanction of Revocation or Denial Prior to the Probable Cause Determination**

PSC ACTION: Approved

Abstention: Jean Ebron – Case # 13

6. The Educator Ethics Review Committee recommended approval of the *Preliminary Investigative Determination Report* consisting of 74 new complaints received during the months of January 2004 and February 2004:

PSC ACTION: Approved

7. The Educator Ethics Review Committee recommended approval of the *Extensions to Investigations Report* consisting of 32 cases.

<u>Case Number</u>	<u>Case Number</u>	<u>Case Number</u>	<u>Case Number</u>	<u>Case Number</u>	<u>Case Number</u>	<u>Case Number</u>
03-11-766	03-11-807	03-10-602	03-12-839	04-01-957	04-01-975	04-01-995
03-11-770	03-12-820	03-10-627	03-11-686	04-01-959	04-01-977	04-01-997
03-11-753	03-12-828	03-11-700	04-01-933	04-01-964	04-01-979	
03-11-785	03-10-572	03-11-762	04-01-946	04-01-968	04-01-983	
03-11-803	03-11-754	03-11-763	04-01-956	04-01-974	04-01-985	

PSC ACTION: Approved

9. APPLICATIONS FOR CERTIFICATION REPORT

The Educator Ethics Review Committee recommended to approve a no probable cause determination on 41 cases reflected on the *Applications for Certification Report*.

PSC ACTION: Approved

10. STUDENT LOAN SUSPENSION / REINSTATEMENTS

The Commission reviewed the report, which advised of 13 *Student Loan Reinstatements* and 18 *Student Loan Suspensions*.

11. FINAL DECISIONS BY OPERATION OF LAW

The Commission reviewed the report, which advised of 16 cases now closed without an appeal for a hearing before an Administrative Law Judge. The report also advised the Commission that there were 6 cases closed without an appeal for a review hearing before the Commission.

VIII. EXECUTIVE SECRETARY REPORT

The Executive Secretary presented the following:

A. Adoption of Certification Rules

MOTION: (Scott / Miller) To repeal certain sections of 505-2, amend certain rules and adopt rules as specified in the recommendation.

Discussion

Grade Point Average

MOTION: (Slack / Muns) That applicants for Non-Renewable Professional, Intern and Waiver certificates must have a cumulative undergraduate Grade Point Average of 2.5 or higher on a 4.0 scale from a PSC-approved accredited institution OR have completed a master's degree or higher OR have been admitted to a master's degree or state-approved educator preparation program. If the Bachelor's Degree GPA is less than 2.5 and the date on which the degree was awarded is 5 years or more prior to the date of application for certification, then the GPA requirement does not apply.

The motion was amended

MOTION: (Smith / McClain) That applicants for Non-Renewable Professional, Intern and Waiver certificates must have a cumulative undergraduate Grade Point Average of 2.5 or higher on a 4.0 scale from a PSC-approved accredited institution OR have completed a master's degree or higher OR have been admitted to a master's degree or state-approved educator preparation program OR GA TAPP program. If the Bachelor's Degree GPA is less than 2.5 and the date on which the degree was awarded is 10 years or more prior to the date of application for certification, then the GPA requirement does not apply.

PSC ACTION: Approved

Opposed: Lee Muns, Janet Scott, Maria Miller, Terri DeLoach

Permit

MOTION: (Denty / Smith) To maintain the leadership permit option for the Superintendent position, but delete the option of permits for the Principal position.

PSC ACTION: Approved Unanimously

New Route to Certification

MOTION: (Miller) The appropriate rules for the applicant with the Praxis I, Praxis II, Praxis Principles of Leadership and Teaching, and the job offer be modified to add:

The individual hold a degree major in or closely related to the requested field of certification (with closely related to be defined by the commission); and,

That the 1-year supervised practicum must be initiated during the first year of teaching on the Non-Renewable Professional certificate.

The motion was amended.

MOTION: (Smith / McClain) To amend the motion so that Early Childhood and Special Ed be exempted from the Praxis II upfront requirement for eligibility under the new route to certification in Rule 505-2-.06 Non-Renewable Professional Certificate.

PSC ACTION: Not Approved

The motion was amended.

MOTION: (Miller / Denty) The appropriate rules for the applicant with the Praxis I, Praxis II, Praxis Principles of Leadership and Teaching, and the job offer be modified to add:

The individual hold a degree major in or closely related to the requested field of certification (with closely related to be defined by the commission); and,

That the 1-year supervised practicum must be initiated during the first year of teaching on the Non-Renewable Professional certificate.

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PSC ACTION: Approved

Opposed: Dr. Craig Smith, Dottie McClain, Carolyn Hart

MOTION: (Scott / Miller) To repeal certain sections of 505-2, amend certain rules and adopt rules as specified in the recommendation.

PSC ACTION: Approved

Opposed: Dr. Craig Smith, Dottie McClain

Computer Skill Competency

MOTION: (Miller / Hart) To use the Georgia AssessOnline published by Riverdeep, Inc., and currently in use at Georgia Educational Technology Training Centers, as an acceptable assessment of computer skill competency as described in the PSC rule on Special Georgia Requirements (505-2-.08), using the passing score of 175 currently in use by the Training Centers as a measure of satisfactory proficiency.

Tom Hall gave a presentation on Georgia Assess Online.

PSC ACTION: Approved Unanimously

- B. Mike Harmon, Department of Education, will speak at the next meeting on testing procedures.
- C. Extended thanks to PAGE for the article they published and allowing us to communicate with their members.
- D. Extended his appreciation to the staff for all of their work on the certification changes.
- E. Cyndy Stephens spoke briefly about the "Status Report: The Georgia Educator Workforce 2003".
- F. A Proposal will be brought up at the next meeting regarding the Athletic Trainer Certificate.

IX. CHAIR'S REPORT

Vice Chair Gary Walker thanked Vicky Brantley, Director of Ethics, for her dedication and hard work and extended his best wishes on her retirement.

X. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: (Denty / Scott) To adjourn the meeting.

PSC ACTION: The meeting adjourned at 12:35 pm.