

**MINUTES**  
**In Person Meeting**  
**PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS COMMISSION**  
**200 Piedmont Avenue, Suite 1716, Atlanta, GA 30334**  
October 12, 2023

The Georgia Professional Standards Commission (PSC) met on Thursday, October 12, 2023.

**Members Present**

Abigail Coggin	Dr. Holley Roberts	Carol Williams
Derek Easterling	Dr. Brandon Seigler	Dr. Judi Wilson
Kedrione Harris	Beth Townsend	Vonda Woodall
Mark Kauffman	Dr. Jennifer Wade	

**Members Absent**

Jane Rookard	Jimmy Atkins
Dr. Franklin Perry	Jeanine Bunn
Jordan Frobos	Nathan Lewis

**I. CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chair Sirmans called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. and everyone recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

**II. VISITORS**

Chair Sirmans welcomed the visitors.

**III. ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

Chair Sirmans called for approval of the agenda.

**MOTION:** (Beth Townsend / Dr. Brandon Seigler) To approve the agenda.

**PSC ACTION:** Approved

**IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

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

**PSC ACTION:** Approved

**V. EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT**

Matt Arthur announced that the following Commissioners were reappointed for another term and gave them the executive order signed by Governor Kemp.

Dr. Brandon Seigler  
Carol Williams  
Dr. Holley Roberts  
Jimmy Atkins  
Jordan Frobos

**VI. CHAIR REPORT – No report given**

**VII. RULES INITIATION**

Anne Marie Fenton presented the rules for initiation. Commissioners were asked to initiate the Certification rule, Educator Preparation rules and Professional Practices (or Ethics) rules previewed at the September 14<sup>th</sup> Commission meeting. If initiated today, the rules will be posted for a 30 day public comment period and then come back to the Commission for adoption consideration at the December 14<sup>th</sup> Commission meeting, with an effective date of January 1, 2024.

**MOTION:** (Abigail Coggin / Dr. Judi Wilson) To approve (1) initiate 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) initiate 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

**VIII. A LOOK AT THE EDUCATOR PIPELINE**

Matt Arthur presented A Look at the Educator Pipeline.

**IX. A FOCUS ON LITERACY**

Matt Arthur, Dr. Penney McRoy, and Anne Marie Fenton gave a presentation on A Focus on Literacy.

**X. PREPARING ETHICAL PARAPROFESSIONALS**

Anne Marie Fenton and David Pumphrey presented the Preparing Ethical Paraprofessionals module which is also on our website.

**XI. 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 32 *Probable Cause* cases during September and October, 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>
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<u>CASE</u>	<u>STANDARDS VIOLATED</u>	<u>RECOMMENDATION</u>	<u>EERC RECOMMENDATION</u>
23-5-1648	1, 5a6	NPC	Accept
23-7-58	4,5a6	NPC	Accept
23-7-69	1, 9	NPC	Accept
23-7-110	1,4,5a2,5a6	Reprimand	Accept
23-8-121	1	NPC	Accept
23-8-133	1,5a6	Reprimand	Accept
23-8-140	1	NPC	Accept
23-8-145	5a1, 5a2	Reprimand	Accept
23-8-265	5a2, 5a4	NPC	Accept
23-8-275	1, 9, 5a6	Reprimand	Accept
23-8-290	1,5a6	NPC	Accept
23-8-297	1,5a6	NPC	Accept
23-8-377	4, 9, 5a2, 5a4	Reprimand	Accept
23-9-471	1, 5a6	NPC	Accept
23-9-482	1, 9,5a6	Reprimand	Accept
23-2-1008	1, 2, 9	Suspicion 10 days	Accept
23-2-1012	9	Suspicion 90 days	Accept
23-3-1235	9	NPC	Accept
23-3-1236	9	NPC	Accept
23-3-1283	9	Suspicion 90 days	Accept
23-4-1341	9	Suspicion 20 days	Accept
23-4-1348	4, 5, & 9	Suspicion 90 days	Accept
23-5-1442	1, 4, 9	Suspicion 90 days	Accept
23-5-1446	9	Suspicion 90 days	Accept
23-5-1575	1, 9	Revoke	Accept
23-6-1717	9, 5a2	Suspicion 1 year	Accept
23-6-1755	2,9	Reprimand	Accept
23-6-1776	1,9	Criminal Extension	Accept
23-6-1783	2,4,5,9	Reprimand	Accept
23-7-1	5,9	Suspicion 1 year	Accept
23-7-9	1, 9	Criminal Extension	Accept
23-7-38	4,5,9	Suspicion 10 days	Accept
23-7-48	4,6,9	Suspicion 5 days	Accept
23-7-92	4, 5, 9	Suspicion 90 days	Accept
23-7-107	1, 2, 4, & 9	Suspicion 1 year	Accept
23-7-114	5, 9	Suspicion 90 days	Accept
23-7-118	9	Suspicion 90 days	Accept
23-8-131	1,4,5a5,5a6, 8 9	Suspicion 20 days	Accept
23-8-222	1,4,8 & 9	Suspicion 20 days	Accept
23-8-223	2, 9	Criminal Extension	Accept
23-8-238	3,9	NPC	Accept
23-8-240	1, 4, 8, 9	Suspicion 20 days	Accept
23-8-250	1,4,5a5,8,9	Revoke	Accept

<u>CASE</u>	<u>STANDARDS VIOLATED</u>	<u>RECOMMENDATION</u>	<u>EERC RECOMMENDATION</u>
23-8-288	1,4,5a5,8,9	Suspicion 20 days	Accept
23-8-326	9	Suspicion 90 days	Accept
23-8-337	2,9	Suspicion 5 days	Accept
23-8-390	1,4, 5a5,5a6,8,9	NPC	Accept

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

<u>CASE</u>	<u>PREVIOUS SANCTION</u>	<u>EERC RECOMMENDATION</u>
23-8-355	Denial - Sept. 21, 2021	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 RECOMMENDATION</u>
22-6-1647	Suspicion 10 days	Accept
23-4-1317	Suspicion 10 days	Accept
23-5-1644	Suspicion 90 days	Accept
23-6-1721	Suspicion 1 year	Accept
23-6-1782	Suspicion 1 year	Accept
23-7-29	Reprimand	Accept
23-7-34	Reprimand	Accept
23-7-37	Reprimand	Accept
23-7-68	Reprimand	Accept
23-7-81	Reprimand	Accept
23-7-111	Reprimand	Accept
23-8-154	Reprimand	Accept
23-8-164	Reprimand	Accept
23-8-219	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>
18-5-1575	Reprimand	Accept
19-7-44	NPC or NFA	Accept-NPC
19-8-209	NPC	Accept-NPC
19-11-694	NPC or NFA	Accept-NPC
20-1-1023	NPC or NFA	Accept-NPC
20-2-1293	NPC or NFA	Accept-NPC

<u>CASE</u>	<u>NEGOTIATED SANCTION</u>	<u>EERC RECOMMENDATION</u>
20-8-147	Reprimand	Accept
22-2-963	NPC or NFA	Accept-NPC
22-3-1196	Warning	Accept
22-10-489	Warning	Accept
22-10-613	Warning	Accept
23-1-893	NPC or NFA	Accept-NPC
23-3-1252	Reprimand	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>
NCO 22-11-671	Revised Retro Credit for ten days: October 26, 2022 - November 3, 2022 & August 1-3, 2023)	Accept
PCE 23-7-117	Additional complaint	Investigate
PCE 23-8-281	Supplemental complaint	Investigate

6. The Educator Ethics Review Committee recommended approval of the *Preliminary Investigative Determination Report* consisting of 103 new complaints received during the months of September and October 2023.

### 7. EXTENSIONS – PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATIVE DETERMINATIONS

The Educator Ethics Review Committee recommended approval of the *52 Extensions - Preliminary Investigative Determinations* consisting of the following:

23-9-499	23-9-602	23-9-609	23-10-617	23-10-624	23-10-631	23-10-685	23-10-692
23-9-593	23-9-603	23-9-610	23-10-618	23-10-625	23-10-679	23-10-686	23-10-693
23-9-594	23-9-604	23-9-611	23-10-619	23-10-626	23-10-680	23-10-687	23-10-694
23-9-595	23-9-605	23-9-612	23-10-620	23-10-627	23-10-681	23-10-688	
23-9-596	23-9-606	23-9-613	23-10-621	23-10-628	23-10-682	23-10-689	
23-9-599	23-9-607	23-9-614	23-10-622	23-10-629	23-10-683	23-10-690	
23-9-600	23-9-608	23-10-616	23-10-623	23-10-630	23-10-684	23-10-691	

### 8. EXTENSIONS - INVESTIGATIONS

The Educator Ethics Review Committee recommended granting an *Investigative Extension* to the following 143 cases:

<u>WRITTEN COMPLAINT EXTENSIONS</u>							
23-1-829	23-3-1215	23-4-1366	23-5-1491	23-5-1593	23-6-1716	23-7-36	23-8-160

<b>WRITTEN COMPLAINT EXTENSIONS</b>							
23-1-847	23-3-1245	23-4-1372	23-5-1494	23-5-1607	23-6-1727	23-7-51	23-8-163
23-1-848	23-3-1249	23-4-1373	23-5-1516	23-5-1608	23-6-1729	23-7-56	23-8-167
23-1-865	23-3-1255	23-4-1387	23-5-1517	23-5-1613	23-6-1733	23-7-63	23-8-171
23-2-947	23-3-1264	23-4-1389	23-5-1519	23-5-1629	23-6-1741	23-7-71	23-8-172
23-2-948	23-3-1280	23-4-1406	23-5-1522	23-5-1649	23-6-1742	23-7-82	23-8-173
23-2-960	23-3-1293	23-4-1408	23-5-1523	23-5-1654	23-6-1744	23-7-93	23-8-182
23-2-1027	23-3-1304	23-4-1415	23-5-1533	23-5-1656	23-6-1758	23-7-95	23-8-187
23-2-1039	23-4-1308	23-4-1421	23-5-1534	23-5-1660	23-6-1766	23-7-96	23-8-188
23-2-1048	23-4-1316	23-4-1426	23-5-1541	23-5-1664	23-6-1772	23-7-97	23-8-191
23-2-1054	23-4-1320	23-4-1427	23-5-1544	23-6-1677	23-6-1773	23-7-98	23-8-193
23-2-1084	23-4-1321	23-4-1428	23-5-1547	23-6-1678	23-6-1774	23-7-100	23-8-195
23-2-1090	23-4-1333	23-4-1432	23-5-1552	23-6-1681	23-7-14	23-8-125	23-8-196
23-2-1127	23-4-1336	23-4-1433	23-5-1567	23-6-1683	23-7-21	23-8-130	23-8-198
23-3-1169	23-4-1337	23-5-1466	23-5-1568	23-6-1697	23-7-23	23-8-143	23-8-201
23-3-1171	23-4-1344	23-5-1476	23-5-1576	23-6-1701	23-7-25	23-8-146	23-8-205
23-3-1181	23-4-1355	23-5-1485	23-5-1585	23-6-1707	23-7-27	23-8-150	23-8-213
23-3-1191	23-4-1363	23-5-1490	23-5-1589	23-6-1712	23-7-35	23-8-151	

#### 9. **APPLICATIONS FOR CERTIFICATION REPORT**

The Educator Ethics Review Committee recommended to approve a no probable cause determination on 31 cases reflected on the *Applications for Certification Report*.

#### 10. **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.

#### 11. **FINAL DECISIONS RENDERED BY AN ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE**

The Educator Ethics Review Committee recommended to accept the ALJ's sanction on the following:

<b><u>CASE</u></b>	<b><u>ORIGINAL SANCTION</u></b>	<b><u>ALJ SANCTION</u></b>	<b><u>EERC RECOMMENDATION</u></b>
20-6-1718	Denial	Denial	<b>Accept</b>

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

**PSC ACTION:** Approved

Abstentions: Derek Easterling-PIDs 23-8-362, 23-8-363, 23-8-364, 23-8-396, 23-8-410, 23-8-411, 23-9-488, 23-9-489, 23-9-502, 23-9-525, PCE 23-7-114, NCO 19-11-694, Dr. Jennifer Wade-PCE 23-6-1783, Abigail Coggin-23-9-465, Kedrione Harris-PCA 23-8-297, PCE 23-3-1235, 23-4-1348, Beth Townsend-PID 23-9-503

#### **B. Educator Preparation Standing Committee**

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

1. University of North Georgia – The Committee recommends developmental approval for the teacher Leader

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endorsement.

2. University of North Georgia – The Committee recommends Developmental Approval for the teacher Support and Coaching endorsement.

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

**PSC ACTION:** Approved

## **XII. ADJOURNMENT**

Our next Commission meeting will be held on Thursday, November 9th, at 4 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, November 8th, at 4:00 p.m. Chair Sirmans called for the meeting to be adjourned at 11:20 a.m.

**PSC ACTION:** Approved