

MINUTES

PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS COMMISSION

Remote Meeting via TEAMS Platform

September 10, 2020

The Georgia Professional Standards Commission (PSC) met on Thursday, September 10, 2020.

Members Present

Jimmy Atkins	Scott Hollowell	Brian Sirmans
Dr. Steve Barker	Dr. Karla Hull	Beth Townsend
Jeanine Bunn	Dr. Franklin Perry	Dr. Jennifer Wade
Daniel Dooley	Dr. Holley Roberts	Carol Williams
Derek Easterling	Teri Schneider	
Barbara Ellingson	Dr. Brandon Seigler	

Members Absent

Diane McClearn

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: (Teri Schneider / Beth Townsend) To approve the agenda.

PSC ACTION: Approved

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chair Sirmans called for approval of the minutes from the August 13, 2020, Commission meeting.

PSC ACTION: Approved

V. EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT

Matt Arthur mentioned the following during his report:

- He congratulated Dr. Franklin Perry on his new role as Vice Chair of the Commission. Dr. Perry brings a wealth of knowledge to his new role and we are excited to have him serve in this new role.
- Regarding GaPSC personnel, since FY11, our average number of exits per year has been 11.2. Last fiscal year was our lowest number since FY11 - only 5. We are very proud of this.
- We are beginning to travel some and you will hear about that as conferences and meetings are scheduled through-out the year.

- GACE added additional testing windows for many assessments and eighteen are now available during any GACE testing window at all GACE test centers. The Program Admission Assessment has an “at home” option which are available almost immediately upon registration. Although we will continue to monitor the situation, at this time, we do not plan to extend COVID-19 flexibility measures past June 30, 2021.

VI. CHAIR REPORT

Chair Sirmans gave a warm welcome to all of our new Commissioners. He spoke briefly about the duties of the Commission and encouraged them to get in touch with him at any time if they had any questions or needed any type of assistance. Chair Sirmans also congratulated Dr. Perry Franklin on his appointment as Vice Chair. Dr. Perry has a long and distinguished career and the Georgia Professional Standards Commission will benefit from his knowledge and expertise. Chair Sirmans also recognized Dr. Karla Hull, Vice Chair of the Educator Preparation/Certification division. She was recently named as Interim Dean of the Dewar College of Education & Human Services, Valdosta State University.

VII. RULES ADOPTION

Anne Marie Fenton presented the rules. The rules previewed today will come before Commissioners for their consideration to initiate at the October 2020 meeting. Most of these proposed rule changes are to adjust the name of the Georgia Educator Ethics Assessment, which used to be called the Georgia Educator Ethics Assessment – Program Exit. Dr. Kelli Young previewed the certification rules, followed by Dr. Penney McRoy who previewed the Educator Preparation rules.

The rules which were previewed to you during the June Commission meeting and that you initiated in July are brought before you today to be adopted. There is 1 new Certification rule, which is the Dyslexia Endorsement rule to accompany the already existing Educator Preparation Dyslexia Endorsement rule, and amend 1 Educator Preparation Rule, to add the Administrative Approval process for endorsement programs. These rules, if adopted, are scheduled to become effective October 15, 2020. You previously received the Adopt Rules Packet. No public comment was received.

MOTION: (Beth Townsend / Derek Easterling) To (1) adopt the current rule in Chapter 505-2- Certification, effective October 15, 2020, as follows: 505-2-.192; and (2) amend the current rule in Chapter 505-3- Educator Preparation Rules, effective October 15, 2020, as follows: 505-3-.01.

PSC ACTION: Approved

VIII. 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 29 *Probable Cause* cases during the September 9,

2020, 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>
20-2-1278	1, 5a7	Reprimand	Accept
20-6-1689	1, 4, 5a7	Deny	Accept
20-6-1690	1, 5, 5a7	Reprimand	Accept
19-2-1070	1,4,5a7,8,9	Suspension 20 days	Accept
19-8-186	1,4,9	NPC	Accept
19-8-320	8, 9	Suspension 90 days	Accept
19-8-321	4 & 9	Suspension 20 days	Accept
19-9-424	2, 9	Suspension 10 days	Accept
19-11-700	7, 9, 5a7	Suspension 5 days	Accept
19-11-701	7, 9, 5a7	Suspension 10 days	Accept
19-12-873	1, 3, 9, 5a7	Suspension 2 years	Accept
20-1-907	2, 9, 5a7	Suspension 1 year	Accept
20-1-1019	1, 2, 9, 5a7	Revoke	Accept
20-1-1020	2, 9, 5a7	Revoke	Accept
20-5-1498	2, 9, 5a7	Suspension 10 days	Accept
20-5-1606	2, 4, 8, 9, 5a7	Suspension 30 days	Accept
20-5-1607	2, 4, 8, 9, 5a7	Suspension 30 days	Accept
20-5-1609	3, 9, 5a7	Suspension 1 year	Accept
20-6-1624	2, 9, 5a7	Suspension 20 days	Accept
20-6-1626	4, 9, 5a7	Suspension 1 year	Accept
20-6-1629	2,9,5a7	Suspension 10 days	Accept
20-6-1650	2,9,5a7	Revoke	Accept
20-6-1651	9, 5a7	Suspension 90 days	Accept
20-6-1666	2, 5, 9, 5a7	Suspension 2 years	Accept
20-6-1682	1,9,5a7	Revoke	Accept
20-6-1700	1,4,5a7,8,9	Suspension 20 days	Accept
20-6-1724	1,5a7,8,9	Suspension 1 year	Accept
20-7-21	1, 8, 9	Suspension 1 year	Accept
20-7-32	1,9,5a7	Suspension 2 years	Accept

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

<u>CASE</u>	<u>PREVIOUS SANCTION</u>	<u>EERC RECOMMENDATION</u>
20-1-990	Revocation	Deny
20-5-1553	Revocation	Deny

3. Chair Townsend reported that the Educator Ethics Review Committee reviewed 12 *Settlement Agreements* and brought the following recommendations on behalf of the Committee:

CASE	SANCTION	EERC RECOMMENDATIONS
19-9-475	Reprimand	Accept
20-1-964	Suspension 20 days	Accept
20-3-1344	Suspension 45 days	Accept
20-4-1458	Reprimand	Accept
20-5-1495	Reprimand	Accept
20-5-1517	Suspension 10 days	Accept
20-5-1541	Suspension 1 year	Accept
20-5-1568	Reprimand	Accept
20-5-1593	Reprimand	Accept
20-6-1630	Suspension 1 year	Accept
20-6-1684	Reprimand	Accept
20-6-1712	Reprimand	Accept

4. Chair Townsend reported that the Educator Ethics Review Committee reviewed *25 Negotiated Settlement Agreements* and brought the following recommendations on behalf of the Committee:

CASE	NEGOTIATED SANCTION	EERC RECOMMENDATION
17-7-130	Suspension 20 days	Accept
17-11-623	Suspension 30 days	Accept
18-5-1445	Suspension 2 years/50 days	Reject
18-10-500	Reprimand	Accept
18-11-653	NPC	Accept
19-2-1103	NPC	Accept
19-3-1233	Suspension 2 years	Accept
19-4-1348	Suspension 5 days	Accept
19-4-1393	Reprimand	Accept
19-5-1652	Suspension 45 days	Accept
19-6-1921	Reprimand	Accept
19-8-176	Reprimand	Accept
19-8-310	Reprimand	Reject
19-9-353	Warning	Accept
19-9-429	Reprimand	Accept
19-10-507	Suspension 8 days	Accept

CASE	NEGOTIATED SANCTION	EERC RECOMMENDATION
19-10-680	Reprimand	Accept
19-10-681	Reprimand	Accept
19-11-703	Warning	Accept
19-12-892	Suspension 168 days	Accept
20-1-953	Suspension 15 days	Accept
20-1-961	Suspension 135 days	Accept
20-1-954	Reprimand	Accept
20-1-959	Reprimand	Reject
20-1-999	Suspension 45 days	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 18-7-105	Revocation	NPC	No Jurisdiction
NCO 20-.3-1391	Suspension 5 days	Suspension 2 days	Accept
19-10-618	Expand current investigation		Expand
20-2-1121	Expand current investigation		Expand
20-7-15	Expand current investigation		Expand
20-6-1612	Failure to respond		Hold New App
20-6-1613	Failure to respond		Hold New App
18-5-1583	Revocation	Suspension 3 months	Appeal ALJs Decision

6. The Educator Ethics Review Committee recommended approval of the *Preliminary Investigative Determination Report* consisting of 31 new complaints received during the months of August and September 2020.

7. **VOLUNTARY SURRENDERS**

The Educator Ethics Review Committee recommended approval of 1 *Voluntary Surrender*/Voluntary 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>
20-5-1537	1, 4, 8, 9, 5a7	Voluntary Surrender	Accept

8. **EXTENSIONS – PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATIVE DETERMINATIONS**

The Educator Ethics Review Committee recommended approval of the 30 *Extensions - Preliminary Investigative Determinations* consisting of the following:

20-8-137	20-8-141	20-8-153	20-8-186	20-9-208	20-9-212	20-9-216	20-9-220
20-8-138	20-8-142	20-8-171	20-8-187	20-9-209	20-9-213	20-9-217	20-9-221
20-8-139	20-8-143	20-8-172	20-8-188	20-9-210	20-9-214	20-9-218	
20-8-140	20-8-151	20-8-173	20-8-189	20-9-211	20-9-215	20-9-219	

9. **EXTENSIONS - INVESTIGATIONS**

The Educator Ethics Review Committee recommended granting an *Investigative Extension* to the following 337 cases:

<u>WRITTEN COMPLAINT EXTENSIONS</u>							
18-11-694	19-6-1899	19-8-266	19-12-851	20-2-1162	20-3-1379	20-5-1534	20-6-1622
19-1-946	19-6-1900	19-8-309	19-12-855	20-2-1164	20-3-1380	20-5-1535	20-6-1636
19-1-961	19-6-1903	19-9-375	19-12-857	20-2-1173	20-3-1384	20-5-1539	20-6-1638
19-1-963	19-6-1906	19-9-376	19-12-867	20-2-1174	20-3-1386	20-5-1540	20-6-1639
19-2-1073	19-6-1908	19-9-381	20-1-920	20-2-1175	20-3-1387	20-5-1546	20-6-1661
19-2-1075	19-6-1915	19-9-383	20-1-924	20-2-1178	20-3-1389	20-5-1548	20-6-1674
19-2-1106	19-6-1922	19-9-390	20-1-931	20-2-1179	20-3-1401	20-5-1549	20-6-1675
19-3-1277	19-6-1929	19-9-392	20-1-939	20-2-1185	20-3-1408	20-5-1551	20-6-1676
19-3-1287	19-6-1931	19-9-400	20-1-940	20-2-1192	20-3-1411	20-5-1554	20-6-1677
19-3-1291	19-6-1934	19-9-407	20-1-977	20-2-1195	20-3-1413	20-5-1556	20-6-1678
19-4-1400	19-7-56	19-9-422	20-1-980	20-2-1234	20-3-1417	20-5-1557	20-6-1679
19-4-1402	19-7-71	19-9-447	20-1-991	20-2-1239	20-3-1420	20-5-1558	20-6-1680
19-4-1451	19-7-72	19-9-450	20-1-1008	20-2-1245	20-3-1424	20-5-1560	20-6-1681
19-4-1452	19-7-86	19-9-461	20-1-1009	20-2-1249	20-3-1425	20-5-1561	20-6-1685
19-4-1545	19-7-87	19-9-464	20-1-1021	20-2-1250	20-4-1430	20-5-1562	20-6-1686
19-5-1562	19-7-90	19-9-488	20-1-1022	20-2-1254	20-4-1434	20-5-1564	20-6-1688
19-5-1613	19-7-92	19-9-492	20-1-1023	20-2-1261	20-4-1435	20-5-1567	20-6-1692
19-5-1616	19-7-93	19-9-499	20-1-1047	20-2-1265	20-4-1436	20-5-1569	20-6-1693
19-5-1620	19-7-94	19-9-502	20-1-1057	20-2-1268	20-4-1447	20-5-1571	20-6-1695
19-5-1670	19-7-95	19-10-505	20-1-1060	20-2-1293	20-4-1448	20-5-1572	20-6-1696
19-5-1695	19-7-97	19-10-516	20-1-1061	20-2-1295	20-4-1449	20-5-1575	20-6-1697
19-5-1696	19-7-98	19-10-517	20-1-1062	20-3-1313	20-4-1450	20-5-1576	20-6-1698
19-5-1700	19-7-100	19-10-527	20-1-1064	20-3-1315	20-4-1453	20-5-1577	20-6-1701
19-5-1701	19-7-102	19-10-533	20-1-1066	20-3-1316	20-4-1454	20-5-1578	20-6-1702
19-5-1706	19-7-103	19-10-534	20-1-1069	20-3-1318	20-4-1455	20-5-1579	20-6-1703
19-6-1787	19-7-105	19-10-545	20-1-1074	20-3-1319	20-4-1464	20-5-1580	20-6-1704
19-6-1812	19-7-106	19-10-557	20-1-1080	20-3-1321	20-4-1465	20-5-1582	20-6-1705

WRITTEN COMPLAINT EXTENSIONS							
19-6-1814	19-7-107	19-10-589	20-1-1081	20-3-1322	20-4-1466	20-5-1583	20-6-1706
19-6-1815	19-7-128	19-10-596	20-1-1083	20-3-1325	20-4-1467	20-5-1585	20-6-1707
19-6-1818	19-7-138	19-10-597	20-1-1086	20-3-1326	20-4-1468	20-5-1587	20-6-1714
19-6-1821	19-7-140	19-10-599	20-1-1089	20-3-1329	20-4-1469	20-5-1588	20-6-1715
19-6-1872	19-7-142	19-10-609	20-1-1090	20-3-1330	20-4-1472	20-5-1590	20-6-1717
19-6-1875	19-7-144	19-10-618	20-1-1091	20-3-1331	20-4-1473	20-5-1594	20-6-1718
19-6-1878	19-7-154	19-10-657	20-1-1096	20-3-1333	20-5-1488	20-5-1597	20-6-1719
19-6-1885	19-8-194	19-10-661	20-1-1103	20-3-1335	20-5-1496	20-5-1598	20-6-1720
19-6-1886	19-8-213	19-10-672	20-1-1105	20-3-1337	20-5-1506	20-5-1600	20-6-1722
19-6-1887	19-8-219	19-10-674	20-1-1107	20-3-1338	20-5-1507	20-5-1601	
19-6-1889	19-8-227	19-10-683	20-1-1108	20-3-1354	20-5-1513	20-5-1602	
19-6-1890	19-8-242	19-10-689	20-2-1132	20-3-1356	20-5-1514	20-5-1603	
19-6-1891	19-8-258	19-11-695	20-2-1134	20-3-1357	20-5-1519	20-5-1604	
19-6-1896	19-8-259	19-11-729	20-2-1137	20-3-1374	20-5-1521	20-6-1618	
19-6-1897	19-8-261	19-11-752	20-2-1149	20-3-1375	20-5-1526	20-6-1620	
19-6-1898	19-8-265	19-11-800	20-2-1152	20-3-1376	20-5-1531	20-6-1621	

10. APPLICATIONS FOR CERTIFICATION REPORT

The Educator Ethics Review Committee recommended to approve a no probable cause determination on 12 cases reflected on the *Applications for Certification Report*.

11. FINAL DECISIONS BY OPERATION OF LAW

The Commission reviewed the report, which advised of 13 cases now closed without an appeal for a hearing before an Administrative Law Judge.

12. FINAL DECISIONS BY OPERATION OF LAW

The Commission reviewed the *Final Decision* below, and recommended to approve the actions listed below.

CASE	ORIGINAL SANCTION	ALJ SANCTION	EERC RECOMMEND
18-1-967	Revocation	Reprimand	Accept
18-2-981	Suspension 1 year	Suspension 60 days	Accept

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

PSC Action: Approved

Abstentions from entire report: Dr. Brandon Seigler, Jimmy Atkins, Carol Williams, Dr. Holley Roberts

Abstentions from cases: Derek Easterling-20-8-113, Barbara Ellingson-20-5-1498, Jeanine Bunn-18-5-1445

B. Educator Preparation Standing Committee

Committee Vice-Chair, Dr. Karla Hull, presented the report of the Educator Preparation Standing Committee. The Committee recommends the following approval actions.

	EPP	September 2020 Detailed Approval Recommendations
1.	Gwinnett County Schools	<p>The Committee recommends Continuing Approval with Conditions for the Educator Preparation Provider (EPP) and the following educator preparation programs reviewed during the Spring 2020 Continuing Approval Review.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Georgia Teacher Academy for Preparation and Pedagogy • Coaching Endorsement • ESOL Endorsement • Gifted Endorsement • K-5 Mathematics Endorsement • K-5 Science Endorsement • Special Education Physical and Health Disabilities Endorsement • Special Education Visual Impairment Endorsement • STEM Endorsement <p>The Committee recommends the submission of a Progress Report on September 10, 2021, addressing the unmet standard and areas for improvement (AFIs).</p>
2.	Chattahoochee-Flint RESA	<p>The Committee recommends that while incremental progress is indicated in the June 10, 2020, Progress Report, the following AFIs cited during the Spring 2019 Continuing Approval Review remain.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Standard 3.3 • Standard 5.1 • Standard 5.3 • Standard 5.5 <p>The Committee recommends the submission of a Progress Report on September 10, 2021, addressing the remaining AFIs. The Progress Report should provide a clearer and more succinct narrative explaining the process for assuring operational effectiveness. The Progress Report should also provide actual data, and how those data are used to make informed decisions to improve program elements and processes.</p>
3.	Clayton State University	<p>The Committee recommends that the July 9, 2020, Progress Report is satisfactory in addressing the Standard 1.1 stipulation cited during the Fall 2018 First Continuing Approval Review. The Committee recommends the stipulation be removed. The Committee recommends that while incremental progress is indicated in the Progress Report, the stipulations in Standards 1.2 and 1.3 remain, and the AFI in Standard 1.4 remains.</p>

	EPP	September 2020 Detailed Approval Recommendations
		The Committee recommends the EPP's progress toward correcting the remaining stipulations and AFI be examined by the Site Visitor Team conducting the Fall 2020 Continuing Approval Review and noted in the resulting Site Visit Report.
4.	Middle Georgia State University	<p>The Committee recommends the June 13, 2020, Progress Report is Satisfactory in addressing the Standard 4.1 AFI cited during the Spring 2019 Continuing Approval Review. The Committee recommends the AFI be removed for the EPP.</p> <p>The Committee also recommends that while incremental progress is indicated in the Progress Report, the Standard 5.2 AFI remains.</p> <p>The Committee recommends the submission of a Progress Report on September 10, 2021, addressing the remaining AFI in Standard 5.2. The Progress Report should provide evidence of the identification of widely accepted methodologies and research-based practices for calculating inter-rater reliability. The Progress Report should also provide evidence for how the EPP is assuring that inter-rater reliability is an iterative process for improving the reliability coefficient, and that training of raters is conducted to assure interpretations of data are valid and consistent across raters.</p>
5.	Clayton County Public Schools	The Committee recommends Developmental Approval of the Online Teaching Endorsement.
6.	Covenant College	The Committee recommends Developmental Approval of the Reading Endorsement.
7.	Mercer University	The Committee recommends Developmental Approval of the Gifted In-Field Endorsement.
8.	Northwest Georgia RESA	The Committee recommends Developmental Approval of the Dyslexia Endorsement.

Chair Sirmans called for approval of the Educator Preparation/Certification report as presented by Vice-Chair Dr. Karla Hull.

PSC Action: Approved

Abstentions from entire report: Dr. Brandon Seigler, Jimmy Atkins, Carol Williams

IX. ADJOURNMENT

10/9/2020

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Our next Commission meeting will be held on Thursday, October 8th, 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/Certification Standing Committee meeting will meet on Wednesday, October 7th, at 4:00 pm. Chair Sirmans called for the meeting to be adjourned at 4:34 p.m.

PSC ACTION: Approved