

MINUTES

PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS COMMISSION

Two Piedmont Avenue

Atlanta, Georgia

January 10, 2013

The Georgia Professional Standards Commission (PSC) met on Thursday, January 10, 2013, at 12:30 p.m.

Members Present

Julia Bernath

Alice Clements

Dr. Penny Elkins

Dr. Adrian Epps

Phil Jacobs

David Johnson

Scott Justus

Stephanie Leggett

Kamila Luigs

Christy McGill

Sheryl Stalvey

Bettina Polite Tate

Dr. Lawrence Walters

Pam Walker

Members Absent

Heath Garrett

Bill Haskin

Valerie Williams

Pam Williams

I. WORK SESSION

A. Anne Marie Fenton presented rules that the Commission we be asked to to initiate the rule-making process. On your desktops, you will find the final Initiate Rules Packet. We have 3 Educator Preparation Rules, which are proposed to change due to the adoption of the International Reading Association Standards for Reading Professionals 2010.

Educator Preparation

505-3-.16 EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION PROGRAM - Amend

505-3-.47 READING SPECIALIST EDUCATION PROGRAM – Rescind current rule; initiate a new rule with the same number and title

505.3-.75 READING ENDORSEMENT: CLASSROOM TEACHER OF READING - Rescind current rule; initiate new rule with the same number but a new title.

There has been one edit to the Early Childhood Education Program rule from your initial rules packet that you received electronically on January 3, 2013, as follows:

Remove the Georgia Special Requirement paragraph reference in the last sentence due to updates in 505-3-.01 recent adoption. Bobbi Ford, Education Specialist with Program Approval spoke briefly about this rule.

B. Anne Marie Fenton gave a presentation on GACE - Commissioners received an overview of plans for several components of the GACE program as it transitions to the new Supplier, Educational Testing Service (ETS). Included were milestones for the October 2013 launch, as well as specifics regarding the move to a full computer-based testing (CBT). A few features was highlighted including increased test availability, move to mostly selected response items, inclusion of innovative item types, and special test designs for certification upgrade fields and Educational Leadership. A test availability schedule was shared and information about test preparation and candidate support was provided.

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C. Anne Marie Fenton gave a presentation on Title II, Part A Update - During the work session on 1-10-13, the Commission received a brief overview of the work of Title II, Part A to include Teacher Quality and Equity, with a look at the required equity plan indicators for Local Education Agencies (LEAs). The GaPSC's Title II, Part A 2013 Initiatives were briefly highlighted, some of which included the existing data systems, cross-functional monitoring and training, regional workshops, spring conference, and impact of Title II, Part A funds. Also included was a funding update, in which information was provided about the formal contract with the Georgia Department of Education, increased reporting requirements, and the funding status.

D. Dr. Paul Shaw, Director of Educator Ethics spoke briefly about the Georgia Educator Ethics Task Force and their findings. The Commission received a hand-out of the full report.

E. Dr. Elkins wished everyone a happy new year and pointed out several that have had birthdays and significant trips over the holidays. Dr. Elkins then asked the commissioners if there were significant topics that were being discussed in their respective school or business environments. Commissioners mentioned the common core and the recent Sandy Creek school shootings. Discussion ensued and then the meeting was adjourned for lunch.

II. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Elkins 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.

III. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Chair Dr. Elkins called for approval of the agenda.

MOTION: (Dr. Adrian Epps / Julia Bernath) To approve the agenda.

PSC ACTION: Approved

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chair Elkins called for approval of the minutes from the December 13, 2012, Commission meeting.

PSC ACTION: Approved

V. VISITORS

Chair Dr. Elkins welcomed the visitors.

- Margaret Elliott, Professional Association of Georgia Educators
- Linda Fortson, Warren Fortson Law Office
- Kerri Wilson, Office of Planning and Budget

VI. RECOGNITION OF COMMISSIONER

Chair Elkins and Kelly Henson thanked Meredith Hodges for her service on the Commission and each spoke briefly about her. Meredith served from March 2010 through July 2012.

VII. EMPLOYEE SERVICE AWARDS

Chair Elkins and Kelly Henson thanked the employees listed below and presented them with their service award.

Anne Marie Fenton – 5 years - Anne Marie Fenton came to the PSC in September 2007 and since then she has served the agency in a number of important roles. She initially worked as an Education Specialist in the Program Approval department, conducting approval reviews at several public and private institutions. In 2008, early in her tenure with the agency, Anne Marie earned a promotion and assumed responsibilities for the state's testing program, our Title IIA-Teacher Quality program, and Title II federal reporting. Her work on behalf of each program has been exemplary, much of it resulting in improvements positively impacting educators across the state. She took responsibility for another important role in 2010, and that is managing our rule making process; I am sure you have already noticed the improvements she has made to the process. Anne Marie's dedication to the mission of the agency is evidenced daily through the quality of her work and the exemplary levels of service she provides to all our customers, employees, and stakeholders. She is a valued member of our team. Today we celebrate her first five years with the agency and look forward to many more!

Rose Wilson – 5 Years - Rose Wilson began her career with the GaPSC on November 1, 2007 as an Evaluation and Information Specialist. It was evident from the moment she joined our team that she believed in excellent customer service and took every opportunity to provide our educators with an outstanding customer service experience. When the Certification Division partnered with the Department of Early Care and Learning to create the Professional Development Registry (PDR), Rose was the perfect choice to assist with the development and implementation of the PDR and she was promoted to the Lead Evaluator of the group. When the time arrived for the Certification Division to play an active part in the the Race to the Top work, Rose was chosen as the Race to the Top Certification Project Specialist because of her comprehensive knowledge of certification, communication skills and proven ability to deliver quality work for the division. She continues to excel in her current role and does so with a focus on the customer and unparalleled enthusiasm for her work. Congratulations, Rose on five wonderful years with the GaPSC!

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Educator Preparation Standing Committee

Committee Chair, Dr. Adrian Epps, presented the report of the Educator Preparation Standing Committee.

The Committee recommends the following approval actions:

For Unit 3130, the Committee recommends:

- Continuing Approval for the professional education unit (Initial and Advanced),
- Developmental Approval for two preparation programs, and
- Continuing Approval for eleven preparation programs.

The Standard 1 area for improvement for the Early Childhood Education Program remains. A Progress Report is requested by April 10, 2013, describing plans to address the low GACE pass rate.

An additional Progress Report is due by January 10, 2014, showing the current GACE pass rate data for the Early Childhood Education Program.

Approval action details are provided in the table.

Unit Number	January 2013 Detailed Approval Recommendation	Additional Action Required
3130	Continuing Approval for the professional education unit (Initial and Advanced).	No additional action requested.
	Developmental Approval for Art Education and Spanish Education Programs.	No additional action requested.
	Continuing Approval for Biology Education, Broad Field Science Education, Chemistry Education, Early Childhood Education, English Education, Drama Education, History Education, Mathematics Education, Middle Grades Education, Music Education and Special Education General Education Programs.	The Standard 1 area for improvement for the Early Childhood Education Program remains. A Progress Report is requested by April 10, 2013, describing plans to address the low GACE pass rate. An additional Progress Report is due by January 10, 2014, showing the current GACE pass rate data for the Early Childhood Education Program.

Chair Elkins called for approval of the Educator Preparation Committee report as presented by Chair Epps.

PSC ACTION: Approved

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

Chair Pam Walker of the Educator Ethics Review Committee (EERC), gave a preliminary review of the Cases.

- Ms. Walker reported that the Committee reviewed 33 *Probable Cause* cases during its January 10, 2013, meeting and brought the following recommendations on behalf of the Committee:

<u>CASE</u>	<u>STANDARDS VIOLATED</u>	<u>RECOMMENDATION</u>
12-8-279	10, Lic Action	Reprimand
12-8-280	1	Reprimand
12-8-286	1	Reprimand
12-8-315	1,4,9,10	Reprimand
12-9-386	4, 10	Deny
11-09-431	1, 2, 10	NPC
11-12-684	2,10	Suspension - 20 days
12-02-920	2,4,10	Suspension - 2 years
12-04-1134	10, 11	Suspension - 2 years
12-05-1231	4, 10, 11	Suspension - 20 days
12-07-068	4,10,11,DOE	Suspension - 2 years
12-07-109	2,10	Suspension - 2 years

<u>CASE</u>	<u>STANDARDS VIOLATED</u>	<u>RECOMMENDATION</u>
12-07-163	4,7,9,10,DOE	Suspension - 90 days
12-07-170	4,7,9,10,DOE	Suspension - 90 days
12-07-172	4,7,9,10,DOE	Suspension - 2 years
12-07-179	4,7,10,DOE	Reprimand
12-07-180	4,7,10,DOE	Suspension - 2 years
12-07-185	4,7,9,10,DOE	Suspension - 2 years
12-07-205	4,7,9,10,DOE	Suspension - 2 years
12-08-295	3, 10	Suspension - 1 year
12-08-297	1,9,10	Reprimand
12-08-310	1,4,9,10	Reprimand
12-09-335	10	Suspension - 1 year
12-09-344	10	Suspension - 10 days
12-09-345	10	Suspension - 10 days
12-09-373	1, 4, 9, 10	Suspension - 20 days
12-09-385	3,10	Suspension - 1 year
12-10-389	1,4,9,10	Reprimand
12-10-390	1,4,9,10	Reprimand
12-10-412	3,10	Suspension - 1 year
12-10-436	9,10	Suspension - 20 days
12-10-443	4, 5, 10	Revoke
12-10-445	6,10	NPC

2. Ms. Walker reported that the Educator Ethics Review Committee reviewed 3 *Petitions Issues* and brought the following recommendations on behalf of the Committee:

<u>CASE</u>	<u>PREVIOUS SANCTION</u>	<u>EERC RECOMMENDATION</u>
12-7-63	Revocation August 2006	Deny
12-9-326	Voluntary Surrender December 2004	Grant
12-9-366	Revocation January 2004	Deny

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

<u>CASE</u>	<u>SANCTION</u>	<u>EERC RECOMMENDATION</u>
11-10-505	Suspension - 5 days	Accept
12-3-951	Suspension - 10 days	Accept
12-9-372	Suspension - 1 year	Accept
12-10-431	Reprimand	Accept

4. Ms. Walker reported that the Educator Ethics Review Committee reviewed 6 *Negotiated Settlement Agreements* and brought the following recommendations on behalf of the Committee:

<u>CASE</u>	<u>NEGOTIATED SANCTION</u>	<u>EERC RECOMMENDATION</u>
10-8-150	Warning	Accept
11-9-441	Suspension - 20 days	Accept
11-12-709	NPC	Accept
12-1-761	Suspension - 5 days	Accept
12-2-864	Suspension - 90 days	Accept
12-7-59	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>
OB 12-4-1136	Expand investigation	Expand
OB 12-4-1138	Expand investigation	Expand
OB 12-10-411	Expand investigation	Expand

6. The Educator Ethics Review Committee recommended approval of the *Preliminary Investigative Determination Report* consisting of 42 new complaints received during the months of December 2012 and January 2013.

7. VOLUNTARY SURRENDER/VOLUNTARY DENIAL

The Educator Ethics Review Committee recommended approval of the Voluntary Surrender/Voluntary Denial 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>
12-11-504	1, 2, 3	Voluntary Surrender	Accept

8. EXTENSIONS – PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATIVE DETERMINATIONS

The Educator Ethics Review Committee recommended approval of the 40 Extensions - Preliminary Investigative Determinations consisting of the following:

12-12-610	12-12-630	13-1-635	13-1-640	13-1-645	13-1-650	13-1-655	13-1-660
12-12-611	12-12-631	13-1-636	13-1-641	13-1-646	13-1-651	13-1-656	13-1-661
12-12-612	12-12-632	13-1-637	13-1-642	13-1-647	13-1-652	13-1-657	13-1-662
12-12-613	13-1-633	13-1-638	13-1-643	13-1-648	13-1-653	13-1-658	13-1-663
12-12-629	13-1-634	13-1-639	13-1-644	13-1-649	13-1-654	13-1-659	13-1-667

9. EXTENSIONS - INVESTIGATIONS

The Educator Ethics Review Committee recommended granting and *Investigative Extension* to the following 250 cases:

WRITTEN COMPLAINT EXTENSIONS							
10-9-331	11-9-358	11-12-720	12-3-972	12-5-1220	12-7-65	12-7-168	12-9-358
10-12-553	11-9-359	12-1-724	12-3-974	12-5-1232	12-7-66	12-7-169	12-9-359
10-12-562	11-9-360	12-1-725	12-3-978	12-5-1237	12-7-69	12-7-207	12-9-363
11-4-915	11-9-391	12-1-733	12-3-979	12-5-1241	12-7-70	12-7-211	12-9-374
11-4-999	11-9-392	12-1-738	12-3-1019	12-5-1244	12-7-71	12-7-216	12-9-375
11-4-1000	11-9-394	12-1-747	12-3-1026	12-5-1246	12-7-72	12-7-218	12-9-376
11-6-1192	11-9-396	12-1-749	12-3-1031	12-5-1250	12-7-74	12-8-227	12-9-378
11-6-1227	11-9-397	12-1-763	12-3-1032	12-5-1251	12-7-75	12-8-228	12-9-380
11-7-87	11-9-398	12-1-764	12-3-1040	12-5-1259	12-7-76	12-8-238	12-9-382
11-7-97	11-9-399	12-1-776	12-3-1044	12-5-1261	12-7-77	12-8-239	12-9-383
11-8-117	11-9-401	12-1-777	12-3-1049	12-5-1263	12-7-79	12-8-240	12-9-384
11-8-119	11-9-402	12-1-778	12-3-1064	12-5-1266	12-7-80	12-8-243	12-10-411
11-8-130	11-9-413	12-2-827	12-3-1065	12-5-1270	12-7-81	12-8-244	12-10-413
11-8-142	11-9-418	12-2-831	12-4-1120	12-5-1278	12-7-86	12-8-246	12-10-419
11-8-200	11-9-419	12-2-837	12-4-1133	12-5-180	12-7-89	12-8-259	12-10-425
11-8-232	11-9-420	12-2-838	12-4-1136	12-6-1286	12-7-90	12-8-260	12-10-426
11-8-233	11-9-421	12-2-840	12-4-1137	12-6-1287	12-7-91	12-8-261	12-10-427
11-8-234	11-9-423	12-2-842	12-4-1138	12-6-1288	12-7-93	12-8-263	12-10-429
11-8-235	11-9-424	12-2-843	12-4-1140	12-6-1289	12-7-96	12-8-264	12-10-430
11-8-236	11-9-455	12-2-854	12-4-1141	12-6-1290	12-7-98	12-8-266	12-10-432
11-8-237	11-9-456	12-2-856	12-4-1144	12-6-1295	12-7-111	12-8-267	12-10-433
11-8-238	11-9-457	12-2-885	12-4-1147	12-6-1301	12-7-112	12-8-269	12-10-434
11-8-239	11-9-458	12-2-888	12-4-1149	12-6-1305	12-7-121	12-8-270	12-10-435
11-8-240	11-9-459	12-2-891	12-4-1150	12-6-1328	12-7-129	12-8-294	12-10-441
11-8-241	11-11-552	12-2-894	12-4-1151	12-6-1329	12-7-131	12-8-296	12-10-444
11-8-242	11-11-561	12-2-896	12-4-1159	12-6-1330	12-7-144	12-8-299	12-10-446
11-9-284	11-11-589	12-2-901	12-5-1178	12-6-1333	12-7-153	12-8-302	
11-9-298	11-11-598	12-3-942	12-5-1183	12-7-7	12-7-155	12-9-332	
11-9-304	11-11-600	12-3-946	12-5-1200	12-7-11	12-7-164	12-9-336	
11-9-337	11-11-603	12-3-953	12-5-1203	12-7-12	12-7-165	12-9-343	
11-9-343	11-12-702	12-3-954	12-5-1210	12-7-38	12-7-166	12-9-346	
11-9-355	11-12-710	12-3-955	12-5-1216	12-7-48	12-7-167	12-9-357	

10. APPLICATIONS FOR CERTIFICATION REPORT

The Educator Ethics Review Committee recommended to approve a no probable cause determination on 7 cases reflected on the *Applications for Certification Report*.

11. STUDENT LOAN SUSPENSION / REINSTATEMENTS

The Commission reviewed the report, which indicated that there were no certificates suspended from December 18, 2012 through January 10, 2013. There was 1 certificate that had been *reinstated* because restitution is now being

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made on that student loan.

12. FINAL DECISIONS BY OPERATION OF LAW

The Commission reviewed the report, which advised of 9 cases now closed without an appeal for a hearing before an Administrative Law Judge. The report also advised that there were 2 cases closed without an appeal for a review hearing before the Commission.

Chair Elkins called for approval of the Educator Ethics Review Committee report as presented by Pam Walker excluding case #'s 12-02-920, 12-07-109, 12-07-205, 12-09-386 and 12-2-864.

PSC ACTION: Approved

Abstention: Bettina Tate – Case # 12-9-335

Probable Cause Case # 12-02-920

MOTION: (Phil Jacobs / Kami Luigs) To change the EERC's recommendation from a Suspension of 2 Years to a Revocation.

Opposed: Sheryl Stalvey

PSC ACTION: Approved

Probable Cause Case # 12-07-109

MOTION: (Phil Jacobs / Kami Luigs) To change the EERC's recommendation from a Suspension of 2 Years to a Revocation.

PSC ACTION: Approved

Probable Cause Case # 12-07-205

MOTION: (Julia Bernath / Stephanie Leggett) To accept the EERC's recommendation of a 2 Year Suspension.

PSC ACTION: Approved

Probable Cause – Initial Application Case # 12-09-386

MOTION: (Kami Luigs / David Johnson) To accept the EERC's recommendation to Deny the applicant certification.

PSC ACTION: Approved

Negotiated Consent Order Case # 12-2-864

MOTION: (Kami Luigs / Phil Jacobs) To accept the Negotiated Consent Order submitted by the Attorney General's office of a 90 Day Suspension.

PSC ACTION: Approved

IX. RULES

Anne Marie Fenton presented the rules for initiation.

We will need a motion to initiate the rules for Certification and Educator Preparation and a second.

MOTION: (Pam Walker / Phil Jacobs) To (1) amend the current rule in Chapter 505-3 Educator Preparation,

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effective April 15, 2013, as follows: 505-3-.16; (2) rescind the current rule in Chapter 505-3 Educator Preparation, effective April 15, 2013, as follows: 505-3-.47, and 505-3-.75; and 3) initiating the current rules in Chapter 505-3 Educator Preparation, effective April 15, 2013, as follows: 505-3-.47, and 505-3-.75.

PSC ACTION: Approved

X. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Elkins announced that the next meeting will be held on Thursday, February 14th at 200 Piedmont Avenue, Atlanta, Georgia. The Educator Ethics Review Committee will meet at 9:00 am and the Educator Preparation Committee will meet at 9:30:00 am.

Chair Dr. Elkins called for the meeting to be adjourned at 1:20 p.m.

PSC ACTION: Approved