

MINUTES

PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS COMMISSION

200 Piedmont Avenue

Atlanta, Georgia

October 11, 2012

The Georgia Professional Standards Commission (PSC) met on Thursday, October 11, 2012, at 12:30 p.m.

Members Present

Julia Bernath

Alice Clements

Dr. Penny Elkins

Dr. Adrian Epps

Heath Garrett

Bill Haskin

Phil Jacobs

David Johnson

Scott Justus

Kamila Luigs

Christy McGill

Sheryl Stalvey

Bettina Polite Tate

Dr. Lawrence Walters

Pam Walker

Pam Williams

Members Absent

Valerie Williams

Stephanie Leggett

I. WORK SESSION

A. Rules-Anne Marie Fenton discussed the rules that would come before the Commission today for initiation and gave Commissioners an opportunity to ask questions. She pointed out a few revisions for 505-3-.01 since they had received their rules packet. There was one rule for Certification:

505-2-.32 APPEALS - Amended to require applicants to submit Cert ID instead of SSN and to lengthen the appeal timeframe, as well as to clarify language

There was one Educator Preparation Rule that Commissioners were asked to rescind and initiate a new rule in its place:

505-3-.01 REQUIREMENTS AND STANDARDS FOR APPROVING PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION UNITS AND EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROGRAMS - Among the substantive changes are the adoption of the 2011 standards published by the Interstate Teacher Assessment and Support Consortium, a requirement for all teacher preparation programs to include a minimum of one full semester of student teaching, higher and clearer expectations for P-12 partnerships and field experiences, and stronger emphasis on the teaching of educator ethics in educator preparation programs.

B. LATEST ON GACE – Anne Marie Fenton gave the Commissioners a handout and presented a powerpoint on the latest on GACE. Status of RFP work – GaPSC has signed a contract with Educational Testing Service (ETS) as the successful Supplier of the GACE customized testing program. The ETS launch date will not be before July 1, 2013, and there may be some transition after the launch. Up to at least June 30, 2012, we will continue our regular GACE program with Evaluation Systems (ES), our current supplier. GaPSC is very appreciative of work of ES and the RFP Development Committee including the Department of Administrative Services (DOAS), who managed the RFP process. Development work with ETS will begin immediately.

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Issues we will be addressing – We are examining several areas in the GACE program including Basic Skills, Eligibility Code, Performance Based Assessments, along with others. We may move to a Content Pedagogy assessment, which was not part of the RFP work. Next Steps – See GACE Opportunities Handout for where we are headed and decisions that will need to be made.

C. Kelly Henson gave the Commissioners hand-outs on the State Education Finance Commission, and Tiered Certification. He will discuss them with the Commissioners next month.

D. Chair Report – Dr. Penny Elkins congratulated Bettina Tate for being a finalist for the Association for Career and Technical Education Outstanding Teacher in Community Service Award. Ms. Tate was also inducted in the Charter Chapter of Kappa Delta Pi. Dr. Elkins wished Kelly Henson a Happy Birthday and led the Commission in song.

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 Elkins called for approval of the agenda.

MOTION: (David Johnson / Julia Bernath) To approve the agenda.

PSC ACTION: Approved

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

PSC ACTION: Approved

V. VISITORS

Chair Elkins welcomed the visitors.

- Margaret Elliott, Professional Association of Georgia Educators
- Linda Fortson, Warren Fortson Law Office
- Kerri Wilson, Office of Planning and Budget
- Cindi Chance, Agusuta State University
- Tayia Donald, Georgia Association of Educators (GAE)
- Scott Chestnutwood, Coastal Plains RESA

VI. EMPLOYEE SERVICE AWARDS

Chair Elkins and Kelly Henson presented the employees listed below with Service Awards.

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Comfort Afolabi – 10 Years – Comfort joined the PSC staff in 2002 as a researcher in the Educator Workforce Research, Recruitment and Development division. Comfort was “hired away” from MARTA, where she was an economic and transport researcher and developer of research reports for MARTA. Most recently, she has been named researcher and internal program evaluator with Educator Workforce Recruitment and Development unit and researcher with the Race to the Top AWARDS project in the IT division of the PSC. We will soon give congratulations to Comfort for another important milestone. She will finish her doctorate in Education Policy Studies at Georgia State University. So, in December, we will call her ”Dr. Comfort”. Congratulations on all of your achievements!

Nicole Deluca – 5 Years - Nicole Deluca joined the Certification Division in 2007 as an Information Specialist, where she assisted certification customers via phone and email, often taking the highest amount of phone calls of the entire group. In 2010, Nicole was promoted to an Evaluator Trainee. One of Nicole’s many responsibilities in that position is to manage the certification general email box, which on a typical day could receive 150+ emails. She not only responds to all of the emails, she does so while maintaining a 24-hour response time. Nicole is efficient, extremely hard-working and always willing to assist in any task to help her certification team. She is a valued member of the division and agency and we congratulate her on 5 years of service.

Caren Turner – 5 Years-We are indeed fortunate to have the privilege of Caren Turner's customer service expertise, work ethic and commitment on our GaPSC team. Caren began her career with us on July 1, 2004 as an Evaluation and Information Specialist where it was apparent her customer service skills would be a wonderful asset to the team. Her genuine interest in serving the educators of our state is what makes her an invaluable part of the certification team and agency. Her outstanding performance and leadership abilities resulted in promotions from a Customer Service Specialist to an Evaluator and as the current Lead Evaluator for the group. Thank you for the five plus years of service to this agency!

Enjolia Farrington – 5 Years – Enjolia joined the PSC in 2007 as a regional recruiter in the Educator Workforce Recruitment and Development unit of the Educator Preparation division. Prior to PSC, she was a national recruiter for nurses and physicians and worked with children with behavioral disabilities. Enjolia has proven her recruitment abilities and has grown in her leadership skills, having earned two promotions since coming to PSC. She is now the Senior Educator Recruiter for Georgia and Coordinator of Regional Recruitment Services for the Transition to Teaching programs administered by the PSC. Her successes extend beyond the PSC. Enjolia completed a Masters in Public Administration in 2006 and has since earned a Professional Human Resources Certification from the Society for Human Resource Management. Congratulations, Enjolia. We are glad that you are here!!

VII. RULES

Anne Marie Fenton presented the rules to the Commission.

Motion: (Dr. Adrian Eopps / Pam Walker) To initiate rulemaking procedures in accordance with the Georgia Administrative Procedures Act so as to provide for (1) amending the current rule in Chapter 505-2 Certification, effective January 15, 2013, follows: 505-2-.32; (2) rescinding the current rule in Chapter 505-3 Educator Preparation, effective January 15, 2013, as follows: 505-3-.01; and (3) initiating the current rule in Chapter 505-3 Educator Preparation, effective January 15, 2013, as follows: 505-3-.01.

PSC ACTION: Approved

Abstention: Phil Jacobs

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

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

- Ms. Walker reported that the Committee reviewed 23 ***Probable Cause*** cases during its October 11, 2012, meeting and brought the following recommendations on behalf of the Committee:

<u>CASE</u>	<u>STANDARDS VIOLATED</u>	<u>RECOMMENDATION</u>
11-08-185	4,5,10	Suspension 1 yr
11-09-268	4,10	Revoke
11-09-333	2, 10	Revoke
11-10-484	4, 10	Suspension 20 days
11-11-551	2,10	Suspension 2 yrs
11-11-554	2,10	Suspension 20 days
11-11-601	1,2,10	Suspension 1 yr
11-12-683	2,9,10	Suspension 90 days
11-12-691	9, 10	Suspension 1 yr
12-01-744	4, 10	Suspension 1 yr
12-01-771	5, 10	Reprimand
12-03-1013	1, 10	Reprimand
12-05-1197	4, 10	Reprimand
12-05-1269	10, 11	NPC
12-06-1300	4,9,10	Suspension 2 yrs
12-06-1319	10, 11	Suspension 2 yrs
12-07-021	10	Reprimand
12-07-099	4,10	Suspension 1 yr
12-07-201	1, 10	Reprimand
12-08-223	4,5,10	Suspension 1 yr
12-08-248	1,4,9,10	Reprimand
12-08-255	1,4,9,10	Reprimand
12-08-257	1,4,9,10	Reprimand

- 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>
12-5-1284	Revocation April 9, 2001	Deny
12-6-1352	Revocation Jan. 11, 2007	Deny
12-7-62	Denial Aug. 23, 2011	Deny

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

<u>CASE</u>	<u>SANCTION</u>	<u>EERC RECOMMENDATION</u>
12-7-24	Reprimand	Accept
12-7-149	Reprimand	Accept

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

<u>CASE</u>	<u>NEGOTIATED SANCTION</u>	<u>EERC RECOMMENDATION</u>
10-2-841	Reprimand	Accept
10-6-1305	NPC	Accept
10-6-1306	NPC	Accept
10-6-1307	NPC	Accept
10-6-1308	NPC	Accept
10-6-1309	NPC	Accept
10-7-54	Suspension 5 days	Accept
11-4-989	Suspension 60 days	Accept
11-4-1068	Suspension 1 year	Accept
11-5-1138	Suspension 120 days	Accept
11-6-1193	Suspension 1 year - Retro	Accept
11-6-1209	Suspension 10 days	Accept
11-6-1214	Suspension 90 days	Accept
11-7-7	Revocation	Accept
11-8-203	Suspension 90 days	Accept
11-8-254	Reprimand	Accept
11-9-443	Denial w/ retro credit	Accept
11-10-494	Suspension 1 year	Accept
11-11-542	Suspension 5 days	Accept

<u>CASE</u>	<u>NEGOTIATED SANCTION</u>	<u>EERC RECOMMENDATION</u>
11-12-677	Warning	Accept
12-1-759	Reprimand	Accept
12-3-981	Reprimand	Accept
12-3-1020	Warning	Accept
12-3-1021	NPC	Accept
12-4-1145	Suspension 2 days	Accept

5. OTHER BUSINESS

The Educator Ethics Review Committee recommended approval of the *Other Business Report* as follows:

<u>CASE</u>	<u>ACTION REQUESTED</u>	<u>EERC RECOMMENDATION</u>
11-4-1031	Close case - Educator deceased	Close administratively
12-8-265	Close case - Educator reported in error	Close administratively

6. The Educator Ethics Review Committee recommended approval of the *Preliminary Investigative Determination Report* consisting of 52 new complaints received during the months of September and October 2012.

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>
12-7-95	2, 10	Voluntary Surrender	Accept
12-7-215	4, 10, 11	Voluntary Surrender	Accept
12-8-256	1, 2, 10	Voluntary Surrender	Accept

8. EXTENSIONS – PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATIVE DETERMINATIONS

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

12-8-291	12-8-294	12-8-297	12-8-300	12-8-303	12-9-324	12-9-332	12-9-335
12-8-292	12-8-295	12-8-298	12-8-301	12-9-322	12-9-325	12-9-333	12-9-336
12-8-293	12-8-296	12-8-299	12-8-302	12-9-323	12-9-331	12-9-334	12-9-337

9. EXTENSIONS - INVESTIGATIONS

The Educator Ethics Review Committee recommended granting and *Investigative Extension* to the following 210 cases:

WRITTEN COMPLAINT EXTENSIONS							
10-9-331	11-8-241	11-9-423	12-1-724	12-2-856	12-3-1044	12-5-1210	12-6-1301
10-12-553	11-8-242	11-9-424	12-1-725	12-2-885	12-3-1047	12-5-1216	12-6-1305
10-12-562	11-8-263	11-9-431	12-1-731	12-2-888	12-3-1049	12-5-1220	12-6-1328
11-4-915	11-9-275	11-9-455	12-1-733	12-2-889	12-3-1064	12-5-1221	12-6-1329
11-4-999	11-9-284	11-9-456	12-1-735	12-2-891	12-3-1065	12-5-1231	12-6-1330
11-4-1000	11-9-298	11-9-457	12-1-736	12-2-894	12-4-1120	12-5-1232	12-6-1331
11-5-1118	11-9-304	11-9-458	12-1-737	12-2-896	12-4-1133	12-5-1237	12-6-1333
11-6-1192	11-9-337	11-9-459	12-1-738	12-2-901	12-4-1134	12-5-1241	12-7-7
11-6-1227	11-9-342	11-10-480	12-1-746	12-2-916	12-4-1136	12-5-1244	12-7-11
11-6-1272	11-9-343	11-10-486	12-1-747	12-2-920	12-4-1137	12-5-1246	12-7-12
11-7-87	11-9-355	11-10-505	12-1-749	12-3-942	12-4-1138	12-5-1247	12-7-25
11-7-97	11-9-358	11-10-513	12-1-763	12-3-946	12-4-1140	12-5-1250	12-7-38
11-7-98	11-9-359	11-10-519	12-1-764	12-3-951	12-4-1141	12-5-1251	12-7-48
11-7-99	11-9-360	11-11-552	12-1-776	12-3-953	12-4-1143	12-5-1259	12-7-52
11-8-117	11-9-391	11-11-560	12-1-777	12-3-954	12-4-1144	12-5-1261	12-7-121
11-8-119	11-9-392	11-11-589	12-1-778	12-3-955	12-4-1147	12-5-1262	12-7-129
11-8-130	11-9-396	11-11-598	12-2-827	12-3-972	12-4-1149	12-5-1263	12-7-131
11-8-200	11-9-397	11-11-600	12-2-831	12-3-973	12-4-1150	12-5-1266	12-7-144
11-8-232	11-9-398	11-11-603	12-2-837	12-3-974	12-4-1151	12-5-1270	12-7-153
11-8-233	11-9-399	11-12-675	12-2-838	12-3-978	12-4-1159	12-5-1278	12-7-155
11-8-234	11-9-401	11-12-681	12-2-840	12-3-979	12-5-1178	12-5-1280	12-8-251
11-8-235	11-9-402	11-12-684	12-2-841	12-3-1019	12-5-1183	12-6-1286	
11-8-236	11-9-413	11-12-702	12-2-842	12-3-1025	12-5-1196	12-6-1287	
11-8-237	11-9-418	11-12-710	12-2-843	12-3-1026	12-5-1199	12-6-1288	
11-8-238	11-9-419	11-12-711	12-2-852	12-3-1031	12-5-1200	12-6-1289	
11-8-239	11-9-420	11-12-719	12-2-853	12-3-1032	12-5-1202	12-6-1290	
11-8-240	11-9-421	11-12-720	12-2-854	12-3-1040	12-5-1203	12-6-1295	

10. APPLICATIONS FOR CERTIFICATION REPORT

The Educator Ethics Review Committee recommended to approve a no probable cause determination on 19 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 September 13, 2012 through October 11, 2012. There was 1 certificate that had been *reinstated* because restitution is now being made on that student loan.

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12. FINAL DECISIONS BY OPERATION OF LAW

The Commission reviewed the report, which advised of 1 case now closed without an appeal for a hearing before an Administrative Law Judge. The report also advised that there was 1 case 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 12-7-099, 11-11-551, 11-11-554, 11-12-691 and 10-7-54.

PSC ACTION: Approved

Probable Cause Case # 12-7-099

MOTION: (Kami Luigs / Phil Jacobs) To accept the Educator Ethics Review Committee's recommendation for a 1 Year Suspension.

PSC ACTION: Approved

Probable Cause Case # 11-11-551

MOTION: (Phil Jacobs / Julia Bernath) To change the Educator Ethics Review Committee's recommendation for a 20 Day Suspension to a Revocation.

PSC ACTION: Approved

Opposed: Bettina Tate, Pam Williams, Pam Walker, Heath Garrett, David Johnson and Bill Haskin

Probable Cause Case # 11-11-554

MOTION: (Phil Jacobs / Julia Bernath) To change the Educator Ethics Review Committee's recommendation for a 20 Day Suspension to a Reprimand.

PSC ACTION: Approved

Opposed: Sheryl Stalvey, Heath Garrett, David Johnson, Scott Justus, Dr. Larry Walters and Bill Haskin

Probable Cause Case # 11-12-691

MOTION: (Dr. Adrian Epps / Pam Williams) To accept the Educator Ethics Review Committee's recommendation for a 1 Year Suspension.

PSC ACTION: Approved

Negotiated Consent Order Case # 10-7-54

MOTION: (Phil Jacobs / Bettina Tate) To accept the Educator Ethics Review Committee's recommendation for a 5 Day Suspension.

PSC ACTION: Approved

B. Educator Preparation Standing Committee

Committee Chair Epps, did not have any items to bring from the Educator Preparation Standing Committee to the Commission; however, the Committee will have several items to present to the Commission at the November meeting. Chair Epps spoke briefly about the presentation that they received from Dr. David Hill at their meeting. Dr. David Hill and Penny McRoy attended the State Consortium on Educator Effectiveness Topical Meeting on Teacher and Leader Preparation and Entry into the Profession in Charlotte, North Carolina.

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There were four major recommendations on Educator Preparation and Certification and Georgia is ahead of many states on addressing the recommendations or implementing them. Dr. Hill will send the Commissioners a summary of the State Consortium on Educator Effectiveness after the Council of Chief State School Officers releases their national report which is scheduled for release in November.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Elkins called for the meeting to be adjourned at 1:32 pm.

PSC ACTION: Approved