

MINUTES

PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS COMMISSION
Remote Meeting via TEAMS Platform and In-Person at
200 Piedmont Avenue, SE, 17th Floor, Suite 1712, West Tower, Atlanta, GA
October 14, 2021

The Georgia Professional Standards Commission (PSC) met on Thursday, October 14, 2021.

Members Present

Jimmy Atkins	Jordan Frobos	Teri Schneider
Dr. Steve Barker	Dr. Karla Hull	Dr. Brandon Seigler
Jeanine Bunn	Diane McClearn	Brian Sirmans
Abigail Coggin	Dr. Franklin Perry	Beth Townsend
Derek Easterling	Dr. Holley Roberts	Dr. Jennifer Wade
		Carol Williams

Members Absent

Daniel Dooley

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

Chair Sirmans called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. 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 / Dr. Franklin Perry) To approve the agenda.

PSC ACTION: Approved

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chair Sirmans called for approval of the September 9, 2021 minutes.

PSC ACTION: Approved

V. PARAPROFESSIONAL ETHICS MODULES

Dr. Paul Shaw, Director of Educator Ethics, gave a PowerPoint presentation titled “The Georgia Code of Ethics ~ Overview of Module Series for Paraprofessionals.

VI. GaPSC WEBCAST SERIES

Chuck McCampbell, Director of Information Technology, showed clips from the GaPSC webcast series. A broad

selection of webcasts featuring essential information on GaPSC policies, processes and more can be found on our website.

VII. EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT

Matt Arthur spoke briefly on the following:

- Each of the Commissioners received an umbrella from The National Association of State Directors of Teacher Education and Certification (NASDTEC) which hosted its 92nd annual conference in Savannah in June. Each conference participant from across the nation received an umbrella, which NASDTEC also made available to you to enjoy. NASDTEC serves as a professional membership organization representing state departments of education and professional standards boards or commissions that are responsible for the preparation, licensure, and discipline of K-12 educational personnel. All 50 states are members of NASDTEC as well as international jurisdictions.
- GaPSC hosted the Georgia Teacher Leadership, Virtual Professional Learning Community, now in its 4th year. This group of state-approved Teacher Leadership program providers and the GaPSC recently hosted a virtual celebration of teacher leaders by featuring a panel of candidates and completers of state-approved teacher leadership programs. Panelists shared their experiences and lessons learned, including the skills learned in their programs that proved especially helpful in navigating the impact of COVID-19. In addition, they shared their views of what is important for preparation for their P-12 roles. This virtual professional learning community is co-hosted by rotating state approved providers and GaPSC, and serves as an inclusive, collaborative avenue of support for teacher leadership state approved program providers and their partners.
- The Educator Preparation division sent out a survey on advanced degree programs. We are conducting this survey to learn about the factors educators consider when selecting an advanced degree program. Educators invited to respond to the survey have earned a certificate level upgrade by completing an advanced degree in one of three service fields: Curriculum & Instruction, Instructional Technology, or Teacher Leadership. Thus far, the response rate has been good. We plan to close the survey next week and we will use the results to inform policy considerations for certificate upgrades.

VIII. CHAIR REPORT

Chair Sirmans thanked everyone for coming. He also thanked Dr. Paul Shaw for his presentation and commented on how hard it has been to get substitute teacher and Paraprofessionals. He also thanked Chuck McCampbell and the entire staff on their efforts in making GaPSC accessible to the public.

IX. RULES INITIATION

Anne Marie Fenton presented the rules for initiation. If approved, these rules will come before the Commission for your consideration to adopt at the December 9, 2021, Commission meeting. Anne Marie asked for questions from Commissioners. Hearing none the motion was presented.

MOTION: (Diane McClearen/ Dr. Franklin Perry) To We request that you initiate the rule making process to 1) amend the current rules in Chapter 505-2- Certification, effective January 1, 2022, as follows: 505-2-.90, and

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505-2-.173; (2) amend the current rules in Chapter 505-3- Educator Preparation Rules, effective January 1, 2022, as follows: 505-3-.01; and (3) amend the current rules in Chapter 505-6- Professional Practices, effective January 1, 2022, as follows: 505-6-.01.

PSC ACTION: Approved

X. 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 45 *Probable Cause* cases during the October 13, 2021, meeting and brought the following recommendations on behalf of the committee:

<u>CASE</u>	<u>STANDARDS VIOLATED</u>	<u>RECOMMENDATION</u>
21-2-688	1	Reprimand
21-6-1233	1	Reprimand
21-6-1321	5a2,5a5	Reprimand
21-7-36	1,4.5a2	Reprimand
21-8-124	1,5a7	Reprimand
21-8-140	1	Reprimand
21-8-173	1,5a2	Reprimand
21-8-183	1,5a7	Reprimand
21-8-248	1,5a7	Reprimand
21-9-309	1,4	NPC
21-9-339	1, 5a7	NPC
19-6-1889	1,5a7,9	Revoke
19-6-1931	1,5a7.9	Revoke
19-9-499	1,4,8,9, 5a7	Revoke
20-1-1021	1, 8, & 9	Reprimand
20-1-1022	1, 2, 8 & 9	Reprimand
20-1-1023	1, 2, 8, & 9	Reprimand
20-1-1083	4,8,9,5a5,5a7	Revoke
20-7-71	1,8,9	NPC
21-2-707	2, 9, 5a7	Reprimand
21-4-972	4, 9, 5a7	Reprimand
21-4-1008	9, 5a7	Suspension 5 days
21-4-1021	1,4,8,9	Reprimand
21-4-1030	4, 5, 9, 5a7	Reprimand
21-5-1088	9, 5a7	Suspension 1 year

<u>CASE</u>	<u>STANDARDS VIOLATED</u>	<u>RECOMMENDATION</u>
21-5-1108	2, 9	NPC
21-6-1257	8, 9, 5a7	Suspension 90 days
21-6-1303	3,9,5a7	Suspension 1 year
21-6-1327	4,9	Suspension 5 days
21-6-1335	1, 2, 9, 5a7	Revoke
21-7-6	4,9,5a7	Suspension 1 year
21-7-9	4, 9, 5a7	Suspension 20 days
21-7-25	4,8,9,5a7	Reprimand
21-7-40	1,2,9,5a7	Suspension 10 days
21-7-53	2, 9, 5a7	Reprimand
21-7-54	9	Suspension 90 days
21-7-60	9, 5a7	Suspension 90 days
21-7-64	2,9	Reprimand
21-7-66	4,8,9	Reprimand
21-8-128	4,8,9	Reprimand
21-8-134	5a2, 5a5	NPC
21-8-135	5a2, 5a5	Reprimand
21-8-160	3,9	Suspension 1 year
21-9-284	1,5a7,8,9	Revoke
21-9-343	1,4,5a7,8,9	Reprimand

2. Chair Townsend reported that the Educator Ethics Review Committee reviewed 15 *Settlement Agreements* and brought the following recommendations on behalf of the Committee:

<u>CASE</u>	<u>SANCTION</u>
20-9-284	Reprimand
21-3-912	Suspension 5 days
21-3-923	Reprimand
21-4-1019	Suspension 10 days
21-5-1098	Suspension 20 days
21-5-1118	Suspension 10 days
21-5-1140	Suspension 1 year
21-5-1156	Suspension 10 days
21-5-1180	Suspension 90 days
21-6-1250	Suspension 1 year
21-6-1268	Suspension 5 days
21-6-1308	Suspension 1 year
21-7-57	Reprimand
21-7-58	Reprimand
21-7-79	Reprimand

3. Chair Townsend 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>
18-5-1541	Suspension 3 days	Accept
18-7-73	Suspension 10 days	Accept
19-3-1211	Suspension 20 days	Accept
19-4-1467	Suspension 10 days	Accept
19-5-1728	Reprimand	Accept
19-6-1776	Suspension 5 days	Accept
19-7-48	Suspension 20 days	Accept
19-8-179	Reprimand	Accept
19-12-850	Suspension 10 days	Accept
20-1-933	Reprimand	Accept
20-1-951	Suspension 60 days	Accept
20-2-1175	Suspension 20 days	Accept
20-2-1239	Suspension 1 year	Accept
20-3-1337	Reprimand	Accept
20-3-1340	Suspension 5 days	Accept
20-3-1380	Suspension 45 days	Accept
20-5-1526	Warning	Accept
20-5-1582	Reprimand	Accept
20-9-231	Suspension 1 year	Accept
20-11-467	Suspension 75 days	Accept
20-11-504	NPC	Accept
20-12-540	Suspension 128 days	Accept
21-2-752	Reprimand	Accept
21-3-821	Reprimand	Accept
21-5-1176	Suspension 30 days	Accept

4. OTHER BUSINESS

The Educator Ethics Review Committee recommended approval of the 4 *Other Business Report* as follows:

<u>CASE</u>	<u>FINDINGS OF FACTS</u>	<u>EERC RECOMMENDATION</u>
NCO 19-7-6	*Original sanction: Revocation/ Voluntary Surrender	Accept
21-6-1302	Expand current investigation.	Expand
21-7-31	Failure to respond.	Hold New App
21-7-76	Failed to provide requested docs.	Hold New App
21-5-1110	Educator has now executed a Voluntary Surrender	Accept

5. The Educator Ethics Review Committee recommended approval of the *Preliminary Investigative Determination Report* consisting of 67 new complaints received during the months of September and October

2021.

6. VOLUNTARY SURRENDER

The Educator Ethics Review Committee recommended approval of 1 *Voluntary Surrender* 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.

CASE	STANDARDS VIOLATED	SANCTION	EERC RECOMMENDATION
21-7-19	2, 9, 5a7	Voluntary Surrender	Accept

7. EXTENSIONS – PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATIVE DETERMINATIONS

The Educator Ethics Review Committee recommended approval of the 56 *Extensions - Preliminary Investigative Determinations* consisting of the following:

21-9-265	21-9-275	21-9-283	21-9-361	21-9-373	21-10-384	21-10-399	21-10-406
21-9-266	21-9-276	21-9-285	21-9-362	21-9-374	21-10-387	21-10-400	21-10-407
21-9-270	21-9-277	21-9-296	21-9-363	21-10-375	21-10-394	21-10-401	21-10-408
21-9-271	21-9-278	21-9-297	21-9-364	21-10-376	21-10-395	21-10-402	21-10-409
21-9-272	21-9-280	21-9-298	21-9-370	21-10-381	21-10-396	21-10-403	21-10-411
21-9-273	21-9-281	21-9-359	21-9-371	21-10-382	21-10-397	21-10-404	21-10-416
21-9-274	21-9-282	21-9-360	21-9-372	21-10-383	21-10-398	21-10-405	21-10-417

8. EXTENSIONS - INVESTIGATIONS

The Educator Ethics Review Committee recommended granting an *Investigative Extension* to the following 370 cases:

WRITTEN COMPLAINT EXTENSIONS							
19-2-1106	20-3-1313	20-5-1590	20-8-190	21-1-610	21-3-929	21-6-1235	21-8-125
19-6-1875	20-3-1315	20-5-1594	20-8-191	21-1-616	21-4-963	21-6-1236	21-8-126
19-7-94	20-3-1316	20-5-1597	20-8-193	21-1-617	21-4-966	21-6-1241	21-8-132
19-7-97	20-3-1318	20-5-1601	20-8-195	21-1-619	21-4-969	21-6-1261	21-8-137
19-7-100	20-3-1319	20-5-1602	20-8-196	21-1-629	21-4-984	21-6-1262	21-8-139
19-7-107	20-3-1321	20-5-1604	20-8-201	21-1-646	21-4-986	21-6-1280	21-8-141
19-7-128	20-3-1322	20-6-1675	20-9-259	21-2-661	21-4-994	21-6-1292	21-8-144
19-7-138	20-3-1325	20-6-1692	20-9-261	21-2-663	21-4-1012	21-6-1295	21-8-145
19-7-142	20-3-1326	20-6-1695	20-10-323	21-2-666	21-4-1024	21-6-1298	21-8-147
19-7-154	20-3-1330	20-6-1698	20-10-335	21-2-670	21-4-1027	21-6-1299	21-8-150
19-8-242	20-3-1331	20-6-1702	20-10-336	21-2-677	21-4-1031	21-6-1302	21-8-151
19-9-376	20-3-1335	20-6-1705	20-10-337	21-2-679	21-4-1032	21-6-1316	21-8-154
19-9-390	20-3-1338	20-6-1706	20-10-338	21-2-686	21-4-1034	21-6-1317	21-8-155
19-9-400	20-3-1379	20-6-1707	20-10-339	21-2-687	21-5-1039	21-6-1325	21-8-158
19-9-464	20-3-1384	20-6-1719	20-10-340	21-2-692	21-5-1041	21-6-1326	21-8-176
19-9-488	20-3-1386	20-6-1722	20-10-341	21-2-695	21-5-1042	21-6-1328	21-8-177
19-10-534	20-3-1387	20-7-41	20-10-343	21-2-698	21-5-1046	21-6-1331	21-8-178

WRITTEN COMPLAINT EXTENSIONS							
19-10-564	20-3-1411	20-7-44	20-10-346	21-2-709	21-5-1052	21-6-1333	21-8-179
19-10-570	20-3-1413	20-7-45	20-10-347	21-2-744	21-5-1053	21-6-1341	21-8-181
19-10-589	20-3-1417	20-7-46	20-10-352	21-2-745	21-5-1065	21-6-1343	21-8-182
19-10-596	20-4-1449	20-7-48	20-10-353	21-2-748	21-5-1079	21-7-3	21-8-196
19-10-609	20-4-1450	20-7-54	20-10-357	21-2-751	21-5-1087	21-7-5	21-8-198
19-10-661	20-4-1453	20-7-57	20-10-360	21-2-756	21-5-1091	21-7-12	21-8-199
19-10-674	20-4-1454	20-7-59	20-10-364	21-2-771	21-5-1101	21-7-16	21-8-210
19-10-683	20-4-1455	20-7-62	20-10-396	21-3-785	21-5-1105	21-7-27	21-8-211
19-10-689	20-4-1464	20-7-66	20-10-397	21-3-786	21-5-1106	21-7-29	21-8-212
19-11-800	20-4-1465	20-7-67	20-10-402	21-3-794	21-5-1107	21-7-30	21-8-213
19-12-857	20-4-1467	20-7-68	20-10-403	21-3-795	21-5-1108	21-7-35	21-8-215
20-1-1047	20-4-1468	20-7-69	20-10-404	21-3-808	21-5-1111	21-7-44	21-8-216
20-1-1057	20-4-1469	20-7-70	20-10-406	21-3-815	21-5-1112	21-7-46	21-8-228
20-1-1060	20-5-1488	20-7-71	20-11-418	21-3-818	21-5-1113	21-7-56	21-8-230
20-1-1062	20-5-1534	20-7-75	20-11-439	21-3-822	21-5-1114	21-7-59	21-8-232
20-1-1069	20-5-1546	20-7-83	20-11-440	21-3-827	21-5-1117	21-7-63	21-8-234
20-1-1080	20-5-1551	20-7-94	20-11-478	21-3-832	21-5-1124	21-7-71	21-8-235
20-1-1081	20-5-1556	20-7-97	20-11-479	21-3-836	21-5-1128	21-7-73	21-8-237
20-1-1086	20-5-1557	20-7-98	20-11-493	21-3-852	21-5-1135	21-7-74	21-8-238
20-1-1089	20-5-1558	20-7-99	20-11-498	21-3-879	21-5-1146	21-7-82	21-8-240
20-1-1090	20-5-1562	20-7-100	20-11-509	21-3-883	21-5-1174	21-7-84	21-8-241
20-1-1091	20-5-1567	20-7-104	20-12-519	21-3-887	21-5-1178	21-7-86	21-8-242
20-1-1096	20-5-1571	20-8-117	20-12-524	21-3-892	21-5-1181	21-7-87	21-8-245
20-1-1103	20-5-1572	20-8-119	20-12-541	21-3-903	21-5-1185	21-8-104	21-8-246
20-1-1105	20-5-1575	20-8-150	20-12-547	21-3-904	21-5-1188	21-8-107	
20-2-1178	20-5-1576	20-8-154	20-12-551	21-3-905	21-5-1190	21-8-108	
20-2-1179	20-5-1578	20-8-177	20-12-552	21-3-906	21-6-1203	21-8-112	
20-2-1250	20-5-1579	20-8-178	20-12-553	21-3-920	21-6-1216	21-8-115	
20-2-1254	20-5-1585	20-8-180	20-12-558	21-3-926	21-6-1224	21-8-118	
20-2-1261	20-5-1587	20-8-183	21-1-605	21-3-928	21-6-1229	21-8-123	

9. **APPLICATIONS FOR CERTIFICATION REPORT**

The Educator Ethics Review Committee recommended to approve a no probable cause determination on 39 cases reflected on the *Applications for Certification Report*.

10. **FINAL DECISIONS BY OPERATION OF LAW**

The Commission reviewed the report, which advised of 21 cases now closed without an appeal for a hearing before an Administrative Law Judge.

13. **FINAL DECISIONS RENDERED BY AN ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE**

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

CASE	ORIGINAL SANCTION	ALJ SANCTION	EERC RECOMMENDATION
19-11-755 20-2-1190	Suspension 1 year / Suspension 90 days	NPC	Accept

20-4-1447	Denial	NPC	Accept
21-2-774	Denial	NPC	Accept

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

PSC ACTION: Approved

Abstentions: Carol S Williams -21-4-1021, 21-7-25, Derek Easterling – 20-11-504, 21-8-243, 21-8-244, 21-9-250, 21-9-334, 21-9-358, Jeanine Bunn – 20-2-1175, 21-8-221, 21-9-256, 21-9-260, 21-9-265, Beth Townsend – 21-7-53, Steve Barker – 21-1-1021, 21-1-1022, 21-2-1023, 21-8-218, Teri Schneider – 21-6-1303, Brian Sirmans-21-9-266, Dr. Franklin Perry- 21-4-1030, Dr. Jennifer Wade-21-9-2777

B. Educator Preparation Standing Committee

Committee Chair, Diane McClearn, presented the report of the Educator Preparation Standing Committee.

EEP	October 2021 Detailed Approval Recommendations
1. Andrew College	As a result of satisfactory progress evident in the June 22, 2021, progress report which addressed areas for improvement (AFIs) cited during the Fall 2020 Developmental Approval Review, the Committee recommends the removal of the AFIs in Standard 1.1 and Standard 5.2 for the Educator Preparation Provider (EPP).
2. Chattahoochee-Flint RESA	As a result of satisfactory progress evident in the August 3, 2021, progress report which addressed AFIs cited during the Spring 2019 Continuing Approval Review, the Committee recommends the removal of the AFIs cited in the following standards for the EPP. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Standard 3.3 • Standard 5.1 • Standard 5.3 • Standard 5.5
3. Covenant College	As a result of satisfactory progress evident in the August 18, 2021, progress report which addressed AFIs cited during the Spring 2019 Continuing Approval Review, the Committee recommends the removal of the AFI in Standard 5.5 for the EPP
4. Muscogee County School District	As a result of satisfactory progress evident in the July 8, 2021, progress report which addressed AFIs cited during the Spring 2018 Continuing Approval Review, the Committee recommends the removal of the AFIs cited in the following standards for the EPP. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Standard 4.3 • Standard 4.4 • Standard 5.1 • Standard 5.3 <p>Additionally, as a result of satisfactory progress resulting in the removal of all remaining AFIs from the Spring 2018 Continuing Approval Review, the</p>

EEP	October 2021 Detailed Approval Recommendations
	Committee recommends reclassifying the approval status from Continuing Approval with Conditions to Continuing Approval for the EPP.
5. Dekalb County Schools	The Committee recommends Developmental Approval for the Reading Endorsement.
6. Metropolitan RESA	The Committee recommends Developmental Approval for the Coaching Endorsement.
7. Georgia College & State	The Committee recommends Developmental Approval for the Computer Science Endorsement.

Chair Sirmans called for approval of the Educator Ethics Review committee report as presented by Chair, Diane McClearen.

PSC ACTION: Approved
 Abstention: Dr. Holley Roberts – Georgia College & State

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Our next Commission meeting will be held on Thursday, November 4th, 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, November 3rd, at 4:00 pm. Chair Sirmans called for the meeting to be adjourned at 10:55 a.m.

PSC ACTION: Approved