

MINUTES

PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS COMMISSION

2 Peachtree Street
5th Floor, PSC Boardroom

Atlanta, Georgia

February 14, 2008

The Georgia Professional Standards Commission (PSC) met on Thursday, February 14, 2008, at 9 a.m.

Members Present

Maria Bradley	Maria Miller	Rose Powell
Sallie Bullock	Lee Muns	Dr. Craig Smith
Stephen Dartt	Dr. Louisa Moffitt	Jeannie Tucker
Jean Ebron	Dr. Mary Outlaw	Dr. Debbie Wilkes

Members Absent

Gary Bechtel	Pamela Greenway
Hester Vasconcelos	Emily Jennette
Dr. Wanda West	

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Wilkes called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. flag and a moment of silence.

II. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Chair Wilkes called for approval of the agenda.

MOTION: (Muns / Powell) To approve agenda.

PSC ACTION: Approved

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chair Wilkes called for approval of the minutes from the January 10, 2008, Commission meeting.

PSC ACTION: Approved

IV. RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

Chair Wilkes recognized the visitors.

- Margaret Elliott, Professional Association of Georgia Educators
- Gayle Wooten, Professional Association of Georgia Educators
- Bill Ware, Georgia Association of Colleges for Teacher Educators
- Alexa North, University of West Georgia
- Fran Swantic, Lincoln Memorial University
- Sandra Thompson, Former Commissioner/University of West Georgia
- Wanda Lynn, Georgia Association of Educators (GAE)
- Sahvondra Averett, Georgia Association of Educators
- Helen Cole, Lincoln Memorial University

V. EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION AWARDS

Chair Wilkes presented Jerry Eads with a 5 Year Service Award and thanked him. Kelly Henson also thanked Jerry and spoke briefly about his service with the state of which the last 3 years have been with the Professional Standards Commission. Jerry has a broad understanding and knowledge of research and data analysis in P-12

3/17/2008

Page 2

education, with particularly strong experience in assessment. We appreciate his work and look forward to his leadership in expanding our research efforts.

VI. COMMISSIONER RECOGNITION AWARD

Chair Wilkes presented Mary Gomez with her picture that hung in our boardroom. She thanked her for her service as a commissioner and for serving as the Chair of the Educator Preparation Committee. Kelly Henson presented Ms. Gomez with a picture of the capitol and thanked her for her service. The inscription on the back of the picture read:

Presented to Mary Gomez as a token of deep appreciation for her leadership and dedicated service as a Commissioner to the Professional Standards Commission from August 2001 through November 2007.

VII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

Commissioner Maria Miller, gave a preliminary review of the Cases.

1. Ms. Miller reported that the Committee reviewed 48 ***Probable Cause*** cases during its February 13, 2008, meeting and brought the following recommendations on behalf of the Committee excluding case # 7-10-341:

#	CASE #	Applicant	STANDARDS VIOLATED	RECOMMENDATION
1	06-11-562	Applicant	Criminal Acts Professional Conduct	No Probable Cause
2	07-6-1477	Applicant	Criminal Acts Misrepresentation or Falsification	Deny
3	07-6-1509	Property Rights	Professional Conduct	Revoke
4	07-6-1564	Property Rights	Criminal Acts Misrepresentation or Falsification	Reprimand
5	07-6-1660	Applicant	Criminal Acts Professional Conduct	Deny
6	07-7-38	Property Rights	Criminal Acts Misrepresentation or Falsification	Reprimand
7	07-8-135	Property Rights	Criminal Acts Misrepresentation or Falsification Failure to Make a Required Report	Reprimand
8	07-9-191	Applicant	Criminal Acts	Deny
9	07-9-247	Property Rights	Criminal Acts Misrepresentation or Falsification Failure to Make a Required Report Professional Conduct Action Taken in Another State	Suspend One Year

#	CASE #	Applicants	STANDARDS VIOLATED	RECOMMENDATION
10	07-9-262	Applicant	Action Taken - Out of State Certificate Professional Conduct	Deny
11	07-11-357	Applicant	Criminal Acts Misrepresentation or Falsification	Deny
12	07-11-438	Property Rights	Criminal Acts Misrepresentation or Falsification	Reprimand
13	07-12-505	Applicant	No Violations	No Probable Cause
14	07-12-511	Applicant	Criminal Acts	Reprimand
15	07-5-1263	Property Rights	Misrepresentation or Falsification Public Funds and Property Professional Conduct	Suspend One Year
16	07-5-1285	Property Rights	Abuse of Students Professional Conduct	Suspend 20 Contract Days
17	07-5-1287	Property Rights	Abuse of Students Professional Conduct	Suspend 20 Contract Days
18	07-5-1335	Property Rights	Confidential Information DOE Rule 160-3-1-.07	No Probable Cause
19	07-5-1336	Property Rights	Confidential Information DOE Rule 160-3-1-.07	Suspend 10 Contract Days
20	07-6-1398	Property Rights	Abuse of Students Professional Conduct	Suspend 5 Contract Days
21	07-6-1648	Property Rights	Misrepresentation or Falsification IDEA Regulations	No Probable Cause
22	07-7-42	Property Rights	Abuse of Students Professional Conduct	Suspend 5 Contract Days
23	07-8-104	Property Rights	NO VIOLATIONS	Suspend One Year
24	07-8-132	Property Rights	Abuse of Students	Reprimand
25	07-8-143	Property Rights	Misrepresentation or Falsification Public Funds and Property Professional Conduct	Suspend 20 Contract Days
26	07-8-146	Property Rights	Misrepresentation or Falsification Public Funds and Property Professional Conduct	Suspend 20 Contract Days
27	07-9-212	Property Rights	Abuse of Students Professional Conduct	Suspend 5 Contract Days
28	07-10-305	Property Rights	OCGA 20-2-1184 Failure to Make a Required Report	No Probable Cause
29	07-10-306	Property Rights	Abuse of Students Professional Conduct	No Probable Cause
30	07-10-307	Property Rights	Professional Conduct	Suspend 5 Contract Days
31	07-10-314	Property Rights	Abuse of Students Professional Conduct	Reprimand
32	07-10-318	Property Rights	Alcohol or Drugs Professional Conduct	Suspend One Year
33	07-10-341	Property Rights	Abuse of Students	Reprimand

#	CASE #	Applicants	STANDARDS VIOLATED	RECOMMENDATION
34	07-10-342	Property Rights	Professional Conduct	Suspend 90 Contract Days
35	07-10-351	Property Rights	Criminal Acts Misrepresentation or Falsification Failure to Make a Required Report	Reprimand
36	07-11-384	Property Rights	Criminal Acts Alcohol or Drugs Professional Conduct	Revoke
37	07-11-387	Property Rights	Misrepresentation or Falsification Professional Conduct	Reprimand
38	07-11-398	APPLICANT	Misrepresentation or Falsification	No Probable Cause
39	07-11-399	Property Rights	Abuse of Students Professional Conduct	Suspend 90 Contract Days
40	07-11-419	Property Rights	Criminal Acts Misrepresentation or Falsification Failure to Make a Required Report	Reprimand
41	07-11-420	Property Rights	Abuse of Students Professional Conduct	Suspend 5 Contract Days
42	07-11-445	Property Rights	Abuse of Students Misrepresentation or Falsification Public Funds and Property Professional Conduct	Suspend One Year
43	07-11-457	Property Rights	Professional Conduct	Reprimand
44	07-11-458	Property Rights	Abuse of Students	No Probable Cause
45	07-12-478	APPLICANT	Misrepresentation or Falsification	Deny
46	07-12-578	Property Rights	Misrepresentation or Falsification Public Funds and Property Professional Conduct	Suspend 90 Contract Days
47	07-12-599	Property Rights	Professional Conduct	Suspend 10 Contract Days
48	07-12-606	Property Rights	Alcohol or Drugs Professional Conduct	Suspend One Year

PSC ACTION: Approved

CASE #07-10-341

MOTION: (Dartt / Ebron) To amend the EERC recommendation to a Reprimand.

ACTION: Approved

2. Ms. Miller reported that the Educator Ethics Review Committee reviewed 6 *Initial Decisions* and brought the

3/17/2008

Page 5

following recommendations on behalf of the Committee:

CASE #	STANDARDS VIOLATED	PROBABLE CAUSE SANCTION	ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE SANCTION	RECOMMENDATION
05-9-399	Confidential Information Misrepresentation or Falsification Failure to Make a Required Report Professional Conduct	Suspend – 40 Contract Days	Suspend – 10 Contract Days	Accept
05-9-400	Confidential Information Misrepresentation or Falsification Failure to Make a Required Report Professional Conduct	Suspend – 20 Contract Days	Suspend – 2 Contract Days	Accept
05-9-401	Confidential Information Misrepresentation or Falsification Failure to Make a Required Report Professional Conduct	Suspend – 20 Contract Days	Suspend – 2 Contract Days	Accept
05-10-512	Confidential Information Misrepresentation or Falsification Failure to Make a Required Report Professional Conduct	Suspend – 20 Contract Days	Suspend – 10 Contract Days	Accept
06-3-1072	Abandonment of Contract Professional Conduct	Suspend – 90 Contract Days	Suspend – 90 Contract Days	No Action Pending Amended Decision
06-5-1246	Criminal Acts Alcohol or Drugs Professional Conduct	Revocation	Revocation	Accept

PSC ACTION: Approved

3. Ms. Miller reported that the Educator Ethics Review Committee reviewed 4 *Petitions Issues* and brought the following recommendations on behalf of the Committee:

CASE NUMBER	REQUEST	PREVIOUS SANCTION	PREVIOUS VIOLATION	RECOMMENDATION
07-5-1344	Right to Reapply	Revoked: 4/27/2003	Professional Conduct	Deny
07-6-1654	Right to Reapply	Revoked: 7/11/2002	Criminal Acts Professional Conduct	Deny
07-9-260	Right to Reapply	Revoked: 9/17/2004	Criminal Acts Misrepresentation or Falsification	Grant
07-12-597	Right to Reapply	Revoked: 6/13/2002	Criminal Acts Public Funds and Property Professional Conduct	Grant

PSC ACTION: Approved

4. Ms. Miller reported that the Educator Ethics Review Committee reviewed 10 *Settlement Agreements* and brought the following recommendations on behalf of the Committee:

#	CASE NUMBER	SANCTION	RECOMMENDATION
1	07-5-1209	Suspension - 20 Contract Days April 30, 2007 – May 25, 2007	Accept
2	07-6-1489	Reprimand	Accept
3	07-6-1493	Reprimand	Accept
4	07-7-67	Reprimand	Accept
5	07-8-131	Reprimand	Accept
6	07-8-167	Suspension – 20 Contract Days May 1, 2008 – May 28, 2008	Accept
7	07-9-196	Reprimand	Accept
8	07-9-257	Reprimand	Accept
9	07-10-309	Reprimand	Accept
10	07-10-346	Reprimand	Accept

PSC ACTION: Approved

5. Ms. Miller reported that the Educator Ethics Review Committee reviewed 16 *Negotiated Settlement Agreements* and brought the following recommendations on behalf of the Committee:

CASE NUMBER	STANDARDS VIOLATED	PROBABLE CAUSE SANCTION	NEGOTIATED SANCTION	RECOMMENDATION
04-6-1809	Professional Conduct	Suspension – 1 Month	Suspension – 5 Contract Days -3/3/08 – 3/7/08	Accept
06-8-195	Abuse of Students Alcohol or Drugs Professional Conduct	Revocation	No Probable Cause	Accept
06-11-534	Abandonment of Contract Professional Conduct	Suspension – 90 Contract Days	Suspension – 60 Contract Days	Accept
07-2-985	Misrepresentation or Falsification Failure to Make a Required Report Professional Conduct Action Taken in Another State	Suspension – 90 Contract Days	Suspension – 5 Contract Days	Accept
07-3-1069	Criminal Acts Abuse of Students Professional Conduct Action Taken in Another State	Denial	Reprimand	Reject

CASE NUMBER	STANDARDS VIOLATED	PROBABLE CAUSE SANCTION	NEGOTIATED SANCTION	RECOMMENDATION
07-3-1113	Abuse of Students	Reprimand	No Probable Cause	Accept
07-4-1177	Professional Conduct	Reprimand	No Probable Cause	Reject
07-5-1265	Confidential Information Professional Conduct	Suspension – 5 Contract Days	Warning	Reject
07-5-1266	Confidential Information Professional Conduct	Suspension – 10 Contract Days	Warning	Reject
07-6-1387	Criminal Acts Misrepresentation or Falsification Failure to Make a Required Report	Reprimand	Warning	Accept
07-6-1462	Criminal Acts Misrepresentation or Falsification	Denial	Reprimand	Accept
07-6-1503	Action Taken Against Out of State Certificate	Denial	Reprimand	Reject
07-6-1581	Abuse of Students Professional Conduct	Reprimand	No Probable Cause	Reject
07-6-1650	Misrepresentation or Falsification Professional Conduct	Suspension – 5 Contract Days	Suspension – 5 Contract Days	Accept
07-7-66	Abuse of Students Professional Conduct	Revocation	Suspension – One Year	Reject
07-7-70	Confidential Information Professional Conduct	Suspension – 10 Contract Days	No Probable Cause	Reject

PSC ACTION: Approved

6. Ms. Miller reported that the Educator Ethics Review Committee reviewed 1 ***Voluntary Surrender/Voluntary Denial*** and brought the following recommendation on behalf of the Committee:

CASE NUMBER	SANCTION	STANDARDS VIOLATED	RECOMM.
07-12-616	Revocation	Abuse of Students Professional Conduct	Accept

PSC ACTION: Approved

7. The Educator Ethics Review Committee recommended approval of the ***Preliminary Investigative Determination Report*** consisting of 63 new complaints received during the months of January and February 2008.

PSC ACTION: Approved**8. EXTENSIONS – PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATIVE DETERMINATIONS**

3/17/2008

Page 8

The Educator Ethics Review Committee recommended approval of the 31 Extensions - Preliminary Investigative Determinations consisting of the following:

#	CASE #	Complaint Received	#	CASE #	Complaint Received
1.	08-1-629	December 31, 2007	18.	08-1-654	January 10, 2008
2.	08-1-630	January 2, 2008	19.	08-1-655	January 10, 2008
3.	08-1-631	January 2, 2008	20.	08-1-656	January 10, 2008
4.	08-1-632	January 3, 2008	21.	08-1-657	January 10, 2008
5.	08-1-633	January 3, 2008	22.	08-1-658	January 11, 2008
6.	08-1-634	January 4, 2008	23.	08-1-659	January 11, 2008
7.	08-1-635	January 4, 2008	24.	08-1-660	January 14, 2008
8.	08-1-636	January 4, 2008	25.	08-1-661	January 14, 2008
9.	08-1-637	January 7, 2008	26.	08-1-662	January 14, 2008
10.	08-1-638	January 7, 2008	27.	08-1-663	January 14, 2008
11.	08-1-639	January 7, 2008	28.	08-1-664	January 14, 2008
12.	08-1-640	January 7, 2008	29.	08-1-665	January 14, 2008
13.	08-1-641	January 7, 2008	30.	08-1-666	January 14, 2008
14.	08-1-642	January 7, 2008	31.	08-1-708	December 26, 2007
15.	08-1-651	December 28, 2007			
16.	08-1-652	January 9, 2008			
17.	08-1-653	January 9, 2008			

PSC ACTION: Approved

9. EXTENSIONS - INVESTIGATIONS

The Educator Ethics Review Committee recommended granting and *Investigative Extension* to the following 66 Written Complaint cases and 47 Application cases:

WRITTEN COMPLAINT EXTENSIONS:

07-11-400	07-8-106	07-10-343	07-8-162	07-11-390	07-6-1393	07-8-147	07-11-408	07-8-103	07-11-385
07-11-422	07-8-122	07-11-389	07-8-171	07-11-395	07-6-1577	07-9-237	07-11-423	07-8-108	07-11-386
07-5-1340	07-8-173	07-11-406	07-8-172	07-11-404	07-6-1579	07-10-298	07-11-447	07-8-120	07-11-448
07-6-1525	07-9-205	07-11-424	07-9-258	07-11-407	07-7-40	07-10-337	07-12-479	07-9-217	
07-6-1526	07-9-210	07-11-425	07-9-259	07-15-480	07-8-110	07-10-349	07-6-1516	07-9-229	
07-6-1582	07-10-325	07-11-449	07-9-272	07-5-1249	07-8-118	07-11-383	07-6-1517	07-9-239	
07-7-41	07-10-332	07-12-482	07-10-315	07-6-1373	07-8-137	07-11-402	07-7-37	07-10-345	

APPLICATION CASE EXTENSIONS:

07-6-1639	07-11-435	07-12-526	07-12-540	07-12-554
07-6-1658	07-12-513	07-12-527	07-12-542	07-12-555
07-7-6	07-12-514	07-12-528	07-12-543	07-12-556
07-7-51	07-12-516	07-12-529	07-12-546	07-12-557
07-8-145	07-12-517	07-12-533	07-12-547	07-12-558
07-9-204	07-12-518	07-12-534	07-12-549	07-12-760
07-9-283	07-12-520	07-12-535	07-12-550	08-1-670
07-11-427	07-12-521	07-12-536	07-12-551	
07-11-431	07-12-522	07-12-537	07-12-552	
07-11-433	07-12-525	07-12-538	07-12-553	

PSC ACTION: Approved

10. APPLICATIONS FOR CERTIFICATION REPORT

The Educator Ethics Review Committee recommended to approve a no probable cause determination on all 15 cases reflected on the *Applications for Certification Report*.

PSC ACTION:

11. REVIEW HEARING EXTENSIONS

The Commission reviewed the *Review Hearing Extensions Report* concerning 6 hearing cases. An Administrative Law Judge rendered Initial Decisions on each case referenced in the report. The report indicates Orders were issued.

PSC ACTION: Approved

12. STUDENT LOAN SUSPENSION / REINSTATEMENTS

The Commission reviewed the report, which indicated that there were 4 certificates suspended from January 10, 2008 through February 14, 2008. There were 5 certificates that had been reinstated because restitution is now being made on those student loans. There were 4 issues where notifications had been received to suspend but releases were received prior to the actual suspension being implemented. Restitution is now being made on those student loans.

13. FINAL DECISIONS BY OPERATION OF LAW

The Commission reviewed the report, which advised of 6 cases now closed without an appeal for a hearing before an Administrative Law Judge. The report also advised that there were no cases closed without an appeal for a review hearing before the Commission.

14. OTHER BUSINESS

The Commission reviewed the proposed settlement agreement regarding case # 07-3-1100. The Educator

Ethics Review Committee recommended to approve the retro-active suspension dates based on unemployment.

VIII. REVIEW HEARINGS

- | | |
|-----------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Harold Oberg | - Educator (Case # 06-3-1034) |
| Wayne Magnum | - Hearing Officer |
| Rebecca Mick | - PSC Attorney |
| Norman Slawski | - Attorney |

MOTION: (Miller / Muns) To go into Executive Session and allow PSC staff (Gary Walker, Penny Hannah, Cassandra Moore and Tanis Miller) to remain.

ACTION: Approved

MOTION: (Muns / Miller) To come out of Executive Session and reconvene the Regular Session.

ACTION: Approved

Judge Magnum confirmed that the commission does receive the entire record.

MOTION: (Muns / Bradley) The findings of fact found by the Administrative Law Judge as indicated in the Initial Decision were hereby rejected. Based on a review of the record, the following facts were hereby adopted and incorporated herein: 1. Harold Oberg is employed as a high school Science teacher by the Savannah-Chatham County School System. 2. On or about August 16, 2005, Oberg claimed he had earned a Ph.D. from a "LaSalle University" in Louisiana when he completed an electronic application for Georgia educator certification. 3. The educator listed different dates of attendance on his applications for employment and for certification. Both sets of dates are inconsistent with the dates listed on his "transcript" from LaSalle University. He listed dates of attendance as April 1996 – May 2002, on his school system application. (PSC Ex. 1, p. 5). On the PSC application, the dates listed were May 2000 – May 2002. (PSC Ex. 2, p. 25). However, the official transcript he submitted showed dates of July 7, 1999 – September 15, 2000. (PSC Ex. 2, p. 27). 4. The Certification Operations Manager for the Commission testified that the Commission depends on the Council of Higher Education Accreditation and U.S. Department of Education for their accreditation standards. LaSalle University of Louisiana is not an accredited school and is not recognized by the Georgia Professional Standards Commission. 5. Mr. Oberg was erroneously certified as an L7 and thus entitled to a higher salary, which he received until the error was corrected. 6. Mr. Oberg testified that the courses listed on his LaSalle transcript were actually transfer credits from coursework he completed approximately 18 years earlier at other institutions. (PSC Ex. 2, p. 27; Tr. 75, 78-84, 101, 110). He could not explain why his classes from other institutions had "transferred" to LaSalle with a higher grade than he earned at the other institutions. (Tr. 108). 7. Mr. Oberg testified that he began work on a formal dissertation after 2000 and completed a "verbal" exam via the telephone. He produced some handwritten notes on notebook paper and claimed that these notes constituted his dissertation but that he had not actually completed a written paper. (Petitioner's Ex. 6; Tr. 84, 120). 8. The educator agreed that one could make a reasonable assumption that someone looking at the LaSalle University transcript would believe that he actually took the courses listed, during the dates listed, for the grades listed. He also agreed that he knows a dissertation is a formal paper done in writing and presented at school. (Tr. 105, 109). 9. Oberg was aware that he had not completed a dissertation and nonetheless received a Ph.D. from LaSalle. There were other indications to him that his degree was illegitimate and that LaSalle was not an acceptable institution from which to receive a degree. Nonetheless, he submitted his

application listing the degree and thereafter received pay at an elevated level based on a certificate level which he had not legitimately attained.

The Conclusions of Law found by the Administrative Law Judge as indicated in the Initial Decision were hereby rejected. Based on a review of the record the following conclusions are hereby adopted and incorporated herein: 1. The Commission has adopted a code of ethics for educators, which represent standards of performance and conduct which are generally accepted by educators of this state. O.C.G.A. § 20-2-984.1(a). Educators of this state are required to abide by such code of ethics. O.C.G.A. § 20-2-984.1(b). The code defines unethical conduct justifying disciplinary sanction. PSC Rule 505-6-.01(1). 2. If the Commission finds that there is probable cause for imposing a sanction against the educator, it may recommend any combination of the following: That the educator be warned, reprimanded, monitored or any combination thereof; or That the certificate of the educator be suspended, revoked, or denied. O.C.G.A. § 20-2-984.5(c). 3. Standard 4 of the Code of Ethics for Educators provides in part that: An educator should exemplify honesty and integrity in the course of professional practice. Unethical conduct includes but is not limited to: falsifying, misrepresenting, omitting or erroneously reporting professional qualifications, criminal history, college or staff development credit and/or degrees, academic award, and employment history when applying for employment and/or certification or when recommending an individual for employment, promotion, or certification. Commission Rule 505-6-.01 (3) (d). The Commission found probable cause to believe Mr. Oberg falsified, misrepresented, or erroneously reported his Ph.D. from LaSalle University in Louisiana when he applied for employment and certification since LaSalle was not an accredited school and is not recognized by the Commission. 4. Standard 5 of the Code of Ethics for Educator provides that: An educator entrusted with public funds and property should honor that trust with a high level of honesty, accuracy, and responsibility. Unethical conduct includes but is not limited to: submitting fraudulent requests for reimbursement of expenses or for pay. Commission Rule 505-6-.01 (3) (e). The Commission found probably cause to believe Mr. Oberg violated this standard when he misrepresented his qualifications to obtain a doctorate level certification and receive higher pay than he should have earned. 5. Standard 10 of the Code of Ethics for Educators provides that: An educator should demonstrate conduct that follows generally recognized professional standards. Unethical conduct is any conduct that impairs the certificate holder's ability to function professionally in his or her employment position. Commission Rule 505-6-.01 (3) (j). The Commission found probable cause to believe Mr. Oberg failed to follow generally recognized professional standards when he misrepresented his educational credentials, thus affecting his ability to function in his employment position as parents and the school system can have no confidence in a teacher who cheats to get his doctorate degree by buying it online.

The Commission hereby rejects the modified sanction recommended by the Administrative Law Judge as indicated in the Initial Decision. The Commission concludes that a greater sanction is appropriate in this particular to be consistent with sanctions given in similar cases. The Commission hereby ORDERS that the Georgia educator certificate held by Harold Oberg be suspended for one year effective February 29, 2008 through March 1, 2009 . If the Respondent decides to appeal this decision, he/she must file a petition within 30 days after service of this Final Decision pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 50-13-19.

PSC ACTION: Approved

IX. EXECUTIVE SECRETARY REPORT

A. Kelly Henson told the commissioners that at the last Alliance of Education Agency Heads meeting he was asked to chair a task force on increasing the number of math and science teachers in Georgia. They would like

to have a qualified teacher in every classroom. Their goal is to increase the pool of math and science teachers. They will be looking at different solutions and will take an aggressive approach in solving this problem. The goal is for this task force to compile their work and present findings and recommendations to the Alliance and the Governor by the end of June.

B. Kelly Henson passed out the PSC's new brochure titled "Safeguarding Georgia's Students and Standards". He announced that the PSC is working to enhance the image and branding recognition and information from the PSC. Rick Eiserman and Chuck McCampbell are working with a group of PSC staff members on redesigning our website as well.

C. Kelly Henson shared with the commission pictures that were taken at the Joint Education Boards Liaison Committee (JEBLC) reception which was held on January 28th. Dr. Debbie Wilkes spoke briefly about the JEBLC meeting and reception which the PSC hosted. She thanked Rick Eiserman, John Grant and Renee Shaat for their help in making sure that the meeting and reception ran smoothly. She also thanked Maria Miller for chairing the meeting and she thanked all the commissioners that attended the reception.

D. Kelly Henson gave the commission a brief a overview of personnel changes. Phyllis Payne was moved from Education Staff Specialist – Master Teacher to Education Staff Specialist – Alternative Certification on February 1st. Ginny Elliott will be moved from Education Staff Specialist – Master Teacher to Master Teacher Program Director and Dr. Winifred Nweke will be moved from Research and Evaluation Coordinator to Education Staff Specialist – Master Teacher on February 18th. We will be interviewing for the Program Director for Testing position on February 15th and hope to choose a candidate. We also hope to hire a Director of Management and Business Operations within the next couple of weeks. We will be posting two Education Staff Specialist positions for the Educator Preparation division and one Education Staff Specialist – Master Teacher position.

E. Kelly Henson gave a brief legislative overview.

He thanked Rick Eiserman for attending the meeting of the legislative sub-committee on the Visually Impaired Certification House Bill. The PSC supports the foundation of the bill but as it is, it would effectively remove many teachers when they are ready to renew their certification. We will work to gather additional information on the visually impaired workforce and provide that information to the legislative sub-committee.

Gary Walker is working with Representative Howard Maxwell to point out conflicts in the law regarding Educator Ethics.

Jerry Eads, Chuck McCampbell and Kelly Henson will meet with Representative Brooks Coleman at the capitol today after the commission meeting to present data on teacher workforce.

Representative Brooks Coleman and others have introduced House Resolution 1103. It calls for creating the Joint Study Committee on Teacher Training and Certification. We look forward to sharing the excellent work that is both a part of the Certification Division and Educator Preparation Division. We all share the goal of a qualified teacher in every classroom. It is my hope that House Resolution 1103 will help us achieve that goal.

F. Kelly Henson thanked Jane Huntley, Phyllis Payne and Ginny Elliott for their work on Master Teacher. He also

3/17/2008

Page 13

thanked Governor Perdue and others involved for the tangible reward for that meet the Master Teacher requirements.

A Master Teacher that mentors another teacher will receive an annual stipend of \$500.00. A Master Teacher that serves as an Academic Coach will receive an annual stipend of \$2,000.00. If a teacher maintains their Master Teacher status he/she will receive automatic renewal through the PSC, and all other education agencies will look to the Master Teacher list when appointing teachers to boards, task forces, and committees.

G. Phil Blackwell presented the certification rules for initiation.

MOTION: (Muns / Smith) To initiate rulemaking procedures in accordance with the Georgia Administrative Procedures Act so as to provide for (1) amending the current rules in Chapter 505-2 Certification, effective May 15, 2008 as follows: 505-2-.20 and 505-2-.24.

ACTION: Approved

H. Dr. David Hill presented the Georgia Assessments for the Certification of Educators (GACE) Preliminary Pass Rate Analysis – by Group for the Computer Skills Competency Assessment and test pass rate analysis and interpretive notes.

MOTION: (Miller / Powell) To approve a passing score of 39 for the GACE Field 178 Computer Skill Competency.

ACTION: Approved

Opposed: Stephen Dartt, Jean Ebron

I. Stephen Dartt spoke briefly about the Ethics Review Committee. Dr. Debbie Wilkes attended as well as members of PAGE, GAE and the Georgia School Superintendents Association. Dr. Gary Walker coordinated the meeting. He will take the committee's comments and suggestions and present the committee with recommendations/suggestions.

X. CHAIR REPORT

Our next meeting will be held on March 13th at Lake Blackshear Resort in Cordele, Georgia. Our retreat will convene at 1:30 on Tuesday, March 11th and conclude with the commission meeting on Thursday, March 13th.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Wilkes called for the meeting to be adjourned at 10:45 a.m.

PSC ACTION: Approved