

MINUTES

PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS COMMISSION

Two Peachtree Street

Atlanta, Georgia

June 9, 2011

The Georgia Professional Standards Commission (PSC) met on Thursday, June 9, 2011, at 12:30 p.m.

Members Present

Marci Cawthon

Penny Elkins

Dr. Adrian Epps

Bill Haskin

Meredith Hodges

David Johnson

Rose Powell

Bettina Polite Tate

Dr. Lawrence Walters

Dr. Debbie Wilkes

Valerie Williams

Members Absent

Julia Bernath

Alice Clements

Jeannie Tucker

Stephanie Leggett

Andre Mountain

Pam Walker

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Wilkes 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.

II. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Chair Wilkes called for approval of the agenda.

MOTION: (Elkins / Powell) To approve the agenda.

PSC ACTION: Approved

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chair Wilkes called for approval of the minutes from the May 12, 2011, Commission meeting.

PSC ACTION: Approved

IV. VISITORS

Chair Wilkes welcomed the visitors.

- S. DeVetter, Professional Association of Georgia Educators
- Kristine Brown, Orr Brown Johnson
- John Hooper, Georgia School Superintendents Association

V. EMPLOYEE SERVICE AWARD

Chair Wilkes and Kelly Henson presented Nancy Smith with her 30 Year Service Award and thanked her for her service. They read the following:

Nancy started employment in Georgia state government on December 1, 1980, with the Department of Human Resources. On August 1, 1985, she transferred to the Department of Education, Certification Section as an evaluator trainee. She advanced to an Evaluator, to a Senior Evaluator, to the Certification Program Manager (served in this position from Nov 98 to October 02) and to her current position as a Certification Specialist.

Prior to entering state employment, she taught in DeKalb for a few years in elementary education.

She has seen many, many changes in certification over the years including the creation of PSC on July 1, 1991. She is a dedicated employee who has supported the goals/mission of certifying Georgia educators.

Nancy is an outstanding evaluator who processes more than the expected caseload. She communicates accurate information to customers in a professional and courteous manner. In addition, she always is willing to assist co-workers.

VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

Commissioner Rose Powell of the Educator Ethics Review Committee (EERC) gave a preliminary review of the Cases.

1. Ms. Powell reported that the Committee reviewed 37 ***Probable Cause*** cases during its June 9, 2011, meeting and brought the following recommendations on behalf of the Committee:

<u>CASE</u>	<u>STANDARDS VIOLATED</u>	<u>RECOMMENDATION</u>
11-4-1011	1, 10	Reprimand
11-4-1048	1	Reprimand
10-5-1209	1, 10	Suspension-20 days
10-8-151	4, 10	Suspension-20 days
10-8-158	1, 9	NPC
10-8-168	5,6,10	90 Days
10-8-180	5, 6, 10	20 Days
10-12-554	2, 10	3 Days
10-12-558	2, 4, 10	Discuss
10-12-565	1, 4, 10	Suspension-5 days
10-12-566	1, 10	Extend
10-12-596	1, 2, 4, 10	Revoke
10-12-598	5, 10	20 Days
10-12-632	11	5 Days

<u>CASE</u>	<u>STANDARDS VIOLATED</u>	<u>RECOMMENDATION</u>
11-1-662	5, 6, 10	Suspension-1 Year
11-1-678	3, 10	Suspension-1 year
11-1-712	7, 10, DOE	Suspension-10 Days
11-1-720	7, 10, DOE	Revoke
11-1-721	7, 10, DOE	Revoke
11-2-725	2, 9, 10	Suspension-20 Days
11-2-726	9, 10	20 Days
11-2-727	9, 10	Reprimand
11-2-728	9	Reprimand
11-2-802	2, 10	20 Days
11-3-817	20-2-1184	20 Days
11-3-821	4, 10	Reprimand
11-3-825	10	Reprimand
11-3-835	7, 10, 11	90 Days
11-3-844	1,3,10	Suspension-1 year
11-3-860	2, 10	Suspension-1 year
11-3-861	8, 10	Suspension-1 Year
11-3-880	10	Suspension-5 Days
11-3-885	5, 10	Suspension-10 Days
11-3-888	1, 10	Suspension-10 Days
11-3-895	1 & Unfit	Revocation
11-4-1002	1, 10	NPC
11-4-1006	1,4,10	20 Days

2. Ms. Powell reported that the Educator Ethics Review Committee reviewed 3 *Initial Decisions* and brought the following recommendations on behalf of the Committee:

<u>CASE</u>	<u>STANDARDS VIOLATED</u>	<u>ALJ SANCTION</u>	<u>EERC RECOMMENDATION</u>
08-5-1312	1, 9, 10	Suspension - 45 days	Accept
10-1-772	1, 10	Suspension - 20 days	Accept
10-4-1021	1, 2, 10	Revocation	Accept

3. Ms. Powell reported that the Educator Ethics Review Committee reviewed 1 *Petitions Issue* and brought the following recommendation on behalf of the Committee:

<u>CASE</u>	<u>PREVIOUS SANCTION</u>	<u>EERC RECOMMENDATION</u>
11-3-833	Voluntary Surrender April 2009	Grant

4. Ms. Powell reported that the Educator Ethics Review Committee reviewed 8 *Settlement Agreements* and brought the following recommendations on behalf of the Committee:

<u>CASE</u>	<u>SANCTION</u>	<u>EERC RECOMMENDATION</u>
10-11-470	Suspension - 45 days	Accept
10-11-495	Suspension - 10 days	Accept
10-11-538	Reprimand	Accept
11-1-644	Reprimand	Accept
11-2-723	Reprimand	Accept
11-2-782	Reprimand	Accept
11-3-872	Reprimand	Accept
11-3-887	Suspension - 20 days	Accept

5. Ms. Powell reported that the Educator Ethics Review Committee reviewed 20 *Negotiated Settlement Agreements* and brought the following recommendations on behalf of the Committee:

<u>CASE</u>	<u>NEGOTIATED SANCTION</u>	<u>EERC RECOMMENDATION</u>
08-6-1393	Suspension-1 Year	Accept
08-10-460	Suspension-20 days	Discuss
09-5-1237		
09-2-887	Reprimand	Accept
09-7-30	Suspension-45 days	Accept
09-9-310	Suspension-90 days	Accept
09-9-338	Suspension-1 Year	Accept
09-10-501	Suspension-20 days	Accept
09-12-647	Suspension-20 days	Accept
10-2-894	Suspension-1 Year	Accept
10-3-899	Reprimand	Accept
10-5-1187	Reprimand	Discuss
10-5-1206	Suspension-10 days	Accept
10-6-1292	Reprimand	Accept
10-6-1389	NPC	Discuss
10-6-1436	NPC or Reprimand	Discuss
10-7-33	Voluntary Surrender	Accept
10-7-88	NPC	Reject
10-8-114	Suspension-10 days	Discuss
10-8-169	Suspension-10 days	Discuss
10-8-188	Reprimand	Accept

6. **OTHER BUSINESS**

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

<u>CASE</u>	<u>PREVIOUS SANCTION</u>	<u>EERC RECOMMENDATION</u>
10-5-1232	Approve Retro dates of NCO Suspension	Deny
10-11-527	Denial October 2003	Deny

7. The Commission reviewed 3 *Voluntary Surrenders* 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>
11-3-900	3, 10	Revocation	Accept
11-4-1030	2, 10	Revocation	Accept
11-4-1069	1, 2, 10	Revocation	Accept

8. The Educator Ethics Review Committee recommended approval of the *Preliminary Investigative Determination Report* consisting of 85 new complaints received during the months of May and June 2011.

11-4-1060	11-4-1060	11-5-1089	11-5-1100	11-5-1113	11-5-1124	11-5-1135	11-5-1146
11-4-1061	11-4-1061	11-5-1090	11-5-1101	11-5-1114	11-5-1125	11-5-1136	11-5-1147
11-4-1064	11-4-1064	11-5-1091	11-5-1102	11-5-1115	11-5-1126	11-5-1137	11-5-1148
11-4-1065	11-4-1065	11-5-1092	11-5-1103	11-5-1116	11-5-1127	11-5-1138	11-5-1149
11-4-1066	11-4-1066	11-5-1093	11-5-1104	11-5-1117	11-5-1128	11-5-1139	11-5-1150
11-4-1067	11-4-1067	11-5-1094	11-5-1105	11-5-1118	11-5-1129	11-5-1140	11-5-1151
11-4-1068	11-4-1068	11-5-1095	11-5-1106	11-5-1119	11-5-1130	11-5-1141	11-1-694
11-5-1070	11-5-1070	11-5-1096	11-5-1107	11-5-1120	11-5-1131	11-5-1142	11-6-1213
11-5-1071	11-5-1071	11-5-1097	11-5-1108	11-5-1121	11-5-1132	11-5-1143	
11-5-1072	11-5-1072	11-5-1098	11-5-1111	11-5-1122	11-5-1133	11-5-1144	
11-5-1073	11-5-1073	11-5-1099	11-5-1112	11-5-1123	11-5-1134	11-5-1145	

9. EXTENSIONS – PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATIVE DETERMINATIONS

The Educator Ethics Review Committee recommended approval of the 3 Extensions - Preliminary Investigative Determinations.

10. EXTENSIONS - INVESTIGATIONS

The Educator Ethics Review Committee recommended granting and *Investigative Extension* to the following 81 Written Complaints and 31 cases:

<u>WRITTEN COMPLAINT EXTENSIONS</u>							
10-6-1398	10-11-512	10-12-611	11-1-663	11-1-711	11-2-775	11-3-818	
10-7-34	10-11-513	10-12-614	11-1-673	11-1-713	11-2-793	11-3-834	
10-8-117	10-11-514	10-12-618	11-1-681	11-1-714	11-2-794	11-3-838	

10-8-148	10-11-515	10-12-619	11-1-690	11-1-715	11-2-800	11-3-842	
10-8-149	10-12-553	10-12-624	11-1-694	11-1-716	11-2-801	11-3-845	
10-8-150	10-12-562	10-12-625	11-1-695	11-1-717	11-2-803	11-3-851	
10-9-331	10-12-564	11-1-642	11-1-696	11-1-718	11-2-804	11-3-859	
10-11-478	10-12-569	11-1-643	11-1-697	11-1-719	11-2-806	11-4-1007	
10-11-502	10-12-591	11-1-646	11-1-707	11-2-735	11-3-811	11-4-1009	
10-11-506	10-12-593	11-1-648	11-1-708	11-2-736	11-3-813		
10-11-507	10-12-606	11-1-654	11-1-709	11-2-737	11-3-815		
10-11-511	10-12-607	11-1-659	11-1-710	11-2-743	11-3-816		
APPLICATION CASE EXTENSIONS							
10-12-585	10-12-623	11-3-876					

11. **APPLICATIONS FOR CERTIFICATION REPORT**

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

12. **REVIEW HEARING EXTENSIONS**

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

13. **STUDENT LOAN SUSPENSION / REINSTATEMENTS**

The Commission reviewed the report, which indicated that there were no certificates suspended from May 12, 2011 and through June 9, 2011. There were 12 certificates that had been *reinstated* because restitution is now being made on those student loans. There were no issues where notification had been received to suspend but releases were received prior to the actual suspension being implemented.

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

The Commission reviewed the report, which advised of 12 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 Wilkes called for approval of the Educator Ethics Review Committee report as presented by Rose Powell excluding case #'s 10-5-1232, 10-5-1187, 10-7-88, 10-6-1389, 10-6-1436, 10-8-169, 10-8-114, 09-5-1237, 08-10-460, 11-1-662 and 10-12-558.

MOTION: (Epps / Powell) To approve the Educator Ethics Review Committee report as presented by Rose Powell excluding case #'s 10-5-1232, 10-5-1187, 10-7-88, 10-6-1389, 10-6-1436, 10-8-169, 10-8-114, 09-5-1237, 08-10-460, 11-1-662 and 10-12-558.

PSC ACTION: Approved

Probable Cause Case # 10-12-558

MOTION: (Elkins / Cawthon) To accept a 20 Day Suspension.

PSC ACTION: Approved

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Opposed: Bill Haskin

Probable Cause Case # 11-1-662

MOTION: (Epps / Johnson) To change the PSC staff suggestion from a Suspension of 1 Year to a Suspension of 2 Years.

PSC ACTION: Approved

Opposed: Marci Cawthon, Valerie Williams, Bettina Tate, Rose Powell

Negotiated Settlement Agreement # 08-10-460 and 09-5-1237

MOTION: (Johnson / Williams) To reject the Negotiated Settlement Agreement of a 20 Day Suspension.

PSC ACTION: Approved

Negotiated Settlement Agreement # 10-8-114

MOTION: (Johnson / Elkins) To accept the Negotiated Settlement Agreement of a 10 Day Suspension.

PSC ACTION: Approved

Opposed: Bettina Tate, Valerie Williams

Negotiated Settlement Agreement # 10-8-169

MOTION: (Powell / Johnson) To accept the Negotiated Settlement Agreement of a 10 Day Suspension.

PSC ACTION: Approved

Opposed: Bettina Tate, Valerie Williams

Negotiated Settlement Agreement # 10-8-1436

MOTION: (Powell / Johnson) To reject the Negotiated Settlement Agreement of a No Probable Cause.

PSC ACTION: Approved

Negotiated Settlement Agreement # 10-6-1389

MOTION: (Powell / Johnson) To reject the Negotiated Settlement Agreement of a No Probable Cause.

PSC ACTION: Approved

Negotiated Settlement Agreement # 10-7-88

MOTION: (Powell / Johnson) To accept the Negotiated Settlement Agreement of a No Probable Cause.

PSC ACTION: Approved

Opposed: Valerie Williams, Bill Haskin, Bettina Tate, Valerie Williams

Negotiated Settlement Agreement # 10-5-1187

MOTION: (Johnson / Walters) To accept the Negotiated Settlement Agreement of a Reprimand.

PSC ACTION: Approved

Opposed: Bill Haskin

Other Business # 10-5-1232

The One Year Suspension accepted at the May meeting was suppose to be retroactive per the agreement.

MOTION: (Powell / Tate) To reject the retroactive portion of the suspension.

PSC ACTION: Approved

Abstention: Bill Haskin

B. Educator Preparation Standing Committee

Committee Chair, Dr. Penny Elkins, presented the report of the Educator Preparation Standing Committee.

DEVELOPMENTAL APPROVAL	
Agency 10102	The Committee recommends Developmental Approval for the professional education unit and the following preparation programs: • Coaching Endorsement Program (P-12; Initial; Endorsement) • Educational Leadership Program (Rising Stars) (P-12; Initial; certification only; Performance based PL6 & PL7)
Agency 10108	The Committee recommends Developmental Approval for the professional education unit and the GaTAPP program (Certification only; Initial).
Institution 10058	The Committee recommends Developmental Approval for the professional education unit and the Special Education/Early Childhood Education Program (P-5).
Institution 10105	The Committee recommends Developmental Approval of the Middle Grades Education Program (4-8; Initial; Baccalaureate; Certification only).
Institution 3060	The Committee recommends Developmental Approval of the following preparation programs: • M.A.T. (4-8; Middle Grades) and (6-12 and P-12; Secondary Programs) • Educational Leadership (M.Ed.; Initial)
Institution 3090	The Committee recommends Developmental Approval of the following preparation programs: • K-5 Math Endorsement Program • K-5 Science Endorsement Program • Special Education Preschool Endorsement Program
Institution 5390	The Committee recommends Developmental Approval of the Online Teaching Endorsement Program.
Institution 5780	The Committee recommends Developmental Approval of the Birth Through Five Program – Montessori & Traditional (B-5 Initial; Baccalaureate) and removal of the area for improvement cited for Standard 3.
RESA 8524	The Committee recommends Developmental Approval of the following preparation programs: • Gifted Endorsement Program • Gifted Endorsement Program (Hybrid)
RESA 8544	The Committee recommends Developmental Approval of the following preparation programs:

	• K-5 Mathematics Endorsement Program • K-5 Science Endorsement Program
RESA 8584	The Committee recommends Developmental Approval of the K-5 Science Endorsement.
RESA 8624	The Committee recommends Developmental Approval of the Coaching Endorsement.
RESA 8644	The Committee recommends Developmental Approval of the following programs: • K-5 Science Endorsement Program • Online Teaching Endorsement Program
RESA 8844	The Committee recommends Developmental Approval of the following preparation programs: • K-5 Mathematics Endorsement Program • K-5 Science Endorsement Program
Institution 3060	The Committee recommends Continuing Approval of the professional education unit and the following preparation programs: • Early Childhood Education (P-5; Initial, Bachelor of Arts) • Early Childhood Education (P-5; Initial, Bachelor of Science)
Institution 5330	The Committee recommends Continuing Approval of following preparation programs: • Agriculture Education (6-12; Initial; Baccalaureate and Certification Only) • Biology: Science Education (6-12; Initial; M.A.T.) • English Education (6-12; Initial; M.A.T.) • Family & Consumer Sciences Education (6-12; Initial; Baccalaureate and Certification Only) • Health & Physical Education (P-12; Initial: Baccalaureate) • History Education (6-12; Initial; M.A.T.) • Mathematics Education (P-12; Initial; M.A.T.) • Middle Grades Education (4-8; Advanced; Masters) • School Counselor Education (P-12; Initial; Certification Only; Masters) • School Counselor Education (P-12; Advanced; Specialist) • Special Education General Curriculum/Early Childhood (P-5; Advanced; Masters) • Special Education General Curriculum/Early Childhood (P-5; Initial; Baccalaureate)

Institution 3090	The Committee recommends Continuing Approval of the following preparation programs: • Birth through Five (Ages 0 -5; Initial; Bachelors Degree) • Educational Leadership (Initial; Specialist degree program [PL6]; Certification-only program) • Educational Leadership (Initial, Doctoral degree program [PL7]; Certification-only program)
Institution 1326	The Committee recommends Continuing Approval of the professional education unit and the Early childhood Education Program (P-5; Initial; Baccalaureate; Certification Only).
PROGRESS REPORT	
Institution 1351	The Committee recommends that the Progress Report is Satisfactory and the areas for improvement be removed.

Chair Wilkes called for approval of the Educator Preparation Committee report as presented by Dr. Penny Elkins.

PSC ACTION: Approved

Abstention: Dr. Penny Elkins – Institution 10058 and 3090

VII. CHAIR REPORT

Chair Wilkes announced the following:

- Dr. Penny Elkins is Senior Vice President for Enrollment Management at Mercer University
- Rose Powell is administrator in charge of summer school being held at Houston County High School in Warner Robins, Georgia.
- The Executive Committee met for Kelly Henson's evaluation. They received a 4.5 out of 5.0 feedback from the PSC staff. The executive committee requested that PSC work on board development which will include scheduling a commission/staff retreat during FY 2012.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Wilkes called for the meeting to be adjourned at 2:20 pm.

PSC ACTION: Approved