

The actions delineated below were taken in open session of the EPSB at the May 12, 2025, virtual meeting.

**Education Professional Standards Board (EPSB)
Minutes
Kentucky Department of Education
300 Sower Boulevard, 5th Floor, Frankfort, KY 40601**

Call to Order

Chair Amber Snell called the meeting to order at 4:03 p.m. ET. Chair Snell read the EPSB Mission Statement.

Roll Call

The following Board members were present during the May 12, 2025, EPSB meeting: Scottie Collier, Elijah Edwards, Cathy Gunn, Priscilla Keller, Jacqueline Mayfield, Lori McKeehan, Justin Mitchell, Corinne Murphy, Merideth Pittman, Lisa Rudzinski, and Chair Amber Snell.

CPE: Amanda Ellis

Consent Item

Approval of April 22, 2025, EPSB Meeting Minutes

2025-028

Motion made by Ms. Jacqueline Mayfield seconded by Dr. Justin Mitchell to approve the April 22nd meeting minutes.

Vote: Unanimous

Action Item

Education Professional Standards Board Meeting Schedule

2025-029

Motion made by Ms. Lori McKeehan seconded by Mr. Elijah Edwards to approve the EPSB meeting schedule.

Vote: Unanimous

Motion made by Dr. Justin Mitchell seconded by Ms. Priscilla Keller, to go into closed session to conduct a character and fitness review and to review potential actions relating to complaints and reports in accordance with KRS 61.810(1) (c) & (j). The Board also reviewed pending litigation.

Vote: Unanimous

Motion made by Dr. Amanda Ellis seconded by Dr. Justin Mitchell, to go into closed session to conduct a character and fitness review and to review potential actions relating to complaints and reports in accordance with KRS 61.810(1) (c) & (j). The Board also reviewed pending litigation.

Vote: *Unanimous*

Motion made by Ms. Cathy Gunn seconded by Ms. Priscilla Keller, to return to open session.

Vote: *Unanimous*

The following board members concurred with the actions as listed below with the noted exceptions:

Scottie Collier, Eli Edwards, Amanda Ellis, Cathy Gunn, Priscilla Keller, Jacqueline Mayfield, Justin Mitchell, Corinne Murphy, Merideth Pittman, Lisa Rudzinski and Amber Snell.

Attorneys present were Cody Hollan, Madison Snelling, Norah Softic, Cassie Trueblood, Thomas Wall, and Phillip West.

Initial Case Review

Case Number

Decision

1. 2556659 Ryan Jones

Further Investigation

2. 2556800 Cyr Wilson

Approve PRC Agreed Order stating upon acceptance of this agreement by the Board, Certificate Number 201186581 is permanently revoked. Wilson shall neither apply for, nor be issued, a teaching, administrative and/or emergency certificate in the Commonwealth of Kentucky at any time in the future.

3. 2556686 Brett Wilson

Further Investigation

4. 2556655 John Clayton

Further Investigation

5. 2556656 Michele Edelen

Further Investigation (*Mr. Collier Recused*)

6. 2556684 Jefferson Heilman

Dismiss w/Prejudice

7. 2556657 Jennifer Hammond

Further Investigation

8. 2556670 Jon Wolfe

Further Investigation (*Mr. Collier Recused*)

9. 2556685 Merlene Lewis

Further Investigation

10. 2556691 Terry Malone

Dismiss w/Prejudice

11. 2556666 Joseph Stockton

Further Investigation

12. 2556667 Joseph Stockton

Further Investigation

13. 2556669 Kristina Wethington

Dismiss w/Prejudice

14. 2556687 Melissa Lewis

Dismiss w/Prejudice

15. 2556688 James Cornett

Further Investigation

16. 2556689 Chad Mason

Further Investigation

17. 2556628

Further Investigation

18. 2556749

Further Investigation

19. 2556694

Dismiss w/Prejudice

20. 2556696

Defer for Training

21. 2456036	Dismiss w/Prejudice
22. 2456069	Initiate Hearing
23. 2456173	Initiate Hearing
24. 2455830	Initiate Hearing

Character/Fitness Review

Case Number

1. 2556756
2. 2556779
3. 2556801
1. 2556755
2. 2556775
3. 2556776
4. 2556780
5. 2556703

Decision

- Approve (w/Conditions)
Deny
Approve
Approve
Deny
Approve
Approve
Deny

Agreed Orders

Case Number

1. 2355449 Cyr Wilson

Decision

Accept Agreed Order stating upon acceptance of this agreement by the Board, Certificate Number 201186581 is permanently revoked. Wilson shall neither apply for, nor be issued, a teaching, administrative and/or emergency certificate in the Commonwealth of Kentucky at any time in the future.

Vote: *Unanimous*

2. 2455807 Kristin Grubbs

Accept Agreed Order stating Certificate Number 74489 shall be suspended from July 1, 2025 to January 1, 2027. Grubbs shall not be actively employed in a certified position during the suspension period. Pursuant to KRS 161.020(1)(a): No person shall be eligible to hold the position of superintendent, principal, teacher, supervisor, director of pupil personnel, or other public-school position for which certificates may be issued, or receive salary for services rendered in the position, unless he or she holds a certificate of legal qualifications for the position, issued by the Education Professional Standards Board. Grubbs acknowledges it is her responsibility to consult with her employer to determine any consequences to salary or employment benefits as a result of this agreement.

Prior to reinstatement, Grubbs shall provide written proof to the Board, from a physician licensed by the Kentucky Medical Board of Licensure (KMBL) and approved by the

Board, that she has undergone a comprehensive fit for duty evaluation and is fit to return to the classroom, presents as capable of performing her duties as an educator, is not a danger to herself or others, and is compliant with all treatment recommendations. The fit for duty evaluation shall occur within the sixty (60) days prior to the submission of the evaluation to the Board. Grubbs shall pay any expense incurred. Certificate Number 74489 shall not be reinstated until such condition is satisfied.

Prior to reinstatement, Grubbs shall submit written proof to the Board that she has completed the following trainings or courses on the attached pre-approved Board training list (Attachment A):

1. “Educator Ethics & the Law”;
2. “Educator Responsibility to Students”;
3. “Understanding Educator Ethics”;
4. “Honesty at Work”;
5. A course under the “Communication” heading; and
6. A course under the “Harassment” heading.

Any cost for said trainings shall be paid for by Grubbs. Certificate Number 74489 shall not be reinstated until such condition is satisfied.

Upon reinstatement, Certificate Number 74489, and any future endorsements or new areas of certification, shall be subject to the following probationary conditions:

1. For a period of five (5) years, Grubbs shall not receive any disciplinary action from any school district in the Commonwealth of Kentucky. “Disciplinary action” is defined as any suspension, termination, or public reprimand issued by any school district in the Commonwealth of Kentucky and upheld, if requested, by either the tribunal and/or arbitration process, including any appeal therefrom. Resigning in lieu of termination shall also be a violation of this condition. Should Grubbs fail to satisfy this condition, Certificate Number 74489 shall be automatically suspended for two (2) years

and subject to additional sanctions by the Board pursuant to KRS 161.120.

2. As a permanent probationary condition of Certificate Number 74489, if a school district in the Commonwealth of Kentucky reports to the EPSB that the district substantiated that Grubbs falsified records, engaged in sexual harassment, or used inappropriate physical force, then Certificate Number 74489 shall be automatically permanently revoked.

Vote: *Unanimous*

3. 2456198 Jason Morrow

Accept Agreed Order stating upon acceptance of this agreement by the Board, Certificate Number 201217073 is retroactively suspended beginning June 1, 2024 to September 29, 2024. Morrow shall not be actively employed in a certified position during the suspension period. Pursuant to KRS 161.020(1)(a): No person shall be eligible to hold the position of superintendent, principal, teacher, supervisor, director of pupil personnel, or other public-school position for which certificates may be issued, or receive salary for services rendered in the position, unless he or she holds a certificate of legal qualifications for the position, issued by the Education Professional Standards Board. Morrow acknowledges it is his responsibility to consult with his employer to determine any consequences to salary or employment benefits as a result of this agreement.

Prior to August 1, 2025 Morrow shall submit written proof to the Board that he has completed the following trainings or courses on the attached pre-approved Board training list (Attachment A):

1. Two (2) courses under the “Classroom Management” heading; and
2. A course under the “Educator Ethics” heading.

Any cost for said trainings shall be paid for by Morrow. Failure to submit written proof of completion prior to August 1, 2025 will result in Certificate Number 201217073 being administratively suspended until such time as Morrow provides the written proof.

Upon acceptance of this agreement by the Board, Certificate Number 201217073, and any future endorsements or new areas of certification, shall be subject to the following probationary conditions for three (3) years:

1. During the probationary period, Morrow shall not receive any disciplinary action from any school district in the Commonwealth of Kentucky. "Disciplinary action" is defined as any suspension, termination, or public reprimand issued by any school district in the Commonwealth of Kentucky and upheld, if requested, by either the tribunal and/or arbitration process, including any appeal therefrom. Resigning in lieu of termination shall also be a violation of this condition. Should Morrow fail to satisfy this condition, Certificate Number 201217073 shall be automatically suspended for a period of sixty (60) days and subject to additional sanctions by the Board pursuant to KRS 161.120.

Morrow is aware that should he violate KRS 161.120 in the future, the Board shall initiate a new disciplinary action and seek additional sanctions.

Vote: *Unanimous*

4. 2455976 Christopher Smith Accept Agreed Order stating Smith voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently surrenders Certificate Number 201232171, and agrees not to apply for, nor be issued, a teaching, administrative, or emergency certificate in the Commonwealth of Kentucky at any time in the future. Smith shall immediately surrender the original and all copies of his certificate by personal delivery or by first-class mail, to the Education Professional Standards Board, 300 Sower Blvd. 5th Floor, Frankfort, Kentucky, 40601.

Vote: *Unanimous*

5. 2455953 Kenneth Becker Accept Agreed Order stating Becker voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently surrenders Certificate Number 201286910, and agrees not to apply for, nor be issued, a teaching, administrative, or emergency certificate in the Commonwealth of Kentucky at any time in the future.

Becker shall immediately surrender the original and all copies of his certificate by personal delivery or by first-class mail, to the Education Professional Standards Board, 300 Sower Blvd. 5th Floor, Frankfort, Kentucky, 40601.

Vote: *Unanimous*

6. 2455792 Celeste Baker

Accept Agreed Order stating the Board reprimands Baker for engaging in a manner unbecoming of the teaching profession. The Board directs and Baker acknowledges that she, like all teachers and school administrators, has a professional responsibility to treat students with dignity and respect in all circumstances. The Board urges Baker to exercise better judgment going forward.

Prior to October 1, 2025, Baker shall submit written proof to the Board that she has completed the following trainings or courses on the attached pre-approved Board training list (Attachment A):

1. A course under the “Educator Ethics” heading; and
2. A course under the “Classroom Management” heading.

Any cost for said trainings shall be paid for by Baker. Failure to submit written proof of completion prior to October 1, 2025 will result in Certificate Number 75362 being administratively suspended until such time as Baker provides the written proof.

Upon acceptance of this agreement by the Board, Certificate Number 75362, and any future endorsements or new areas of certification, shall be subject to the following probationary condition for two (2) years:

1. During the probationary period, Baker shall not receive any disciplinary action from any school district in the Commonwealth of Kentucky. “Disciplinary action” is defined as any suspension, termination, or public reprimand issued by any school district in the Commonwealth of Kentucky and upheld, if requested, by either the tribunal and/or arbitration process. Failure to uphold this condition will result in Certificate 75362

being administratively suspended pending further Board review and disposition.

Baker is aware that should she violate KRS 161.120 in the future, the Board shall initiate a new disciplinary action and seek additional sanctions.

Vote: *Unanimous*

7. 2355352 Cassandra Claycomb Accept Agreed Order stating Certificate number 2012157703 is hereby voluntarily surrendered. Claycomb shall neither apply for, nor be issued, any teaching, emergency and/or administrative certificate in the Commonwealth of Kentucky at any time in the future.

Vote: *Unanimous*

8. 2355580 Brian Hunt Accept Agreed Order stating upon acceptance of this agreement by the Board, Certificate Number 67754 is voluntarily surrendered. Hunt shall neither apply for, nor be issued, a teaching, emergency, and/or administrative certificate in the Commonwealth of Kentucky at any time in the future.

Vote: *Unanimous*

9. 2455977 Skylar-Blue Starmer Accept Agreed Order stating Certificate Number 201217848 is expired. Starmer shall neither apply for nor be issued any teaching, administrative or emergency certificate in the Commonwealth of Kentucky at any time in the future. Any future application submitted by Starmer, or on their behalf, shall be denied.

Vote: *Unanimous*

10. 2456464 Janna Brown Accept Agreed Order stating:
- a. Certificate Number 67390 shall be suspended for forty-five (45) days from June 10th, 2025 to July 25th, 2025. Brown shall not be actively employed in a certified position during the suspension period. Pursuant to KRS 161.020(1)(a): No person shall be eligible to hold the position of superintendent, principal, teacher, supervisor, director of pupil personnel, or other public-school position for which certificates may be issued, or receive salary for services rendered in the position, unless he or she

holds a certificate of legal qualifications for the position, issued by the Education Professional Standards Board. Brown acknowledges it is her responsibility to consult with her employer to determine any consequences to salary or employment benefits as a result of this agreement.

- b. The Board reprimands Brown for Conduct Unbecoming, and reminds Brown that a certified educator is a pillar of the community to whom others look as an example of how to live their lives. The Board warns Brown to exercise better discretion and establish better professional boundaries in the future and will tolerate no further misconduct by Brown.
- c. On or before July 25th, 2025, Brown shall undergo a comprehensive alcohol/substance abuse assessment by a Kentucky licensed or certified chemical dependency counselor, as approved by the Board, and submit written proof to the Board. The assessment shall occur within the thirty (30) days prior to Brown's submission of the assessment to the Board. Any expense required for said assessment and follow-up shall be paid for by Brown. Certificate Number 67390 shall not be reinstated until the Board receives the written proof.
- d. On or before July 25th, 2025, Brown shall submit written proof to the Board that she has completed the following training courses on the attached pre-approved Board training list (Attachment A):
 - 1) A course under the "Classroom Management" heading;
 - 2) A course under the "Educator Ethics" heading;
and
 - 3) A course under the "Appropriate Boundaries" heading.

Any cost for said trainings shall be paid for by Brown. If Brown fails to satisfy any portion of this condition, Certificate Number 67390 shall not be reinstated until such condition is satisfied.

e. Upon acceptance of this agreement by the Board, Certificate Number 67390 shall be subject to the following probationary conditions for three (3) years:

- 1) During the probationary period, Brown shall not receive any disciplinary action from any school district in the Commonwealth of Kentucky. "Disciplinary action" is defined as any suspension, termination, or public reprimand issued by any school district in the Commonwealth of Kentucky and upheld, if requested, by either the tribunal and/or arbitration process, including any appeal therefrom. Resigning in lieu of termination shall also be a violation of this condition. Should Brown fail to satisfy this condition, Certificate Number 67390 shall be automatically suspended for a period of thirty (30) days and be subject to additional sanctions by the Board pursuant to KRS 161.120.
- 2) If Brown's comprehensive alcohol/substance abuse assessment recommends any treatment, Brown shall submit written progress reports from a consistent licensed counselor on July 1st of each year of her probation, certifying that she is compliant with all treatment recommendations, until such time as the counselor releases her from treatment. If Brown chooses to change licensed counselors prior to completing the counselor's recommendations, she shall undergo a new comprehensive alcohol/substance abuse assessment to ensure she is compliant with all recommendations of the new counselor to ensure fulfillment of

Brown's probation requirements. If Brown fails to satisfy any portion of this condition, Certificate Number 67390 shall be automatically suspended for a period of thirty (30) days and be subject to additional sanctions by the Board pursuant to KRS 161.120.

- 3) Brown shall submit to random drug testing to be administered by a provider approved by the Board and shall receive no drug test that is positive for any illegal substance or that is in excess of therapeutic levels generally accepted in the medical community. Brown shall pay any expense incurred. If Brown fails to satisfy any portion of this condition, Certificate Number 67390 shall be automatically suspended for a period of thirty (30) days and be subject to additional sanctions by the Board pursuant to KRS 161.120.

- f. Brown is aware that should she violate KRS 161.120 in the future, the Board shall initiate a new disciplinary action and seek additional sanctions.

Vote: *Unanimous*

11. 2455949 Freeman Powell

Accept Agreed Order stating:

- a. Upon acceptance of this agreement by the Board, Certificate Number 200139095 is hereby retroactively suspended from June 1st, 2024 to June 15th, 2024. Powell shall not have been actively employed in a certified position during the suspension period. Pursuant to KRS 161.020(1)(a): No person shall be eligible to hold the position of superintendent, principal, teacher, supervisor, director of pupil personnel, or other public-school position for which certificates may be issued, or receive salary for services rendered in the position, unless he or she holds a certificate of legal qualifications for the position, issued by the Education Professional Standards Board. Powell

acknowledges it is his responsibility to consult with his employer to determine any consequences to salary or employment benefits as a result of this agreement.

- b. Powell is hereby reprimanded for his lack of professional judgment regarding his interactions with a student. Powell is reminded that as a certified educator he is required to meet high ethical standards as defined by the Professional Code of Ethics for Kentucky School Certified Personnel.
- c. On or before August 31st, 2025, Powell shall submit written proof to the Board that he has completed the following training courses on the attached pre-approved Board training list (Attachment A):
 - 1) A course under the “Classroom Management” heading;
 - 2) A course under the “Educator Ethics” heading;
 - And
 - 3) A course under the “Bullying” heading.

Any cost for said trainings shall be paid for by Powell. If Powell fails to satisfy any portion of this condition, Certificate Number 200139095 shall be administratively suspended until such condition is satisfied.

- d. Upon acceptance of this agreement by the Board, Certificate Number 200139095, and any future endorsements or new areas of certification, shall be subject to the following probationary conditions for two (2) years:
 - 1) During the probationary period, Powell shall not receive any disciplinary action from any school district in the Commonwealth of Kentucky. “Disciplinary action” is defined as any suspension, termination, or public reprimand issued by any school district in the Commonwealth of Kentucky and

upheld, if requested, by either the tribunal and/or arbitration process, including any appeal therefrom. Resigning in lieu of termination shall also be a violation of this condition. Should Powell fail to satisfy this condition, Certificate Number 200139095 shall be automatically suspended for a period of sixty (60) days and be subject to additional sanctions by the Board pursuant to KRS 161.120.

- e. Powell is aware that should he violate KRS 161.120 in the future, the Board shall initiate a new disciplinary action and seek additional sanctions.

Vote: *Unanimous*

12. 2110761 Timothy Moons
2456516
2556621

Accept Agreed Order stating Moons voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently surrenders Certificate Number 201104435, and agrees to not apply for, nor be issued, a teaching, administrative, or emergency certificate in the Commonwealth of Kentucky at any time in the future.

Vote: *Unanimous*

13. 2456048 Carrie-Anne Irby

Accept Agreed Order stating Certificate Number 200501580 shall be retroactively suspended for thirty (30) days from July 1, 2024 through July 30, 2024. Irby shall not be actively employed in a certified position during the suspension period. Pursuant to KRS 161.020(1)(a): No person shall be eligible to hold the position of superintendent, principal, teacher, supervisor, director of pupil personnel, or other public-school position for which certificates may be issued, or receive salary for services rendered in the position, unless he or she holds a certificate of legal qualifications for the position, issued by the Education Professional Standards Board. Irby acknowledges it is her responsibility to consult with her employer to determine any consequences to salary or employment benefits as a result of this agreement.

Prior to October 1, 2025, Irby shall submit written proof to the Board that she has completed the following trainings or

courses on the attached pre-approved Board training list (Attachment A):

1. A course under the “Educator Ethics” heading; and
2. “Working with Students with Autism Spectrum Disorder.”

Failure to submit written proof of completion prior to October 1, 2025 will result in Certificate Number 200501580 being administratively suspended until such time as Irby provides the written proof.

Upon acceptance of this agreement by the Board, Certificate Number 200501580, and any future endorsements or new areas of certification, shall be subject to the following probationary condition for a period of three (3) years:

1. Irby shall not receive any disciplinary action from any school district in the Commonwealth of Kentucky. “Disciplinary action” is defined as any suspension, termination, or public reprimand issued by any school district in the Commonwealth of Kentucky and upheld, if requested, by either the tribunal and/or arbitration process, including any appeal therefrom. Should Irby fail to satisfy this condition, Certificate Number 200501580 shall be automatically suspended for a period of one (1) year and subject to additional sanctions by the Board pursuant to KRS 161.120.

Irby is aware that should she violate KRS 161.120 in the future, the Board shall initiate a new disciplinary action and seek additional sanctions.

Vote: *Unanimous*

Motion made by Dr. Amanda Ellis, seconded by Ms. Cathy Gunn, to adjourn the meeting.

Vote: *Unanimous*

Meeting adjourned at 5:13 p.m.