

The actions delineated below were taken in open session of the EPSB at the May 4, 2026, 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 4:05 p.m. ET. Chair Snell read the EPSB Mission Statement.

Roll Call

The following Board members were present during the May 4, 2026, EPSB meeting: Scottie Collier, Elijah Edwards, Cathy Gunn, Priscilla Keller*, Jacqueline Mayfield*, Lori McKeehan*, Justin Mitchell, Corinne Murphy, Merideth Pittman, Lisa Rudzinski, Vice Chair Fryer, and Chair Snell.

*These Board members arrived and were “visible on camera,” pursuant to KRS 61.826(3), after roll call was taken, specifically Ms. Keller was in attendance as of 4:07 p.m. ET, Ms. Mayfield as of 4:15 p.m. ET, and Ms. McKeehan as of 4:10 p.m.

CPE: Amanda Ellis

Cabinet: Michael Yoder

Consent Items

Approval of EPSB Meeting Minutes from April 21, 2026

16 KAR 5:040. Request to Waive Student Teacher Days Due to School District Closures for Morehead State University Students

16 KAR 5:040. Request to Waive Student Teacher Days Due to District School Closures for a Student at the University of Kentucky

16 KAR 5:040. Request to Waive Student Teacher Days Due to District School Closures for a Student at Northern Kentucky University

2026-043

Motion made by Dr. Amanda Ellis, seconded by Dr. Corrine Murphy to approve items. Ms. McKeehan abstained from the vote due to technical issues that prevented the meeting audio from recording her vote.

Vote: Unanimous

Motion made by Mr. Elijah Edwards, seconded by Vice Chair Fryer to go into closed session pursuant to KRS 61.810(1) (c) & (j). Ms. McKeehan abstained from the vote due to technical issues that prevented the meeting audio from recording her vote.

Vote: *Unanimous*

Motion made by Dr. Amanda Ellis, seconded by Dr. Justin Mitchell to return to open session. Ms. McKeehan abstained from the vote due to technical issues that prevented the meeting audio from recording her vote.

Vote: *Unanimous*

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

Scottie Collier, Elijah Edwards, Amanda Ellis, C.J. Fryer, Cathy Gunn, Priscilla Keller, Jacqueline Mayfield, Justin Mitchell, Corinne Murphy, Merideth Pittman, Lisa Rudzinski, Amber Snell, and Michael Yoder. Lori McKeehan abstained from the voting due to technical issues that prevented the meeting audio from recording her votes.

Attorneys present were Todd Allen, Whitney Crowe, Cody Hollan, Madison Snelling, Norah Softic, Thomas Miller-Wall, and Phillip West.

Initial Case Review

Case Number

Decision

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| 1. 2557310 Robin Walker | Further Investigation |
| 2. 2657347 Christine Tanner | Further Investigation |
| 3. 2657393 Katy Mansfield | Further Investigation |
| 4. 2657370 Terrence Miles | Further Investigation |
| 5. 2657362 Justin Atkins | Dismiss w/Prejudice <i>(Mr. Collier Recused)</i> |
| 6. 2657364 Austin Barringer | Approve PRC Agreed Order stating Certificate Number 201293232 is expired. Barringer 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 Barringer, or on his behalf, shall be denied. |
| 7. 2657390 Christopher Gaither | Further Investigation |
| 8. 2657349 Sean Woods | Further Investigation |
| 9. 2657372 Megan Richardson | Further Investigation |
| 10. 2557308 Scott Wade | DWOP |
| 11. 2657367 Tiffany Goff | Further Investigation |
| 12. 2657389 Louise Elder | DWOP |

- 13. 2557301 Vivian Sarduy Fernandez
- 14. 2657363 Kellen Barnes
- 15. 2657396 Cean Peevey
- 16. 2557291 Dawn Bargerhuff

Further Investigation
Further Investigation
Further Investigation
Further Investigation

(Mr. Collier Recused)

- 17. 2657324 Lyndsey Borders

Approve PRC Agreed Order stating Borders is reprimanded for directing crude language toward another teacher. The Board directs and Borders acknowledges that she, like all teachers and school administrators, has a professional responsibility to treat colleagues with dignity and respect in all circumstances. The Board urges Borders to exercise better judgement going forward.

On or before August 1, 2026, Borders shall submit written proof to the Board that she has completed any training under the heading of “Educator Ethics” on the attached pre-approved Board training list (Attachment A). Any cost for said trainings shall be paid for by Borders. Failure to submit written proof of completion on or before the deadline will result in Certificate Number 201172083 being administratively suspended until such time as the Board receives the written proof of completion.

Upon acceptance of this agreement by the Board, Certificate Number 201172083, and any future endorsements or new areas of certification, shall be subject to the following probationary conditions for two (2) years:

During the probationary period, Borders 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 Borders fail to satisfy this condition, Certificate Number 201172083 shall be automatically suspended for a period of thirty

(30) days and subject to additional sanctions by the Board pursuant to KRS 161.120.

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

18. 2657365 James Cooper

Approve PRC Agreed Order stating Certificate Number 201317891 is suspended for a period of sixty (60) days, from June 1, 2026 to July 30, 2026. Cooper shall not be actively employed in certified employment 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. Cooper acknowledges it is his responsibility to consult with his employer to determine any consequences to salary or employment benefits as a result of this Agreed Order.

Prior to reinstatement, Cooper shall submit written proof to the Board that he has completed the following Board-approved professional development training or courses:

- i. Any training under the heading of “Educator Ethics” on the attached preapproved Board training list (Attachment A).
- ii. Any training under the heading of “Classroom Management” on the attached pre-approved Board training list (Attachment A).

Any cost for said trainings shall be paid for by Cooper. Certificate Number 201317891 shall not be reinstated until the Board receives the written proof of completion.

Finally, Certificate Number 201317891, and any future endorsements or new areas of certification, shall be subject to the following probationary conditions for five (5) years:

During the probationary period, Cooper 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 Cooper fail to satisfy this condition, Certificate Number 201317891 shall be automatically suspended for a period of one (1) year and subject to additional sanctions by the Board pursuant to KRS 161.120.

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

- 19. 2657366 Teresa Edge
- 20. 2657369 Bradley Meredith
- 21. 2657376 Reed Troutman
- 22. 2657386 Abby Brown
- 23. 2657387 Natalie Crane
- 24. 2657394 David McKinley
- 25. 2657395 Andrea Morrison
- 26. 2657371 James Reliford

Further Investigation
Further Investigation
Further Investigation
Further Investigation
Further Investigation
Further Investigation
Further Investigation
Further Investigation

- 27. 2657339 Georgia Noll

Approve PRC Agreed Order stating, upon acceptance of this agreement by the Board, Noll is reprimanded for conduct unbecoming a teacher. The Board reminds Noll that, as a teacher, she has a duty to uphold the dignity and integrity of the teaching profession. Driving under the influence of alcohol is dangerous, and this type of behavior sets a horrible example for students. The Board will not tolerate any further incidents of misconduct by Noll.

Noll has submitted written proof to the Board that she has undergone a substance abuse assessment by a licensed counselor and complied with the counselor's recommendations.

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

28. 2657375 Mark Stephens

Approve PRC Agreed Order stating, upon acceptance of this agreement by the Board, Stephens is reprimanded for conduct unbecoming a teacher. The Board reminds Stephens that, as a teacher, he has a duty to uphold the dignity and integrity of the teaching profession. Driving under the influence of alcohol is dangerous, and this type of behavior sets a horrible example for students. The Board will not tolerate any further incidents of misconduct by Stephens.

Stephens has submitted written proof to the Board that he has undergone a substance abuse assessment by a licensed counselor and complied with the counselor's recommendations.

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

29. 2657384 Amy Adkins

Approve PRC Agreed Order stating Adkins is reprimanded for conduct unbecoming a teacher. The Board reminds Adkins that, as a teacher, she has a duty to uphold the dignity and integrity of the teaching profession. Driving under the influence of alcohol is dangerous, and this type of behavior sets a horrible example for students. The Board will not tolerate any further incidents of misconduct by Adkins.

On or before August 1, 2026, Adkins 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 Respondent's submission of the assessment to the

Board. Any expense required for said assessment and follow-up shall be paid for by Adkins. Failure to do so will result in an administrative suspension of her certificate until such condition is satisfied.

Finally, Certificate Number 61498 shall be subject to the following probationary condition for two (2) years:

1. If the substance abuse assessment recommends any treatment, Adkins shall submit written progress reports from a consistent licensed or certified counselor on January 1st and July 1st of every year of the probation, certifying that she is compliant with all treatment recommendations, until she is released from treatment. If Adkins chooses to change 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 his probation requirements. If Adkins fails to satisfy any of these conditions, Certificate Number 61498 shall be administratively suspended until such condition is satisfied.

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

30. 2657385 Jessica Berry

Further Investigation

31. 2657388 Beverly Edwards

Approve PRC Agreed Order stating upon acceptance of this agreement by the Board, Edwards is reprimanded for conduct unbecoming a teacher. The Board reminds Edwards that, as a teacher, she has a duty to uphold the dignity and integrity of the teaching profession. The Board will not tolerate any further incidents of misconduct by Edwards.

On or before October 1, 2026, Edwards shall submit written proof to the Board that she has completed any training under the heading of “Educator Ethics” on the attached pre-approved Board training list (Attachment A). Any cost for said trainings shall be paid for by Edwards. Failure to submit written proof of completion on or before the deadline will result in Certificate Number 199605177 being administratively suspended until such time as the Board receives the written proof of completion.

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

32. 2657373 Anastasia Saunders	Dismiss w/Prejudice
33. 2657391 Eric Hughes	Dismiss w/Prejudice
34. 2657397 Nevada Quire	Admonish
35. 2657398 Ashlyn Sandidge	Dismiss w/Prejudice
36. 2557300 Barrett Sanderson	Dismiss w/Prejudice
37. 2657368 Timothy Gripshover	Further Investigation <i>(Vice Chair Fryer Recused)</i>
38. 2657374 Emily Shearer	Further Investigation
39. 2657377 Daran Wall	Dismiss w/Prejudice
40. 2657378 Andrew Wyckoff	Dismiss w/Prejudice
41. 2557192 Blair Boden	Dismiss w/Prejudice
42. 2557207 Miranda Lewis	Dismiss w/Prejudice
43. 2456058	DWOP

Character/Fitness Review

<u>Case Number</u>	<u>Decision</u>
1. 2657543	Approve
2. 2657545	Approve
3. 2657546	Approve
4. 2657547	Approve
5. 2657551	Approve
6. 2657552	Approve
1. 2657544	Approve
2. 2657548	Deny
3. 2657549	Approve

Agreed Orders

Case Number

1. 2557249 Derrick Weaver

Decision

Accept Agreed Order stating Weaver is retired. Upon acceptance of this agreement by the Board, Weaver shall not seek or accept any position of employment in Kentucky that requires the use of Certificate Number 200197093. Upon the natural expiration of Certificate Number 200197093, Weaver shall neither apply for, nor be issued, a teaching, administrative or emergency certificate in the Commonwealth of Kentucky at any time in the future. If Weaver violates this agreement, Certificate Number 200197093 shall be automatically permanently revoked, and/or any application for certification shall be denied.

Vote: Unanimous

2. 2556620 Kelbi McKinney

Accept Agreed Order stating, upon acceptance of this agreement by the Board, Certificate Number 201239089 is retroactively suspended beginning June 1, 2025 to July 30, 2025. McKinney 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. McKinney 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.

On or before June 1, 2026, McKinney shall undergo a comprehensive alcohol/substance abuse assessment by a Certified Alcohol and Drug Counselor or a Licensed Clinical Alcohol and Drug Counselor certified by the Kentucky Board of Alcohol and Drug Counselors, as approved by the Board. The assessment shall occur within the thirty (30) days prior to Respondent's submission of the assessment to the Board. Any expense required for said assessment and follow-up shall be paid

for by McKinney. Failure to do so will result in an administrative suspension of her certificate until such condition is satisfied.

Upon acceptance of this agreement by the Board, Certificate Number 201239089, 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, McKinney 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 McKinney fail to satisfy this condition, Certificate Number 201239089 shall be automatically suspended for a period of one (1) year and subject to additional sanctions by the Board pursuant to KRS 161.120.**

- 2. If McKinney's comprehensive alcohol/substance abuse assessment recommends any treatment, McKinney shall submit written progress reports from a consistent licensed counselor on August 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 McKinney 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 her probation requirements. Failure to do so shall result in an administrative suspension until such condition is satisfied.

McKinney 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*

3. 2557264 Robert Gaskins

Accept Agreed Order stating Gaskins voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently surrenders Certificate Number 200356131, 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*

4. 2456399 Jacob Warren

Accept Agreed Order stating Warren shall be issued a Kentucky teaching certificate upon providing proof that he has met the academic and testing requirements necessary for issuance of a certificate, and has completed the following:

1. Warren 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):
 - a. Three (3) courses under the “Educator Ethics” heading.

Any cost for said trainings shall be paid for by Warren.

Upon issuance, Certificate Number 201308584 shall be subject to the following permanent probationary conditions:

1. During the probationary period, Warren 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 comply with this condition will result in Warren’s certificate being automatically permanently revoked.

2. Warren shall not be convicted of nor enter a guilty or no contest plea to any criminal charge(s) other than minor traffic violations. A violation is not considered a minor traffic violation if it is a violation for which jail time may be imposed. If Warren is convicted of, or enters a guilty or no contest plea, to any criminal charge other than minor traffic violations, he shall submit this information to the Board, in writing, within thirty (30) days. Failure to comply with this condition will result in Warren’s certificate being automatically permanently revoked

Vote: *Unanimous*

5. 2557075 Denver Cooper

Accept Agreed Order stating Certificate Number 200221594 shall be suspended for sixty (60) days from June 1, 2026 to July 30, 2026. Cooper 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. Cooper 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 reinstatement, Cooper 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 “Educator Ethics” heading; and
2. “Anger Management: What it is and how to address it.”

Any cost for said trainings shall be paid for by Cooper. If Cooper fails to satisfy any portion of this condition, Certificate Number 200221594 shall not be reinstated until such condition is satisfied.

Upon reinstatement, Certificate Number 200221594, and any future endorsements or new areas of certification, shall be subject to the following probationary conditions for five (5) years:

1. During the probationary period, Cooper 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. Resigning in lieu of termination shall also be a violation of this condition. Should Cooper fail to satisfy this condition, Certificate Number 200221594 shall be automatically permanently revoked.

Cooper 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

6. 2557299 Terri Moore

Accept Agreed Order stating:

- a. Moore is hereby reprimanded for being absent without leave. Moore is reminded that as a certified educator she is required to meet the high ethical standards defined by the Professional Code of Ethics for Kentucky School Certified Personnel.**

- b. Moore has already presented the Board with proof of training on “Classroom Management for Positive Behaviors” and “Standards and Communications in Teaching.”**

- c. Upon acceptance of this agreement by the Board, Certificate Number 201318259, 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, Moore 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 Moore fail**

to satisfy this condition, Certificate Number 201318259 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.

- d. Moore 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. 2557179 Thomas Willis

Accept Agreed Order stating Willis voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently surrenders Certificate Number 201216741, 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*

8. 2557251

2657331 Dawn Johnes

Accept Agreed Order stating Johnes voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently surrenders Certificate Number 201319138, 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*

9. 2557025 Autumn Haven

Accept Agreed Order stating:

- a. Haven voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently surrenders Certificate Number 201310314, and agrees to not apply for, nor be issued, any emergency or substitute certificate in the Commonwealth of Kentucky at any time in the

future. Haven remains eligible to apply for teaching and administrative certificates that are not emergency or substitute certificates.

- b. Haven is aware that should she violate KRS 161.120 in the future while holding a teaching certificate, the Board shall initiate a new disciplinary action and seek additional sanctions.**

Vote: *Unanimous*

Motion made by Dr. Michael Yoder, seconded by Ms. Priscilla Keller to adjourn the meeting. Ms. McKeehan abstained from the vote due to technical issues that prevented the meeting audio from recording her vote.

Vote: *Unanimous*

Meeting adjourned at 5:10 p.m. ET.