

The actions delineated below were taken in open session of the EPSB at the July 28, 2025, video conference 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 9:03 a.m. ET. Chair Snell read the EPSB Mission Statement.

Swearing-In of New EPSB Member

Commissioner of the Department of Workforce Development, Michael Yoder joined the EPSB as Secretary Link's designee for the Education and Labor Cabinet. Leah Sharpe from the Office of Legal Services administered the oath to Dr. Yoder to swear him into the EPSB. Chair Snell welcomed Dr. Yoder and asked him to introduce himself to the members.

Roll Call

The following Board members were present during the July 28, 2025, EPSB meeting: Scottie Collier, Lori McKeehan, Justin Mitchell, Corinne Murphy, Merideth Pittman, Lisa Rudzinski, Vice Chair Fryer and Chair Snell.

CPE: Amanda Ellis

Cabinet: Michael Yoder

Report from the Chair

Chair Snell made three appointments to the Program Review Committee. She appointed Robin Magruder from Campbellsville University, Barry Gibson from Boyce College, and Jennifer Antoniotti-Neal from Lindsey Wilson College to the Program Review Committee. Chair Snell thanked them for their willingness to serve.

Consent Items

June 17, 2025, EPSB Meeting Minutes

Option 9 Application, Jefferson County Schools and Campbellsville University

Option 9 Application, Bourbon County Schools and University of the Cumberland

Option 9 Application, Jefferson County Schools and University of the Cumberland

Ballard County Schools: Continuing Education Option Plan II Proposal

Carlise County Schools: Continuing Education Option Plan II Proposal

Graves County Schools: Numeracy Continuing Education Option (CEO) Plan II Proposal

Hickman County Schools: Numeracy Continuing Education Option (CEO) Plan II Proposal

Marshall County Schools: Numeracy Continuing Education Option (CEO) Plan II Proposal

Murray Independent Schools: Numeracy Continuing Education Option (CEO) Plan II Proposal

Paducah Independent Schools: Numeracy Continuing Education Option (CEO) Plan II Proposal

Morehead State University: Approval of Proficiency Plan

Thomas More University Program Approval: School Principal

2025-049

Motion made by Dr. Amanda Ellis, seconded by Ms. Lori McKeehan to approve the consent items.

Vote: Unanimous

Waivers

16 KAR 3:090. Request to Waive Renewal Requirements for Professional Certificate for Director of Pupil Personnel for Aaron Massey

2025-050

Motion made by Vice-Chair C.J. Fryer, seconded by Dr. Amanda Ellis to approve the waiver.

Vote: Unanimous

16 KAR 3:090. Request to Waive Teaching Experience Requirement for Admission to a Principal Preparation Program for James Moons

2025-051

Motion made by Dr. Corrine Murphy, seconded by Dr. Justin Mitchell to approve the waiver.

Vote: Unanimous

16 KAR 3:090. Request to Waive Certified Teaching Experience Requirements for Admission to a Principal Preparation Program for Erica Trammell

2025-052

Motion made by Ms. Merideth Pittman, seconded by Capt. Lisa Rudzinski to approve the waiver.

Vote: Unanimous (Dr. Murphy recused)

16 KAR 3:090. Request to Waive Admission Requirements for Director of Special Education for Chris Sweigart

2025-053

Motion made by Dr. Michael Yoder, seconded by Vice-Chair C.J. Fryer to approve the waiver.

Vote: Unanimous

16 KAR 5:020. Request to Waive GPA Admission Requirement for a Candidate

2025-054

Motion made by Dr. Corrine Murphy, seconded by Dr. Justin Mitchell to approve the waiver.

Vote: Unanimous

16 KAR 9:040. Request to Waive GPA Requirements for Option 4, Adjunct Instructor Certification for a Candidate

2025-055

Motion made by Capt. Lisa Rudzinski, seconded by Vice-Chair C.J. Fryer to approve the waiver.

Vote: Unanimous

16 KAR 2:120. Request to Waive Emergency Certificate Requirements for Campbell County Schools

2025-056

Motion made by Vice-Chair C.J. Fryer, seconded by Dr. Michael Yoder to approve the waiver.

Vote: Unanimous

16 KAR 2:120. Request to Waive Emergency Certificate Requirements for Union County Schools
2025-057

Motion made by Ms. Lori McKeehan, seconded by Vice-Chair C.J. Fryer to approve the waiver with a note that this is the last year for the approval of this waiver.

Vote: Unanimous

16 KAR 2:120. Request to Waive Emergency Certificate Requirements for Union County Schools
2025-058

Motion made by Dr. Corrine Murphy, seconded by Capt. Lisa Rudzinski to approve the waiver.

Vote: Unanimous

Alternative Route to Certification Applications

Marlena Fryman, Computer Information Systems, All Grades

2025-059

Motion made by Capt. Lisa Rudzinski, seconded by Ms. Lori McKeehan to approve the application.

Vote: Unanimous

Brandon Long, Art, All Grades

2025-060

Motion made by Dr. Michael Yoder, seconded by Dr. Corrine Murphy to approve the application.

Vote: Unanimous (Ms. Pittman recused)

Stephen Van Zant, Social Studies and English, Grades 5-12

2025-061

Motion made by Capt. Lisa Rudzinski, seconded by Dr. Michael Yoder to approve the application.

Vote: Unanimous

Motion made by Dr. Michael Yoder 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 Dr. Justin Mitchell seconded by Dr. Michael Yoder, to return to open session.

Vote: Unanimous

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

Scottie Collier, Amanda Ellis, Christopher Fryer, Lori McKeehan, Justin Mitchell, Corinne Murphy, Merideth Pittman, Lisa Rudzinski, Amber Snell, and Michael Yoder.

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

Initial Case Review

Case Number

2556736 Jeffrey Johnson

2556794 Ashley Mosley
2556793 Ashley Mosley
2556786 James Cecil
2556792 Frank Moreno Fages
2556795 Christopher Porter-Bunton
2556796 Kerston Raines
2556781 Elena Bardin
2556738 Chandler Parsons
2556739 Chandler Parsons
2556740 Chandler Parsons

2556741 Patrick Payne

Decision

Approve PRC Agreed Order stating Johnson is currently retired. Johnson shall not seek or accept any position of employment in Kentucky that requires the use of Certificate Number 199901505. Upon the natural expiration of Certificate Number 199901505, Johnson 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 Johnson violates this agreement, Certificate Number 199901505 shall be automatically permanently revoked, and/or any application for certification shall be denied.

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

(Dr. Mitchell Recused)

Approve PRC Agreed Order stating upon acceptance of this agreement by the Board, Payne is reprimanded for neglecting his duty. The Board notes that following individualized education plan (IEP) protocols and ensuring IEP implementation are essential not only for ensuring that students receive a quality education, but also for complying with applicable laws. The Board will tolerate no further misconduct from Payne.

Prior to December 1, 2025, Payne shall provide written proof to the Board that he has completed a training under the heading "Special Populations" on the attached pre-approved Board training list (Attachment A). If Payne fails to satisfy this condition, Certificate Number 201131321 shall be administratively suspended until such condition is satisfied.

Finally, Certificate Number 201131321 shall be subject to the following probationary condition for two (2) years:

Payne shall not receive any disciplinary action involving violation of special education laws, policies, or procedures from any school district he is employed. If Payne fails to satisfy this condition, Certificate Number 201131321 shall be automatically suspended for sixty (60) days and subject to additional sanctions by the Board pursuant to KRS 161.120.

“Disciplinary action” is defined as any termination, suspension, or public reprimand issued by any school district in the Commonwealth of Kentucky and upheld, if requested, by either a tribunal and/or arbitration process, including any appeal therefrom.

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

2556761 Larry Coldiron

Further Investigation

2556762 Noelle Fleek

Approve PRC Agreed Order stating upon acceptance of this agreement by the Board, Certificate Number 201234342 is suspended beginning March 1, 2025, to April 30, 2025, a period of sixty (60) days. Fleek shall not be actively employed in a 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. Fleek acknowledges it is her responsibility to consult with her employer to determine any consequences to salary or employment benefits as a result of this Agreed Order.

Fleek does not have any immediate plans to return to a certified role in Kentucky. Before returning to certified employment in Kentucky, Fleek shall comply with the following conditions:

- i. Fleek shall notify the Board in writing of her intent to return to certified employment, at least ten (10) days prior to returning to a certified position in Kentucky. If Fleek fails to satisfy this condition, Certificate Number 201234342 shall be administratively suspended for ten (10) days.
- ii. Fleek shall submit written proof to the Board that she has completed a training under the heading of “Educator Ethics” on the attached pre-approved Board training list (Attachment A). Any cost for said training shall be paid for by Fleek. Failure to submit written proof of completion before returning to certified employment will result in Certificate Number 201234342 being administratively suspended until such time as the Board receives the written proof of completion.

Finally, upon returning to certified employment in Kentucky, Certificate Number 201234342 shall be subject to the following probationary condition for three (3) years:

Fleek shall not receive any disciplinary action from any school district she is employed. If Fleek fails to satisfy this condition, Certificate Number 201234342 shall be automatically suspended for ninety (90) days and subject to additional sanctions by the Board pursuant to KRS 161.120.

“Disciplinary action” is defined as any termination, suspension, or public reprimand

issued by any school district in the Commonwealth of Kentucky and upheld, if requested, by either a tribunal and/or arbitration process, including any appeal therefrom.

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

2556766 Michael Parrish
2556767 Meghan Stahlhut

Further Investigation
Further Investigation

2556784 Frank Carvell

Approve PRC Agreed Order stating Carvell is hereby reprimanded for exercising poor professional judgment. By directing offensive language towards a student, Carvell unnecessarily subjected that student to embarrassment. The Board will not tolerate any further incidents of misconduct from Carvell.

Carvell has submitted written proof to the Board that he completed a three (3) hour preapproved course on Educator Ethics.

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

2556785 Jana Castle-Hatcher

Further Investigation

2556787 Christina Combs

Approve PRC Agreed Order stating upon acceptance of this agreement by the Board, Certificate Number 201295140 is retroactively suspended beginning July 6, 2025, to July 10, 2025, a period of five (5) days. Wade shall not be actively employed in a 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. Combs acknowledges it is her responsibility to consult with her employer to determine any consequences to

salary or employment benefits as a result of this Agreed Order.

On or before January 1, 2026, Combs 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 Combs. Failure to submit written proof of completion on or before the deadline will result in Certificate Number 201295140 being administratively suspended until such time as the Board receives the written proof of completion.

Further, Certificate Number 201295140 shall be subject to the following probationary condition for a period of two (2) years:

1. Combs shall not receive any disciplinary action involving using culturally insensitive language from any school district she is employed. If Combs fails to satisfy this condition, Certificate Number 201295140 shall be automatically suspended for thirty (30) days and subject to additional sanctions by the Board pursuant to KRS 161.120.

“Disciplinary action” is defined as any termination, suspension, or public reprimand issued by any school district in the Commonwealth of Kentucky and upheld, if requested, by either a tribunal and/or arbitration process, including any appeal therefrom.

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

2556791 Heather Hucal
2556797 Joshua Shannon

Further Investigation
Defer for Training

2556735 Jacquelynn Hurt

Approve PRC Agreed Order stating upon acceptance of this agreement by the Board, Hurt is reprimanded

for conduct unbecoming a teacher. The Board reminds Hurt 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 Hurt.

Prior to October 1, 2025, Hurt shall provide written proof to the Board that she has completed a comprehensive alcohol/substance abuse assessment by a Kentucky licensed or certified chemical dependency counselor, as approved by the Board, and has successfully completed all treatment recommendations proposed by the counselor. Hurt shall pay any expense incurred. If Hurt fails to satisfy this condition, Certificate Number 200301025 shall be administratively suspended until such condition is satisfied.

Finally, Certificate Number 200301025 shall be subject to the following probationary condition for two (2) years:

1. If the substance abuse assessment results in recommendations, Hurt shall submit written progress reports from the licensed or certified counselor on January 1st and July 1st of every year of the probation, indicating she is compliant with all treatment recommendations, until she is released from treatment. If Hurt fails to satisfy any of these conditions, Certificate Number 200301025 shall be administratively suspended until such condition is satisfied.

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

2556759 Martin Bodkin

Approve PRC Agreed Order stating upon acceptance of this agreement by the Board, Bodkin is reprimanded for conduct unbecoming a teacher. The Board reminds Bodkin 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 Bodkin.

Bodkin has provided written proof to the Board that he has completed a comprehensive substance abuse assessment by a Kentucky licensed counselor, which resulted in no treatment recommendations.

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

2556763 Jeremy Johnson
2556768 Kelis Stewart
2556783 John Bordas Jr.
2556732 David Boehme

Further Investigation (Ms. Pittman Recused)
DWOP
Further Investigation (Ms. Rudzinski Recused)
Further Investigation

2556765 Richard Marzec

Approve PRC Agreed Order stating Marzec voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently surrenders Certificate Number 201241621, 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.

2556815 Bruce Kiper

Approve PRC Agreed Order stating Kiper voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently surrenders Certificate Number 201290296, 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. Upon acceptance of this agreement by the Board, Kiper shall immediately surrender the original and all copies of his certificate, by personal delivery or first-class mail, to the Education Professional Standards Board, 300 Sower Blvd. 5th Floor, Frankfort, Kentucky 40601.

2556798 Mellissa Snow

Further Investigation

2556769 Jeffery Sturm

Approve PRC Agreed Order stating Sturm is reprimanded for neglect of duty. By failing to properly investigate allegations that PTO parents

were consuming alcohol on school property during an event, Sturm allowed the possibility for the situation to reoccur. Any use of intoxicating substances at a PTO event on school property sets a bad example for students, employees, and the community at large. The Board will tolerate no further misconduct from Sturm.

On or before December 1, 2025, Sturm shall submit written proof to the Board that he 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 Sturm. Failure to submit written proof of completion on or before the deadline will result in Certificate Number 201115348 being administratively suspended until such time as the Board receives the written proof of completion.

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

2556770 Robert Thomas

Approve PRC Agreed Order stating upon acceptance of this agreement by the Board, Thomas is reprimanded for neglecting his duty. The Board notes that following special education documentation protocols and deadlines are essential not only for ensuring that students receive a quality education, but also for complying with applicable laws. The Board will tolerate no further misconduct from Thomas.

Prior to December 1, 2025, Thomas shall provide written proof to the Board that he has completed a training under the heading “Educator Ethics” on the attached pre-approved Board training list (Attachment A). If Thomas fails to satisfy this condition, Certificate Number 200404697 shall be administratively suspended until such condition is satisfied.

Prior to December 1, 2025, Thomas shall provide written proof to the Board that he has completed a training under the heading “Special Populations” on the attached pre-approved Board training list

(Attachment A). If Thomas fails to satisfy this condition, Certificate Number 200404697 shall be administratively suspended until such condition is satisfied.

Finally, Certificate Number 200404697 shall be subject to the following probationary condition for two (2) years:

Thomas shall not receive any disciplinary action from any school district he is employed. If Thomas fails to satisfy this condition, Certificate Number 200404697 shall be automatically suspended for sixty (60) days and subject to additional sanctions by the Board pursuant to KRS 161.120.

“Disciplinary action” is defined as any termination, suspension, or public reprimand issued by any school district in the Commonwealth of Kentucky and upheld, if requested, by either a tribunal and/or arbitration process, including any appeal therefrom.

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

2556764 Jessica Lainhart

Approve PRC Agreed Order stating upon acceptance of this agreement by the Board, Certificate Number 200234683 is suspended beginning June 5, 2025, to August 4, 2025, a period of sixty (60) days. Lainhart shall not be actively employed in a 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. Lainhart acknowledges it is her responsibility to consult with his/her employer to determine any consequences to

salary or employment benefits as a result of this Agreed Order.

On or before October 1, 2025, Lainhart shall submit written proof to the Board that she has completed a board approved training on “Administration Code for Kentucky’s Educational Assessment Programs.” Any cost for said training shall be paid for by Lainhart. Failure to submit written proof of completion on or before the deadline will result in Certificate Number 200234683 being administratively suspended until such time as the Board receives the written proof of completion.

Finally, Certificate Number 200234683 shall be subject to the following probationary condition for a period of five (5) years:

1. Lainhart shall not be reported to the Board for a finding by KDE that she violated the Administration Code for Kentucky’s Educational Assessment Program. If Lainhart is found by KDE to have committed a testing violation during the probationary period, Certificate Number 200234683 shall be automatically suspended for sixty (60) days and subject to additional sanctions by the Board pursuant to KRS 161.120.

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

2556709 Keith Cathey
2456558 Joshua Ott
2455952
2456019
2254437
2455958
2456172
2455702
2455826
2455765
2456185

Dismiss w/Prejudice
Initiate Hearing
DWOP
DWOP
Initiate Hearing
Initiate Hearing
Initiate Hearing
Initiate Hearing
Initiate Hearing
Initiate Hearing

(Dr. Ellis Recused)

Character/Fitness Review**Case Number**

2556866

2556890

2556889

2556899

2556903

2556829

2556905

2556907

2556909

2556924

2556927

2556919

2556931

2556933

2556887

2556900

2556904

2556921

2556922

2556926

2556929

2556882

2556928

Decision

Deny

Approve *(w/Conditions)*

Approve

Approve

Approve

Approve

Approve

Approve

Approve *(w/Conditions)*

Approve

Approve

Deny

Approve

Approve

Approve

Approve

Approve

Approve

Approve

Approve

Deny

Deny

Approve

Agreed Orders**Case Number**

2355520 Jennifer Craig

Decision

Accept Agreed Order stating the Board reprimands Craig for conduct unbecoming a teacher. The Board reminds Craig 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 Craig.

On or before October 1, 2025, Craig 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 Craig. Failure

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

Prior to December 1, 2025, Craig shall submit written proof to the Board that she has completed a course under the “Educator Ethics” heading on the attached pre-approved Board training list (Attachment A). Any cost for said trainings shall be paid for by Craig. Failure to submit written proof of completion prior to December 1, 2025 will result in Certificate Number 200000815 being administratively suspended until such time as Craig provides the written proof.

Upon acceptance of this agreement by the Board, Certificate Number 200000815, 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, Craig shall not receive any disciplinary action from any school district in the Commonwealth of Kentucky. “Disciplinary action” is defined as any suspension, termination, resignation in lieu of 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. Should Craig fail to satisfy this condition, Certificate Number 200000815 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. For a period of five (5) years, if Craig’s comprehensive alcohol/substance abuse assessment recommends any treatment, Craig 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 Craig 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.

3. As a permanent probationary condition, Craig 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 Craig is convicted of, or enters a guilty or no contest plea, to any criminal charge other than minor traffic violations, she shall submit this information to the Board, in writing, within thirty (30) days. Failure to comply with this condition will result in Craig's certificate being automatically permanently revoked.
4. As a permanent probationary condition, if a district reports to the Board that the district substantiated that Craig was under the influence of alcohol or other substances while in the performance of her duties, then Certificate Number 200000815 shall be automatically permanently revoked.
5. For a period of five (5) years, Craig shall submit a copy of her Kentucky State Police or Administrative Office of the Courts background check by July 1st of each year. Any expense required to satisfy this condition shall be paid by Craig. Failure to comply with this condition will result in Craig's certificate being administratively suspended until such condition is satisfied.

Craig 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*

2556749 Vincent Rotondi

Accept Agreed Order stating upon acceptance of this agreement by the Board, Certificate number 201160913 is retroactively suspended beginning June 1, 2025, through June 5, 2025. Rotondi 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. Rotondi 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 December 1, 2025, Rotondi 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. A course under the “Educator Ethics” heading;

Any cost for said trainings shall be paid for by Rotondi. Failure to submit written proof of completion prior to December 1, 2025 will result in Certificate Number 201160913 being administratively suspended until such time as Rotondi provides the written proof.

Upon acceptance of this agreement by the Board, Certificate Number 201160913, 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, Rotondi 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 Rotondi fail to satisfy this condition, Certificate Number 201160913 shall be automatically suspended for a period of sixty (60) days and subject to additional sanctions by the Board pursuant to KRS 161.120.

Rotondi 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*

2455778 Justin Lane

Accept Agreed Order stating Lane voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently surrenders Certificate Number 201121991, 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*

2456206 Brian Collier

Accept Agreed Order stating the Board reprimands Collier for not following the administrative procedures related to student testing. Further, the Board reminds Collier that, like every other testing proctor, he signed saying that he had received, read, and would comply with the testing instructions. Strict compliance with the Administration Code for Kentucky's Educational Assessment Program ensures the well-being of the students and the integrity of the testing process are maintained.

Prior December 1, 2025, Collier 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 courses under the "Educator Ethics" heading; and

Any cost for said trainings shall be paid for by Collier. Failure to submit written proof of completion prior to December 1, 2025 will result in Certificate Number 200407435 being administratively suspended until such time as Collier provides the written proof.

Upon acceptance of this agreement by the Board, Certificate Number 200407435, and any future endorsements or new areas of certification, shall be subject to the following probationary condition for eight (8) years:

1. Collier 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 Collier fail to satisfy this condition, Certificate Number 200407435 shall be automatically suspended for a period of six (6) months and subject to additional sanctions by the Board pursuant to KRS 161.120.

Collier 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*

2456480 Kevin Niehaus

Accept Agreed Order stating upon acceptance of this agreement by the Board, Certificate Number 201171607 is permanently revoked. Neihaus shall neither apply for nor be issued a teaching or administrative certificate in the Commonwealth of Kentucky at any time in the future.

Vote: *Unanimous*

2355297 Anthony Taulbee

Accept Agreed Order stating Taulbee voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently surrenders Certificate Number 201201794, 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* (Ms. Rudzinski Recused)

2456537 Anthony Procaccino

Accept Agreed Order stating Procaccino voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently surrenders Certificate Number 199900865, 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. Procaccino 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*

2456219 Eric Fields

Accept Agreed Order stating the Board reprimands Fields for directing profanity at a student. The Board directs and Fields acknowledges that he, like all teachers and school administrators, has a professional responsibility to treat students with dignity and respect in all circumstances. The Board further directs, and Fields acknowledges, that his role as a teacher and coach is to foster student growth, not to deride or belittle students. The Board urges Fields to exercise better judgment going forward.

Prior to October 1, 2025, Fields 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. A course under the “Educator Ethics” heading; and
2. A course under the “Bullying” heading.

Any cost for said trainings shall be paid for by Fields. Failure to submit written proof of completion prior to October 1, 2025 will result in Certificate Number 201175782 being administratively suspended until such time as Fields provides the written proof.

Upon acceptance of this agreement by the Board, Certificate Number 201175782, 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, Fields 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 201175782 being administratively suspended pending further Board review and disposition.

Fields 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*

2355167 Virginia Linville

Accept Agreed Order stating upon acceptance of this agreement by the Board, Linville shall not seek or accept any position of employment in Kentucky that requires the use of Certificate Number 200002263. Upon the natural expiration of Certificate Number 200002263, Linville 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 Linville violates this agreement, Certificate Number 200002263 shall be automatically permanently revoked, and/or any application for certification shall be denied.

Vote: *Unanimous*

2456567 Edwin Duarte

Accept Agreed Order stating Duarte is not currently employed in any position of employment in Kentucky that requires a teaching certificate. Upon acceptance of this agreement by the Board, Duarte shall not seek nor accept any position of employment in Kentucky that requires the use of Certificate Number 201291486. Upon the natural expiration of Certificate Number 201291486, Duarte 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 Duarte, or on his behalf, shall be denied.

Vote: *Unanimous*

2455830 Terra Bryan

Accept Agreed Order stating Bryan voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently surrenders Certificate Number 200222358,

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*

2456414 Benjamin Stewart

Accept Agreed Order stating upon acceptance of this agreement by the Board, Certificate Number 200300331 is retroactively suspended beginning May 29, 2025 to July 28, 2025. Stewart 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. Stewart 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 November 1, 2025, Stewart 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. A course under the “Classroom Management” heading;
2. Two (2) courses under the “Educator Ethics” heading; and
3. “Anger Management: What it is and how to address it.”

Any cost for said trainings shall be paid for by Stewart. Failure to submit written proof of completion prior to November 1, 2025 will result in Certificate Number 200300331 being administratively suspended until such time as Stewart provides the written proof.

Upon acceptance of this agreement by the Board, Certificate Number 200300331, 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, Stewart 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 Stewart fail to satisfy this condition, Certificate Number 200300331 shall be automatically suspended for a period of one (1) year and subject to additional sanctions by the Board pursuant to KRS 161.120.

Stewart 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*

2556750 Amy Sims

Accept Agreed Order stating upon acceptance of this agreement by the Board, Certificate number 201223249 is retroactively suspended beginning June 1, 2025 to July 16, 2025. Sims 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. Sims 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 November 1, 2025, Sims 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 Sims. Failure to do so will result in an administrative suspension of her certificate until such condition is satisfied.

Prior to November 1, 2025, Sims 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.

Any cost for said trainings shall be paid for by Sims. Failure to submit written proof of completion prior to November 1, 2025 will result in Certificate Number 201223249 being administratively suspended until such time as Sims provides the written proof.

Upon acceptance of this agreement by the Board, Certificate Number 201223249, 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, Sims 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 Sims fail to satisfy this condition, Certificate Number 201223249 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 Sims’s comprehensive alcohol/substance abuse assessment recommends any treatment, Sims 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 Sims 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.

Sims 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*

2556625 Malcolm Gehring

Accept Agreed Order stating Gehring is hereby reprimanded for his lack of professional judgment when he made disparaging statements about multiple students. Gehring is reminded that as a certified educator he is required to meet high ethical standards as defined by the Professional Code of Ethics for Certified Educators. The Board will tolerate no further misconduct from Gehring.

Prior to September 1, 2025 Gehring 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.

Any cost for said trainings shall be paid for by Gehring. Failure to submit written proof of completion prior to September 1, 2025 will result in Certificate Number 201187037 being administratively suspended until such time as Gehring provides the written proof.

Upon acceptance of this agreement by the Board, Certificate Number 201187037, 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, Gehring 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 Gehring fail to satisfy this condition, Certificate Number 201187037 shall be automatically suspended for a period of one (1) year and subject to additional sanctions by the Board pursuant to KRS 161.120.

Gehring 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*

2456412 Amy Rodgers

Accept Agreed Order stating Rodgers is hereby reprimanded for making inappropriate comments to a colleague. The Board directs and Rodgers 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 Rodgers to exercise better judgment going forward. The Board will not tolerate any further incidents of misconduct from Rodgers.

Prior to October 1, 2025, Rodgers 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. The course "Sexual Harassment in the Workforce Training"; and
2. Two (2) courses under the "Educator Ethics" heading.

Any cost for said trainings shall be paid for by Rodgers. Failure to submit written proof of completion prior to October 1, 2025 will result in Certificate Number 201175712 being administratively suspended until such time as Rodgers provides the written proof.

Upon acceptance of this agreement by the Board, Certificate Number 201175712, 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, Rodgers 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 Rodgers fail to satisfy this condition, Certificate Number 201175712 shall be automatically suspended for a period of sixty (60) days and subject to additional sanctions by the Board pursuant to KRS 161.120.

Rodgers 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*

2556657 Jennifer Hammond

Accept Agreed Order stating Certificate Number 201244479 shall be suspended for two (2) years from August 1, 2025, to August 1, 2027. Hammond 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. Hammond

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, Hammond 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. Two (2) courses under the “Educator Ethics” heading.

Any cost for said trainings shall be paid for by Hammond. If Hammond fails to satisfy any portion of this condition, Certificate Number 201244479 shall not be reinstated until such condition is satisfied.

Upon reinstatement, Certificate Number 201244479, 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, Hammond 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 Hammond fail to satisfy this condition, Certificate Number 201244479 shall be automatically suspended for a period of one (1) year and subject to additional sanctions by the Board pursuant to KRS 161.120.

Hammond 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*

Recommended Order**Case Name**

2355356 John Coffee

Decision

Accept the hearing officer's Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and recommended Order that Certificate Number 201185840 shall be permanently revoked. The Respondent, JOHN GREG COFFEE, shall neither apply for, nor be issued, a teaching, administrative, or emergency certificate in the Commonwealth of Kentucky at any time in the future. Any future application submitted by the Respondent, or on his behalf, shall be denied.

Vote: *Unanimous*

2456290 James Paitsel

Accept the hearing officer's Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and recommended Order that Certificate Number 200502657 shall be permanently revoked. The Respondent, JAMES KIRK PAITSEL, 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*

2455820 &
1405329 Patrick Mason

Accept the hearing officer's Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and recommended Order that Certificate Number 201112627 shall be permanently revoked. The Respondent, PATRICK MASON, shall neither apply for nor be issued a teaching, administrative, or emergency certificate in the Commonwealth of Kentucky for the remainder of his lifetime. Any future application submitted by the Respondent, or on behalf, shall be denied.

Vote: *Unanimous*

Motion made by Vice-Chair CJ Fryer, seconded by Capt. Lisa Rudzinski, to adjourn the meeting.

Vote: *Unanimous*

Meeting adjourned at 11:54 a.m.