

The actions delineated below were taken in open session of the EPSB at the August 19, 2025, meeting.

<p style="text-align: center;">Education Professional Standards Board (EPSB) Minutes Kentucky Department of Education 300 Sower Boulevard, 5th Floor, Frankfort, KY 40601</p>
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Call to Order

Chair Amber Snell called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m. ET. Chair, Snell read the EPSB Mission Statement.

Roll Call

The following Board members were present during the August 19, 2025, EPSB meeting: Priscilla Keller, Jacqueline Mayfield, Lori McKeehan, Justin Mitchell, Corinne Murphy, Merideth Pittman, Lisa Rudzinski, Vice Chair Fryer and Chair Snell.

CPE: Amanda Ellis

Report of the Commissioner

Commissioner Fletcher gave an update from the Kentucky Department of Education.

Report from Council on Postsecondary Education

Amanda Ellis gave an update from the Council on Postsecondary Education.

Report from the Office of Educator Licensure and Effectiveness

Meredith Brewer gave an update from the Office of Educator Licensure and Effectiveness.

Report of the Chair

Chair Snell introduced a new standing item under the report of the chair to highlight the amazing work that is taking place in educator preparation at Kentucky's Colleges and Universities. She noted that during the Kentucky Association of Colleges of Teacher Education meeting, staff will share information on how institutions may highlight their work at future EPSB meetings. However, to get things started, Elizabeth Dinkins from Bellarmine University will provide the inaugural presentation for the EPP spotlight.

EPP Spotlight

Dr. Dinkins provided an overview of the work taking place in educator preparation at Bellarmine University.

Consent Items

July 28, 2025, EPSB Meeting Minutes

Boyce College Program Approval: English as a Second Language Endorsement

Kentucky Christian University Approval: Master of Arts in Teaching

Northern Kentucky University Program Approval: Learning and Behavior Disorders

University of Pikeville Program Approval: Master of Arts in Teaching

Western Kentucky University Program Approval: English as a Second Language

2025-062

Motion made by Dr. Justin Mitchell, seconded by Vice-Chair Fryer to approve the consent items.

Vote: Unanimous (*Dr. Murphy abstained*)

Information/Discussion Items

16 KAR 2:020. Occupation-Based Career and Technical Education Certification, Amendment
Todd Davis was joined by Office of Career and Technical Education staff members Lauren Graves and Carmela Clark to present a proposed amendment to 16 KAR 2:020, Occupation-Based Career and Technical Education Certification.

Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation Letter of Engagement

Melissa Diebel presented the Letter of Engagement from the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation.

Review of Legislative Priorities

Cassie Trueblood reviewed the EPSB's Legislative Priorities for the 2025 session, and the members discussed changes they would like to see for the 2026 session.

Action Items

Certification of Expiring Regulations

2025-063

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

Vote: Unanimous

Waivers

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

2025-064

Motion made by Vice-Chair Fryer, seconded by Ms. Jacqueline Mayfield to deny the waiver.

Vote: Unanimous

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

2025-065

Motion made by Ms. Jacqueline Mayfield, seconded by Dr. Corrine Murphy 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 Covington Independent Schools

2025-066

Motion made by Ms. Jacqueline Mayfield, seconded by Ms. Priscilla Keller to approve the waiver.

Vote: Unanimous

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

2025-067

Motion made by Dr. Justin Mitchell, seconded by Ms. Lori McKeehan 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 Model Laboratory

2025-068

Motion made by Ms. Jacqueline Mayfield, seconded by Ms. Meridith Pittman to approve the waiver with a note that this is the last year for the approval of this waiver.

Vote: Unanimous

Alternative Route to Certification Applications

Latasha Malone, Information Technology, All Grades

2025-069

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

Vote: Unanimous

Brittany Parr, School Medial Librarian, All Grades

2025-070

Motion made by Dr. Corrine Murphy, seconded by Ms. Lori McKeehan to approve the application.

Vote: Unanimous

Motion made by Ms. Priscilla Keller seconded by Ms. Jacqueline Mayfield, 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 Vice-Chair Fryer seconded by Dr. Corinne Murphy, to return to open session.

Vote: Unanimous

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

Amanda Ellis, C.J. Fryer, Priscilla Keller, Jacqueline Mayfield, Lori McKeehan, 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

2556760 Matthew Byrum

2556816 Rebecca Merkel

2556813 Brooke Macdonald

Decision

Further Investigation

Further Investigation

Further Investigation

2556852 Donnie Fugate
2556853 Tina Griffith

Dismiss w/Prejudice
Dismiss w/Prejudice

2556859 Antonio Watts

Approve PRC Agreed Order stating Watts shall not be employed in a certified position that requires a Professional Certificate for Instructional Leadership-School Superintendent after August 1, 2025. Watts shall not seek or accept any position of employment in the Commonwealth of Kentucky that requires the use of Certificate Number 200103500, Professional Certificate for Instructional Leadership-School Superintendent. Upon the natural expiration of his Professional Certificate for Instructional Leadership-School Superintendent for Certificate Number 200103500, Watts shall neither apply for, nor be issued a Professional Certificate for Instructional Leadership-School Superintendent in the Commonwealth of Kentucky at any time in the future. If Watts violates this agreement, Certificate Number 200103500 shall be automatically permanently revoked, and/or any application for certification shall be denied.

Prior to February 1, 2026, Watts 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. Three (3) courses under the “Educator Ethics” heading.

Any cost for said trainings shall be paid for by Watts. Failure to submit written proof of completion prior to February 1, 2026, will result in Certificate Number 200103500 being administratively suspended until such time as Watts provides the written proof. If Watts fails to satisfy any portion of this condition, Certificate Number 200103500 shall not be reinstated until such condition is satisfied.

2556809 Ann Easterling

Approve PRC Agreed Order stating upon acceptance of this agreement by the Board, Certificate Number 201165685 is retroactively suspended beginning July 1, 2025, to July 15, 2025, a period of fifteen (15)

days. Easterling 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. Easterling 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, Easterling 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 Easterling. Failure to submit written proof of completion on or before the deadline will result in Certificate Number 201165685 being administratively suspended until such time as the Board receives the written proof of completion.

Finally, Certificate Number 201165685 shall be subject to the following probationary condition for two (2) years:

Easterling shall not receive any disciplinary action involving neglect of duty from any school district she is employed. If Easterling fails to satisfy this condition, Certificate Number 201165685 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.

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

2556810 Stephanie Griffin

Further Investigation

2556811 Lauren Harney

Approve PRC Agreed Order stating upon acceptance of this agreement by the Board, Certificate Number 201237110 is suspended beginning August 1, 2025, to July 31, 2026, a period of one (1) year. Harney 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. Harney 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.

Prior to reinstatement, Harney 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 Harney. If Harney fails to satisfy any portion of this condition, Certificate Number 201237110 shall not be reinstated until such condition is satisfied.

Upon reinstatement, Certificate Number 201237110, 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, Harney 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 Harney fail to satisfy this condition, Certificate Number 201237110 shall be automatically suspended for a period of one (1) year and subject to additional sanctions by the Board pursuant to KRS 161.120.

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

2556812 Jed Keys

Approve PRC Agreed Order stating Keys is retiring on October 1, 2025. After October 1, 2025, Keys shall not maintain, seek, or accept any position of employment in Kentucky that requires the use of Certificate Number 200010469. Further, Keys shall neither apply for, nor be issued any teaching, administrative or emergency certificate in the Commonwealth of Kentucky at any time in the future. If Keys violates this agreement, Certificate Number 200010469 shall be automatically permanently revoked, and/or any application for certification shall be denied.

2556814 William Stone
2556807 Jaime Caldwell
2556771 Bryan Tinch

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

2556844 Ryan Jones

Approve PRC Agreed Order stating Jones voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently surrenders Certificate Number 201239729, 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.

2556806 Andrew Brock

Further Investigation *(Ms. McKeegan Recused)*

2556808 Stephanie Denton

Approve PRC Agreed Order stating upon acceptance of this agreement by the Board, Certificate Number 201238796 shall be revoked from August 1, 2025, through July 31, 2030, a period of five (5) years. Denton shall not apply for nor be issued a teaching, administrative or emergency certificate in the Commonwealth of Kentucky at any time during the revocation period.

In addition to any educational and assessment requirements necessary for certification at the time, Denton shall comply with the following conditions prior to reissuance of Certificate Number 201238796:

1. Denton shall submit written proof to the Board that she has completed two courses under the heading "Educator Ethics" on the attached preapproved Board training list (Exh. A). Denton shall pay any expense incurred. If Denton fails to satisfy this condition, Certificate Number 201238796 shall not be reissued until such condition is satisfied.
2. Denton shall submit a copy of her current criminal record, dated within three (3) months of the date of the application, as prepared by the Administrative Office of the Courts to the Board. If Denton fails to satisfy this condition, Certificate Number 201238796 shall not be reissued until such condition is satisfied. If Denton has received any criminal convictions, other than minor traffic violations in which no jail time can be imposed, Certificate Number 201238796 shall not be reissued, and Denton shall neither apply for nor be

issued a teaching, administrative or emergency certificate in the Commonwealth of Kentucky at any time in the future.

Upon reissuance, Certificate Number 201238796 and any new endorsements or new areas of certification shall be subject to the following permanent probationary condition:

1. Denton shall not receive any disciplinary action involving dishonesty, fraud, or misrepresentation from any school district she is employed. If Denton fails to satisfy this condition, Certificate Number 201238796 shall be automatically permanently revoked.

“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.

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

2456463 Catherine Armstrong
2455920
2355670
2456058
2355518

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

Character/Fitness Review

Case Number

2556934
2556937
2556948
2556901
2556950
2556955

Decision

Deny
Approve
Approve
Approve
Approve
Approve

2556957	Approve
2556958	Approve
2556959	Approve
2556886	Approve
2556966	Approve
2556967	Approve
2556970	Approve
2556988	Approve
2556992	Approve
2556936	Approve
2556949	Deny
2556953	Approve
2556960	Approve
2556962	Approve
2556871	Approve
2556968	Approve
2556975	Approve
2556964	Approve
2556989	Approve
2556976	Approve
2556993	Approve
2556991	Approve

Agreed Orders

Case Number

2456515 Clayton Garrigus

Decision

Accept Agreed Order stating the Board reprimands Garrigus for using crude language and having inappropriate conversations with his colleagues. The Board directs and Garrigus acknowledges that he, like all teachers and school administrators, has a professional responsibility to treat colleagues with dignity and respect in all circumstances. The Board urges Garrigus to exercise better judgment going forward. The Board will not tolerate any further incidents of misconduct from Garrigus.

Prior to December 1, 2025, Garrigus 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. Three (3) courses under the “Educator Ethics” heading; and
2. A course under the “Harassment” heading.

Any cost for said trainings shall be paid for by Garrigus. Failure to submit written proof of completion prior to December 1, 2025 will result in Certificate Number 201237231. being administratively suspended until such time as Garrigus provides the written proof.

Upon acceptance of this agreement by the Board, Certificate Number 201237231, 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, Garrigus 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 Garrigus fail to satisfy this condition, Certificate Number 201237231 shall be automatically suspended for a period of 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 201237231, if a school district in the Commonwealth of Kentucky reports to the EPSB that the district substantiated that Garrigus engaged sexual harassment of a colleague, then Certificate Number 201237231 shall be automatically permanently revoked.

Garrigus 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*

2556721 Amy Melvin-Anderson

Accept Agreed Order stating Certificate Number 200401078 shall be suspended for one (1) year from July 1, 2025 to June

30, 2026. Melvin-Anderson 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. Melvin-Anderson 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, Melvin-Anderson 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. Three (3) courses under the “Classroom Management” heading; and
2. Two (2) courses under the “Educator Ethics” heading.

Any cost for said trainings shall be paid for by Melvin-Anderson. If Melvin-Anderson fails to satisfy any portion of this condition, Certificate Number 200401078 shall not be reinstated until such condition is satisfied.

Upon reinstatement, Certificate Number 200401078, and any future endorsements or new areas of certification, shall be subject to the following probationary condition for ten (10) years:

1. During the probationary period, Melvin-Anderson 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 Melvin-Anderson fail

to satisfy this condition, Certificate Number 200401078 shall be revoked for three (3) years and subject to additional sanctions by the Board pursuant to KRS 161.120.

Melvin-Anderson 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 (Dr. Ellis Recused)*

2556656 Michele Edelen

Accept Agreed Order stating the Board reprimands Edelen for inappropriately touching her colleague's butt. The Board directs and Edelen acknowledges that she, like all teachers, has a professional responsibility to treat colleagues with dignity and respect in all circumstances. The Board urges Edelen to exercise better judgment going forward. The Board will not tolerate any further incidents of misconduct from Edelen.

Prior to February 1, 2026, Edelen 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 "Harassment" heading.

Any cost for said trainings shall be paid for by Edelen. Failure to submit written proof of completion prior to February 1, 2026, will result in Certificate Number 200003315 being administratively suspended until such time as Edelen provides the written proof.

Upon acceptance of this agreement by the Board, Certificate Number 200003315, 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, Edelen 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 Edelen fail to satisfy this condition, Certificate Number 200003315 shall be automatically suspended for a period of one (1) month and subject to additional sanctions by the Board pursuant to KRS 161.120.

Edelen 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*

2456553 Jeremy Grizzle

Accept Agreed Order stating Grizzle voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently surrenders Certificate Number 200143705, 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*

2556619 Ryan Jones
2556659
2556715

Accept Agreed Order stating Jones voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently surrenders Certificate Number 201239729, 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*

2455972 Sarah Easterling

Accept Agreed Order stating upon acceptance of this agreement by the Board, Certificate Number 65019, Professional Certificate for Teaching Exceptional Children – Learning and Behavior Disorders, Grades Primary Through 12 is permanently revoked. Further, Easterling agrees to not apply for, nor be issued any special education certificate now existing or created in the future. This includes, but is not limited to, any certificate listed in 16 KAR 2:010 Section 4(2)(g) or any future regulation creating special education certificates. If Easterling violates this provision, then Certificate Number 65019 shall be

automatically permanently revoked, and/or any application for certification shall be denied.

Prior to February 1, 2026, Easterling shall provide written proof to the Board, from a psychiatrist or psychologist licensed to practice in the Commonwealth of Kentucky 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. Easterling shall pay any expense incurred. If Easterling fails to satisfy this condition, Certificate Number 65019 shall be administratively suspended until such condition is satisfied.

Prior to February 1, 2026, Easterling 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 “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 Easterling. Failure to submit written proof of completion prior to February 1, 2026, will result in Certificate Number 65019 being administratively suspended until such time as Easterling provides the written proof.

Upon acceptance of this agreement by the Board, Certificate Number 65019, and any future endorsements or new areas of certification, shall be subject to the following probationary conditions:

1. As a permanent probationary condition of Certificate Number 65019, if a school district in the Commonwealth of Kentucky substantiates that Easterling engaged in misconduct, then Certificate Number 65019 shall be automatically administratively suspended upon the district’s report to EPSB

pending (a) review and disposition by the Board or, should it apply, (b) action consistent with paragraph two (2) below. "Misconduct" shall be defined as Easterling engaging in any conduct that requires the superintendent to report the conduct to the EPSB pursuant to KRS 161.120(3)(a).

2. As a permanent probationary condition of Certificate Number 65019, if a school district in the Commonwealth of Kentucky issues any disciplinary action, Certificate Number 65019 shall be automatically permanently revoked. "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. Easterling shall also be permanently revoked if she resigns from a certified position in lieu of termination of her contract by the school district.
3. For a period of five (5) years, if the fit for duty evaluation results in recommendations, Easterling shall submit written progress reports from the Kentucky licensed psychologist or psychiatrist on July 1st of every year of the probation, indicating she is compliant with all treatment recommendations, until she is released from treatment. If Easterling fails to satisfy any of these conditions, Certificate Number 65019 shall be administratively suspended until such conditions are satisfied.

Easterling 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*

2355315 Jeremy Dale

Accept Agreed Order stating Dale voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently surrenders Certificate Number 200004984, 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*

2456393 Shasta Bell

Accept Agreed Order stating Bell shall be issued a Kentucky Emergency Substitute Teaching Certificate upon providing proof that she has met the academic and testing requirements necessary for issuance of a certificate, and has completed the following:

1. Bell shall provide written proof to the Board from a Kentucky licensed physician, as approved by the Board, that she has complied with a comprehensive health evaluation and is physically and mentally fit to teach in a classroom and perform duties as an educator, is not a danger to herself or others, and is compliant with all treatment recommendations. Bell shall pay any expense incurred. An Emergency Substitute Teaching Certificate shall not be issued to Bell until such condition is satisfied.
2. Bell shall provide written proof to the Board that she has completed a comprehensive substance abuse assessment from a Kentucky licensed counselor. Any expense required for said assessment and follow-up shall be paid for by Bell. An Emergency Substitute Teaching Certificate shall not be issued to Bell until such condition is satisfied.

Any and all certificates issued to Bell shall be subject to a five (5) year probationary period with the following conditions:

1. Bell 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 Bell 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 Bell's certificate being automatically permanently revoked.

2. Bell shall submit a copy of her Kentucky State Police or Administrative Office of the Courts background check by July 1st of each year of the probation period. Any expense required to satisfy this condition shall be paid by Bell. Failure to do so shall result in administrative suspension until such condition is satisfied.
3. If Bell's substance abuse assessment recommends any treatment, Bell shall submit written progress reports from a Kentucky licensed counselor on January 1st and July 1st, each year of her probation, indicating she is continuing to be sober, until such time as the counselor releases her from treatment. Each progress report shall certify that Bell is continuing to comply with any and all treatment recommendations, and that she remains fit and competent to fulfill her duties as an educator. Failure to do so shall result in administrative suspension until such condition is satisfied.

Bell 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*

2456207 Alexandria Fields

Accept Agreed Order stating the Board reprimands Fields for engaging in a manner unbecoming of the teaching profession. It is the responsibility of the education professional to set and maintain appropriate boundaries with students – at all times. The Board directs and Fields acknowledges that she, like all teachers and school administrators, has a professional responsibility to exhibit sound judgment in all of her interactions with students. The Board urges Fields to exercise better decision-making going forward.

Prior to December 1, 2025, Fields 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. “Appropriate Student-Teacher Boundaries” under the “Appropriate Boundaries” heading; and
2. “Technology, Social Media, and its Impact on Public Educators” under the “Appropriate Use of Technology” heading.

Any cost for said trainings shall be paid for by Fields. Failure to submit written proof of completion prior to December 1, 2025 will result in Certificate Number 201300414 being administratively suspended until such time as Fields provides the written proof.

Upon acceptance of this agreement by the Board, Certificate Number 201300414, and any future endorsements or new areas of certification, shall be subject to the following probationary conditions:

1. For a period of two (2) years, 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 201300414 being administratively suspended pending further Board review and disposition.
2. As a permanent probationary condition of Certificate Number 201300414, Fields shall only communicate with students using school-approved traceable methods of communication. Fields shall never communicate with students one-on-one using social media or messaging platforms that use end-to-end encryption including, but not limited to, SnapChat, Kik, Facebook

Messenger, Instagram, TikTok, Signal, and Telegram. Failure to uphold this condition will result in Certificate 201300414 being administratively suspended pending further Board review and disposition.

3. As a permanent probationary condition of Certificate Number 201300414, if a school district in the Commonwealth of Kentucky reports to the EPSB that the district substantiated that Fields engaged in inappropriate communications with a student, then any and all certificates issued to Fields shall be automatically suspended for a period of one (1) year and subject to additional sanctions by the Board pursuant to KRS 161.120.

Fields 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*

2455984 Kelly Patrick

Accept Agreed Order stating Certificate Number 201124620 shall be revoked for a period of five (5) years beginning on August 19, 2025, and ending on August 19, 2030.

In addition to any educational and assessment requirements necessary for certification at the time, Patrick shall comply with the following conditions prior to reissuance of Certificate Number 201124620:

Prior to reissuance, Patrick 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;
2. “Anger Management: What It Is and How to Address It”.
3. “Child Abuse Prevention”; and
4. “Addressing Challenging Behaviors”.

Any cost for said trainings shall be paid for by Patrick. If Patrick fails to satisfy any portion of this condition, Certificate Number 201124620 shall not be reissued until such condition is satisfied.

Upon reissuance, Certificate Number 201124620, including any and all endorsements, is hereby subject to the following permanent probation condition:

1. During the probationary period, Patrick shall not receive any report of disciplinary action for inappropriate use of physical force 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. If Patrick fails to satisfy this condition, Certificate Number 201124620 shall be automatically permanently revoked by the Board.

Patrick 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*

2556826 Tyler Smothers

Accept Agreed Order stating:

- a. Smothers shall be issued a Kentucky teaching certificate after providing written proof to the Board that he has completed the following conditions:

- 1) Any one training under the heading of "Educator Ethics" on the attached pre-approved Board training list (Attachment A).
- 2) The specific training "Honesty at Work" on the attached pre-approved Board training list (Attachment A).

Smothers shall pay any expense incurred. Smothers shall not be issued a certificate until such conditions are satisfied.

- b. On or before September 30th, 2025, Smothers shall provide written proof to the Board that he has been assessed by a state-certified mental health counselor, as approved by the Board, and has complied with a comprehensive anger management assessment, and is compliant with all treatment recommendations. The assessment shall occur within the sixty (60) days prior to Respondent's submission of the assessment to the Board. At the Board's request, Smothers shall sign a release of information with the evaluating provider(s) referred to herein, allowing the Board to review his evaluation and treatment records. Any expense required for assessment and follow-up shall be paid for by Smothers. If Smothers fails to satisfy any part of this condition, any and all certificates issued to Smothers shall be administratively suspended until such condition is satisfied.
- c. Any and all certificates issued to Smothers shall be subject to the following conditions for ten (10) years from the date of this order:
 - 1) If the evaluating anger management counselor makes any treatment recommendations regarding anger management, Smothers shall submit written progress reports to the Board on July 1st each year of his probation, beginning at least three (3) months after his initial assessment, indicating that he is compliant with all treatment recommendations until the counselor releases him from treatment. Smothers shall pay any expense incurred. If Smothers fails to satisfy this condition, any and all certificates issued to him shall be administratively suspended until such condition is satisfied.
 - 2) Smothers 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 an offense for which jail time may be imposed. If Smothers 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. If Smothers fails to satisfy this condition, any and all certificates issued to him 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.

- 3) Smothers shall submit an official copy of his current criminal record, as prepared by the Kentucky State Police OR the Administrative Office of the Courts, with any application for renewal of his certification(s) and/or for additional certification(s). Smothers shall pay any expense incurred. If Smothers fails to satisfy this condition, any application submitted on his behalf for certification renewal and / or an additional certificate shall be denied.
- 4) Smothers shall not receive any disciplinary action from any school district in the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

“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.

If Smothers fails to satisfy this condition, any and all certificates issued to him 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.

- d. Smothers is aware that should he violate KRS 161.120 at any time, the Board shall initiate new disciplinary action and seek additional sanctions.

Vote: *Unanimous*

Recommended Order

Case Name

2254714 Stephen Loder

Decision

Accept the Petitioner's Exception, modify the Findings of Fact, accept the Conclusion of Law and accept the Recommended Order stating Certificate Number 201128670 is permanently revoked. Loder shall neither apply for, nor be issued, an emergency, teaching and/or administrative certificate in the Commonwealth of Kentucky at any time in the future. Loder 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., Fifth Floor, Frankfort, KY 40601.

Vote: *Unanimous*

2254735 Michael Duncil

Accept the Petitioner's Exceptions in part, modify the Findings of Fact, modify the Conclusion of Law and modify the Recommended Order suspending Respondent's Certificate for two (2) years with reinstatement conditions and a permanent probation.

Vote: *Unanimous (Dr. Ellis Recused)*

2254731 Amy Dixon

Accept the Petitioner's Exceptions, modify the Findings of Fact, modify the Conclusion of Law and modify the Recommended Order in accordance with the board's discussion permanently revoking the Respondent's certificate.

Vote: *Unanimous*

Motion made by Ms. Lori McKeehan, seconded by Dr. Justin Mitchell, to adjourn the meeting.

Vote: *Unanimous*

Meeting adjourned at 3:07 p.m.