

The actions delineated below were taken in open session of the EPSB at the October 21, 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>
--

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 October 21, 2025, EPSB meeting: Scottie Collier, Elizabeth Dinkins, Cathy Gunn, Priscilla Keller, Jacqueline Mayfield, Lori McKeehan, Justin Mitchell, Corinne Murphy, Nicholas Pace, Lisa Rudzinski, Vice Chair Fryer, and Chair Snell.

CPE: Amanda Ellis

Cabinet: Michael Yoder

Report from Commissioner

Commissioner Fletcher introduced the 2026 Kentucky Teacher of the Year, Michelle Gross. He also introduced Kentucky Board of Education (KBE) Chair Sharon Robinson who gave an update from KBE. Commissioner Fletcher also gave an update from the Kentucky Department of Education.

Report from Education and Labor Cabinet

Michael Yoder gave an update from the Education and Labor Cabinet.

Report from Council on Postsecondary Education

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

Report from Educator Licensure and Effectiveness

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

Report from the Chair

Chair Snell shared information on the Governor Louis B. Nunn Kentucky Teacher Hall of Fame will officially induct its three newest members on November 7th. She congratulated this year's inductees Lois Chandler, Julie Cowan, and Jennifer Fritsch.

EPP Spotlight

Dr. Antoniotti-Neal provided an overview of the work taking place in educator preparation at Lindsey Wilson University.

Consent Items

September 29, 2025, EPSB Meeting Minutes

Option 9 Application, Mayfield Independent Schools and Campbellsville University

Option 9 Application, Meade County Schools and Campbellsville University

Option 9 Application, Warren County Schools and Campbellsville University

Option 9 Application, Covington Independent Schools and University of the Cumberland

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

Option 9 Application, Russell Independent Schools and University of the Cumberland

Option 9 Application, Southeast South-Central Educational Cooperative and University of the Cumberland

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

Campbellsville University Program Approval: Moderate to Severe Disabilities

Kentucky Christian University Program Approval: Learning and Behavior Disorders

Midway University Program Approval: Master of Arts in Teaching

Union Commonwealth University Program Approval: Principal

Request for SARA Approval for Franklin University

Removal of Approval for Lake Erie College's Initial Certification Programs

Expiration of 16 KAR 4:080. Out of State Recency

2025-074

Motion made by Ms. Jacqueline Mayfield, seconded by Dr. Michael Yoder to approve items.

Vote: Unanimous

Action Items

Review of Legislative Priorities

2025-075

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

Vote: Unanimous

EPSB and KBE Research Practice Collaborative

2025-076

Motion made by Ms. Jacqueline Mayfield, seconded by Dr. Corrine Murphy, to defer until next meeting. C.J. Fryer recused.

Vote: Unanimous

Eastern Kentucky University: Approval of Programs

2025-077

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

Vote: Unanimous

Lindsey Wilson University: Approval of Programs

2025-078

Motion made by Dr. Elizabeth Dinkins, seconded by Ms. Priscilla Keller to approve the programs.

Vote: Unanimous

Waivers

16 KAR 5:040. Request to Waive Cooperating Teacher Eligibility Requirements for Carson Tuscany

2025-079

Motion made by Vice-Chair Fryer, seconded by Dr. Justin Mitchell to approve the waiver. Corrine Murphy recused.

Vote: Unanimous

16 KAR 5:040. Alternative Student Teaching Placement Request for Alix Cornett

2025-080

Motion made by Ms. Lori McKeehan, seconded by Ms. Jacqueline Mayfield to approve the waiver. Lisa Rudzinski and Nicholas Pace recused.

Vote: Unanimous

16 KAR 5:040. Alternative Student Teaching Placement Request for Megan Sullivan

2025-081

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

Vote: Unanimous

16 KAR 5:040. Request to Waive a Portion of Student Teacher Days for a Lindsey Wilson University Student

2025-082

Motion made by Dr. Nicholas Pace, seconded by Ms. Lori McKeehan to approve the waiver.

Vote: Unanimous

16 KAR 3:090. Request to Waive Certified Teaching Experience Requirements for Admission to a Director of Special Education Program for Kasey Hampton

2025-083

Motion made by Ms. Jacqueline Mayfield, seconded by Ms. Lisa Rudzinski to approve the waiver.

Vote: Unanimous

16 KAR 2:010. Request to Waive Certification Grade Range for Carmen Sallee

2025-084

Motion made by Ms. Lori McKeehan, seconded by Dr. Nicholas Pace to approve the waiver. Lisa Rudzinski recused.

Vote: Unanimous

16 KAR 2:020. Request to Waive Renewal Requirements for Provisional Occupation-Based Career and Technical Education Certificate for Bruce Williams

2025-085

Motion made by Capt. Lisa Rudzinski, seconded by Dr. Justin Mitchell to approve the waiver.

Vote: Unanimous

16 KAR 2:020. Request to Waive Renewal Limits for Provisional Occupation-Based Career and Technical Education Certificate for Ingram Warren

2025-086

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

Vote: Unanimous

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

2025-087

Motion made by Ms. Jacqueline Mayfield, seconded by Capt. Lisa Rudzinski to approve the waiver.

Vote: Unanimous

16 KAR 4:030. Request to Waive Out-of-State GPA Requirements for a Candidate

2025-088

Motion made by Ms. Jacqueline Mayfield, seconded by Dr. Nicholas Pace to approve the waiver.

Vote: Unanimous

16 KAR 8:010. Request to Allow Educational Leadership Coursework for Rank I for Sarah Wallace

2025-089

Motion made by Mr. Scottie Collier, seconded by Ms. Lori McKeehan to deny the waiver. Amanda Ellis recused.

Vote: Unanimous

16 KAR 8:010. Request to Allow Master of Science in Clinical Mental Health Counseling for Rank I for Leslie Wood

2025-090

Motion made by Ms. Jackie Mayfield, seconded by Ms. Lisa Rudzinski to deny the waiver.

Vote: Unanimous

16 KAR 8:020. Request to Allow Master's in Management Consultancy for Rank II for Orfelina Guerra Vega

2025-091

Motion made by Vice-Chair Fryer, seconded by Mr. Michael Yoder to deny the waiver.

Vote: Unanimous

Alternative Route to Certification Applications

Brittany Johnson, Dance, Primary through Grade 12

2025-092

Motion made by Ms. Cathy Gunn, seconded by Mr. Michael Yoder to approve the application.

Vote: Unanimous

Samantha Mueller, Health and Physical Education, All Grades

2025-093

Motion made by Mr. Scottie Collier, seconded by Dr. Nicholas Pace to approve the application.

Vote: Unanimous

Siaka Traore, Business and Marketing Education, Grades 5-12

2025-094

Motion made by Dr. Corrine Murphy, seconded by Dr. Justin Mitchell to deny the application.

Vote: Unanimous

Emma Erwin, Theater, Primary through Grade 12

2025-095

Motion made by Dr. Corrine Murphy, seconded by Ms. Cathy Gunn to approve the application.

Vote: Unanimous

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

Vote: Unanimous

Motion made by Ms. Jacqueline Mayfield seconded by Dr. Nicholas Pace, to return to open session.

Vote: Unanimous

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

Scottie Collier, Elizabeth Dinkins, Amanda Ellis, Christopher Fryer, Cathy Gunn, Priscilla Keller, Jacqueline Mayfield, Lori McKeehan, Justin Mitchell, Nicholas Pace, Lisa Rudzinski, Michael Yoder, and Amber Snell.

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

Initial Case Review

Case Number

1. 2556912 Jeffrey Day

Decision

Approve PRC Agreed Order stating upon acceptance of this agreement by the Board, Certificate Number 82676 is retroactively suspended beginning June 1, 2025, to July 30, 2025 for a period of sixty (60) days. Day 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. Day

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 January 1, 2026, Day 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 Day. Failure to submit written proof of completion prior to January 1, 2026, will result in Certificate Number 82676 being administratively suspended until such time as Day provides the written proof.

Upon acceptance of this agreement by the Board, Certificate Number 82676, and any future endorsements or new areas of certification, shall be subject to the following probationary condition for three (3) years:

1. During the probationary period, Day 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 Day fail to satisfy this condition, Certificate Number 82676 shall be automatically

suspended for a period of one (1) year and subject to additional sanctions by the Board pursuant to KRS 161.120.

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

2. 2556915 Ashley Mosley
3. 2556916 James Scott

Further Investigation
Further Investigation

4. 2556942 Julianne Palmer

Approve PRC Agreed Order stating upon acceptance of this agreement by the Board, Certificate Number 201186442 is retroactively suspended from June 1, 2025, through June 30, 2025, a period of thirty (30) days. Palmer 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. Palmer 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.

Palmer is not currently working in a certified educator role. Prior to returning to certified employment, Palmer 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. If Palmer fails to satisfy this condition, Certificate Number 201186442 shall be administratively suspended for ten (10) days.

Within sixty (60) days of returning to a certified employment, Palmer shall provide 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). Palmer shall pay any expense incurred. If Palmer fails to satisfy this condition, Certificate Number

201186442 shall be administratively suspended until such condition is satisfied.

Further, Certificate Number 201186442 shall be subject to the following probationary conditions for a period of five (5) years:

1. Palmer 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 201186442 being automatically suspended for a period of sixty (60) days and subject to additional sanctions by the Board pursuant to KRS 161.120.

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

5. 2556881 Julie Stockton
6. 2556939 Kevin Luken
7. 2556893 Melissa Christerson
8. 2556913 Malik Johnson
9. 2556914 David Lechleiter
10. 2556938 Kristi Arnett
11. 2556947 Joe Sumpter
12. 2556911 Melanie Barrett

DWOP
Further Investigation
Further Investigation
Further Investigation
Admonish
Dismiss w/Prejudice
Dismiss w/Prejudice
Further Investigation

13. 2556943 Walton Robinson

Approve PRC Agreed Order stating upon acceptance of this agreement by the Board, Certificate Number 201138556 is suspended beginning January 1, 2025, to June 30, 2025, a period of six (6) months. Robinson 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. Robinson acknowledges it is his responsibility to consult with his employer to determine any consequences to salary or employment benefits as a result of this Agreed Order.

Robinson has submitted proof to the Board that he completed the substance abuse treatment required by the court in his criminal case.

Finally, Certificate Number 201138556 shall be subject to the following probationary condition for five (5) years:

1. Robinson shall have no further criminal convictions involving a controlled substance. If Robinson is convicted of, or enters a guilty or no contest plea, to any criminal charge involving a controlled substance, any and all certificates issued to him shall be automatically suspended for one (1) year and subject to additional sanctions by the Board pursuant to KRS 161.120.
2. Robinson shall not receive any disciplinary action involving a controlled substance from any school district in which he is employed. If Robinson fails to satisfy this condition, any and all certificates issued to him shall be automatically suspended for one (1) year 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.

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

14. 2556876 Kathryn Hamilton

Further Investigation

15. 2556877 Terricka Jones

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

Prior to January 1, 2026, Jones 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. Jones shall pay any expense incurred. If Jones fails to satisfy this condition, Certificate Number 201129501 shall be administratively suspended until such condition is satisfied.

Finally, Certificate Number 201129501 shall be subject to the following probationary condition for two (2) years:

1. If the substance abuse assessment results in recommendations, Jones 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 Jones fails to satisfy any of these conditions, Certificate Number 201129501 shall be administratively suspended until such condition is satisfied.

2. Jones shall not receive any disciplinary action involving alcohol from any school district she is employed. If Jones fails to satisfy this condition, Certificate Number 201129501 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.

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

16. 2556917 Amanda White

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

White has submitted written proof to the Board that she has successfully completed court-ordered substance abuse counseling sessions.

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

17. 2556592 Elizabeth Hernandez
18. 2556583 Winfield Smith
19. 2456561 James Rogers
20. 2456556 Stephen McCauley

Further Investigation
Further Investigation
Dismiss w/Prejudice
Dismiss w/Prejudice

21. 2456330 & 2456477 Brian Lovell	Dismiss w/Prejudice	
22. 2456417 Wendy Wilson	Initiate Hearing	
23. 2556929	Initiate Hearing	
24. 2556919	Initiate Hearing	(Ms. McKeehan Recused)

Character/Fitness Review

<u>Case Number</u>	<u>Decision</u>
1. 2557005	Approve
2. 2557146	Approve
3. 2557154	Approve
1. 2557041	Approve
2. 2557099	Approve
3. 2557100	Approve
4. 2557105	Approve
5. 2557106	Approve
6. 2557107	Deny
7. 2557103	Approve
8. 2557104	Deny
9. 2557142	Approve
10. 2557143	Approve
11. 2557144	Deny
12. 2557145	Approve
13. 2557149	Approve
14. 2557153	Deny

Agreed Orders

<u>Case Number</u>	<u>Decision</u>
1. 2456473 Michele Geoghegan	Accept Agreed Order stating: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Upon acceptance of this agreement by the Board, Certificate Number 200406433 is retroactively suspended from June 1st, 2025 to July 30th, 2025. Geoghegan shall not have been actively employed in a certified position during the suspension period. Pursuant to KRS 161.020(1)(a): No person shall be eligible to hold the position of superintendent, principal, teacher, supervisor, director of pupil personnel, or other public-school position for which certificates may be issued, or receive salary for services rendered in the position, unless he or she holds a certificate of legal qualifications for the position, issued by the Education Professional Standards Board. Geoghegan acknowledges it is her responsibility to consult with her employer to determine any consequences to salary or employment benefits as a result of this agreement.

- b. Geoghegan is hereby reprimanded for her poor professional judgment. Use of an inappropriate physical restraint could result in injury to a student, educator, or both. Geoghegan is reminded that as a certified educator she is required to meet high ethical standards as defined by the Professional Code of Ethics for Kentucky School Certified Personnel.
- c. On or before December 29th, 2025, Geoghegan shall submit written proof to the Board that she has completed the following training courses on the attached pre-approved Board training list (Attachment A):
 - 1) Any one (1) course under the “Classroom Management” heading;
 - 2) Any one (1) course under the “Educator Ethics” heading;
and
 - 3) Any one (1) course under the “Communication” heading.

Any cost for said trainings shall be paid for by Geoghegan. If Geoghegan fails to satisfy any portion of this condition, Certificate Number 200406433 shall be administratively suspended until such condition is satisfied.

- d. Upon acceptance of this agreement by the Board, Certificate Number 200406433, 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, Geoghegan 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 Geoghegan fail to satisfy this condition, Certificate Number 200406433 shall be automatically suspended for a period of sixty (60) days and be subject to additional sanctions by the Board pursuant to KRS 161.120.

- e. Geoghegan 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*

2. 2455832 Barry Hullett

Accept Agreed Order stating:

- a. Certificate Number 201230761 shall be retroactively suspended for five (5) days from June 20th, 2025 to June 24th, 2025. Hullett shall not have been actively employed in a certified position during the suspension period. Pursuant to KRS 161.020(1)(a): No person shall be eligible to hold the position of superintendent, principal, teacher, supervisor, director of pupil personnel, or other public-school position for which certificates may be issued, or receive salary for services rendered in the position, unless he or she holds a certificate of legal qualifications for the position, issued by the Education Professional Standards Board. Hullett acknowledges it is his responsibility to consult with his employer to determine any consequences to salary or employment benefits as a result of this agreement.
- b. On or before December 29th, 2025, Hullett shall submit written proof to the Board that he has completed the following training course 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 Hullett. If Hullett fails to satisfy any portion of this condition, Certificate Number 201230761 shall be administratively suspended until such condition is satisfied.

- c. Upon acceptance of this agreement by the Board, Certificate Number 201230761, 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, Hullett 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. Resignation shall be defined as in lieu of termination if it occurs after the principal recommends termination. Should Hullett fail to satisfy this condition, Certificate Number 201230761 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. Hullett 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*

- 3. 2456103 Amber Recktenwald Accept Agreed Order stating:
 - a. Certificate Number 201183081 shall be retroactively suspended for thirty (30) days from July 1st, 2025 to

July 30th, 2025. Recktenwald shall not have been actively employed in a certified position during the suspension period. Pursuant to KRS 161.020(1)(a): No person shall be eligible to hold the position of superintendent, principal, teacher, supervisor, director of pupil personnel, or other public-school position for which certificates may be issued, or receive salary for services rendered in the position, unless he or she holds a certificate of legal qualifications for the position, issued by the Education Professional Standards Board. Recktenwald acknowledges it is her responsibility to consult with her employer to determine any consequences to salary or employment benefits as a result of this agreement.

- b. On or before July 14th, 2026, Recktenwald shall submit written proof to the Board that she has completed the following training courses on the attached pre-approved Board training list (Attachment A):

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

Any cost for said trainings shall be paid for by Recktenwald. If Recktenwald fails to satisfy any portion of this condition, Certificate Number 201183081 shall be administratively suspended until such condition is satisfied.

- c. Upon acceptance of this agreement by the Board, Certificate Number 201183081, 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, Recktenwald 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. Resignation shall be defined as in lieu of termination if it occurs after the principal recommends termination. Should Recktenwald fail to satisfy this condition, Certificate Number 201183081 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. Recktenwald 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*

- 4. 2456061 Christopher Blaydes Accept Agreed Order stating:
 - a. Certificate Number 199604562 shall be suspended for one (1) year from July 1st, 2026 to June 30th, 2027. Blaydes 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. Blaydes acknowledges it is his responsibility to consult with his employer to determine any consequences to salary or employment benefits as a result of this agreement.

- b. Blaydes is hereby reprimanded for his lack of professional judgment regarding conversations with students. Blaydes is reminded that as a certified educator he is required to maintain professional communication with students and meet the high ethical standards as defined by the Professional Code of Ethics for Kentucky School Certified Personnel.
- c. On or before June 30th, 2027, Blaydes shall submit written proof to the Board that he has completed the following training courses on the attached pre-approved Board training list (Attachment A):
 - 1) Any one (1) course under the “Educator Ethics” heading;
 - 2) Any one (1) course under the “Appropriate Boundaries” heading; and
 - 3) Any one (1) course under the “Communication” heading.

Any cost for said trainings shall be paid for by Blaydes. If Blaydes fails to satisfy any portion of this condition, Certificate Number 199604562 shall not be reinstated until such condition is satisfied.

- d. From June 30th, 2027, Certificate Number 199604562, 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, Blaydes 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 Blaydes fail to satisfy this condition, Certificate Number 199604562 shall be automatically suspended for a period of sixty (60) days and be subject to additional sanctions by the Board pursuant to KRS 161.120.

- e. Blaydes 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*

2556795 Christopher Porter-Bunton Accept Agreed Order stating upon acceptance of this agreement by the Board, Certificate Number 201246296 is permanently revoked. Porter-Bunton 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*

6. 2556781 Elena Bardin Accept Agreed Order stating upon acceptance of this agreement by the Board, Certificate Number 201305674 is permanently revoked. Bardin 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*

7. 17061096 Treva Rice Accept Agreed Order stating upon acceptance of this agreement by the Board, Rice shall not retain, seek or accept any position of employment in Kentucky that requires the use of Certificate Number 199902278. Upon the natural expiration of Certificate Number 199902278, Rice 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 Rice violates this agreement, Certificate Number 199902278 shall be automatically permanently revoked, and/or any application for certification shall be denied.

Vote: *Unanimous*

8. 2556737 William Jones

Accept Agreed Order stating Jones is reprimanded for exercising poor professional judgment and for failing to properly manage a student's behavior. The Board recognizes that students are going to misbehave and disrupt the classroom setting, but an educator must remain aware of the line between appropriate and inappropriate physical intervention when interacting with a student. The Board reminds Jones that he has a duty to protect the health and safety of students and to set a positive example for his students. The Board will not tolerate any further incidents of misconduct from Jones.

February 1, 2026, Jones 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; and
2. A course under the "Educator Ethics" heading.

Any cost for said trainings shall be paid for by Jones. Failure to submit written proof of completion prior to February 1, 2026 will result in Certificate Number 201210816 being administratively suspended until such time as Jones provides the written proof.

Upon acceptance of this agreement by the Board, Certificate Number 201210816, 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, Jones 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 Jones fail to satisfy this condition, Certificate Number 201210816 shall be

automatically suspended for a period of sixty (60) days and subject to additional sanctions by the Board pursuant to KRS 161.120.

Jones 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*

9. 2456421 Jessica Cox

Accept Agreed Order stating upon acceptance of this agreement by the Board, Certificate Number 201168719 is retroactively suspended beginning June 1, 2025 to July 31, 2025. Cox 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. Cox 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 February 1, 2026, Cox 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. A course under the "Educator Ethics" heading;

Any cost for said trainings shall be paid for by Cox. Failure to submit written proof of completion prior to February 1, 2026 will result in Certificate Number 201168719 being administratively suspended until such time as Cox provides the written proof.

Upon acceptance of this agreement by the Board, Certificate Number 201168719, 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, Cox 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 Cox fail to satisfy this condition, Certificate Number 201168719 shall be automatically suspended for a period of thirty (30) days and subject to additional sanctions by the Board pursuant to KRS 161.120.

Cox 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*

10. 2456508 Stefanie Wheeler

Accept Agreed Order stating Wheeler is reprimanded for using inappropriate physical force to control a student’s behavior. The Board reminds Wheeler that she has a duty to take reasonable measures to protect the health, safety, and emotional well-being of students. In the future, Wheeler should be more cognizant of appropriate physical boundaries when disciplining a student.

Prior to December 1, 2025, Wheeler 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 “Classroom Management” heading.

Any cost for said trainings shall be paid for by Wheeler. Failure to submit written proof of completion prior to December 1, 2025 will result in Certificate Number 201214513 being administratively suspended until such time as Wheeler provides the written proof.

Upon acceptance of this agreement by the Board, Certificate Number 201214513, 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, Wheeler 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 Wheeler fail to satisfy this condition, Certificate Number 201214513 shall be automatically suspended for a period of thirty (30) days and subject to additional sanctions by the Board pursuant to KRS 161.120.

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

Vote: *Unanimous*

11. 2456155 Jamie Edlin

Accept Agreed Order stating upon acceptance of this agreement by the Board, Certificate Number 201136142 is retroactively suspended for one hundred and twenty (120) days from April 1, 2025 to July 30, 2025. Edlin shall not be actively employed in a certified position during the suspension period. Pursuant to KRS 161.020(1)(a): No personal 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. Edlin 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 February 1, 2026, Edlin shall submit written proof to the Board that he has completed the following trainings or courses on the attached pre-approved Board training list (Attachment A):

1. Two (2) courses under the “Classroom Management” heading;
2. A course under the “Educator Ethics” heading; and
3. “Anger Management: What it is and how to address it.

Any cost for said trainings will be paid for by Edlin. Failure to submit written proof of completion prior to February 1, 2026 will result in Certificate Number 201136142 being administratively suspended until such time as Edlin provides the written proof.

Upon acceptance of this agreement by the Board, Certificate Number 201136142, and any future endorsements or new areas of certification, shall be subject to the following probationary conditions for seven (7) years:

1. During the probationary period, Edlin 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 Edlin fail to satisfy this condition, Certificate Number 201136142 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. As a permanent probationary condition of Certificate Number 201136142, if a school district in the Commonwealth of Kentucky issues any disciplinary action to Edlin for inappropriate physical force on a student, Certificate Number 201136142 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.

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

Vote: *Unanimous*

12. 2556786 James Cecil

Accept Agreed Order stating Cecil voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently surrenders Certificate Number 200701250, 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.

Vote: *Unanimous*

13. 2456208 Thomas Pike
2456559

Accept Agreed Order stating Pike voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently surrenders Certificate Number 201294976, and agrees not to apply for, nor be issued, a teaching, administrative, or emergency certificate in the Commonwealth of Kentucky any time in the future. Pike 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*

14. 2456554 Travis Manley
2456555

Accept Agreed Order stating Manley voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently surrenders Certificate Number 200701074, and agrees not to apply for, nor be issued, a teaching, administrative, or emergency certificate in the Commonwealth of Kentucky any time in the future. Manley 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* (Capt. Rudzinski Recused)

Recommended Order

Case Name

1. 2456028 Zack Stearns

Decision

Accept the Findings of Facts, accept the Conclusions of Law and accept Recommended Order stating Certificate Number 201291006 is permanently revoked. Stearns shall neither apply for, nor be issued, a teaching, emergency, and/or administrative certificate in the Commonwealth of Kentucky at any time in the future. Stearns shall immediately surrender the original and any physical 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*

Motion made by Ms. Cathy Gunn seconded by Ms. Jacqueline Mayfield, to adjourn the meeting.

Vote: *Unanimous*

Meeting adjourned at 1:41 p.m.