

The actions delineated below were taken in open session of the EPSB at the January 5, 2026, virtual meeting.

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

Call to Order

Chair Amber Snell called the meeting to order at 4:01 p.m. ET. Chair Snell read the EPSB Mission Statement.

Roll Call

The following Board members were present during the January 5, 2026, EPSB meeting: Scottie Collier, Elizabeth Dinkins, Cathy Gunn, Priscilla Keller, Jacqueline Mayfield, Justin Mitchell, Corinne Murphy, Nicholas Pace, Merideth Pittman, Lisa Rudzinski, and Chair Amber Snell.

CPE: Amanda Ellis

Cabinet: Michael Yoder

Consent Item

December 16, 2025, EPSB Meeting Minutes

2026-001

Motion made by Dr. Nicholas Pace seconded by Ms. Jacqueline Mayfield to approve the December 16^h meeting minutes.

Vote: Unanimous

Motion made by Dr. Amanda Ellis 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 Dr. Corinne Murphy seconded by Ms. Priscilla Keller, to return to open session.

Vote: Unanimous

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

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

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

Initial Case Review

Case Number

1. 2557135 Mary Stuedle

2. 2557117 Tanner Hall

Decision

Further Investigation

Approve PRC Agreed Order stating upon acceptance of this agreement by the Board, Certificate Number 201174047 is retroactively suspended beginning July 1, 2025, to July 30, 2025, a period of thirty (30) days. Hall 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. Hall 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.

On or before April 1, 2026, Hall 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 Hall. Failure to submit written proof of completion on or before the deadline will result in Certificate Number 201174047 being administratively suspended until such time as the Board receives the written proof of completion.

Upon acceptance of this agreement by the Board, Certificate Number 201174047, and any future endorsements or new areas of certification, shall be subject to the following probationary conditions for three (3) years:

During the probationary period, Hall 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 Hall fail to satisfy this condition, Certificate Number 201174047 shall be automatically suspended for a period of sixty (60) days and subject to additional sanctions by the Board pursuant to KRS 161.120.

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

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|------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------------|
| 3. 2557122 Demetrus Liggins | Defer for Training | (<i>Capt. Rudzinski recused</i>) |
| 4. 2557124 Garry Burke | DWOP | |
| 5. 2557125 Garry Burke | DWOP | |
| 6. 2557126 Samuel Marple | Further Investigation | |
| 7. 2557127 Samuel Marple | Further Investigation | |
| 8. 2557128 Jan Smith | DWOP | |
| 9. 2557129 Jan Smith | DWOP | |
| 10. 2557130 Thomas Stephens | DWOP | |
| 11. 2557131 Thomas Stephens | DWOP | |
| 12. 2557134 Brooke Schilling | Further Investigation | (<i>Mr. Collier recused</i>) |
| 13. 2557137 Annelyse Welch | Further Investigation | |

14. 2557118 Jeffrey 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, 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 Jones.

On or before April 1, 2026, Jones shall provide written proof to the Board that he has undergone a comprehensive alcohol/substance abuse assessment by a Kentucky licensed or certified chemical dependency counselor, as approved by the Board.

The assessment shall occur within the ninety (90) days prior to Jones' submission of the assessment to the Board. Jones shall pay any expense incurred. If Jones fails to satisfy this condition, Certificate Number 201187260 shall be administratively suspended until such condition is satisfied.

Finally, Certificate Number 201187260 shall be subject to the following probationary condition for two (2) years:

1. If the substance abuse assessment recommends any treatment, Jones shall submit written progress reports from a consistent licensed or certified counselor on January 1st and July 1st of every year of the probation, certifying that he is compliant with all treatment recommendations, until he is released from treatment. If Jones chooses to change counselors prior to completing the counselor's recommendations, he shall undergo a new comprehensive alcohol/substance abuse assessment to ensure he is compliant with all recommendations of the new counselor to ensure fulfillment of his probation requirements. If Jones fails to satisfy any of these conditions, Certificate Number 201187260 shall be administratively suspended until such condition is satisfied.

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.

15. 2557123 Ralph Loechle

Further Investigation (Mr. Collier recused)

16. 2557132 Brian Reppert

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

On or before April 1, 2026, Reppert shall provide written proof to the Board that he has undergone a comprehensive alcohol/substance abuse assessment by a Kentucky licensed or certified chemical dependency counselor, as approved by the Board. The assessment shall occur within the ninety (90) days prior to Reppert's submission of the assessment to the Board. Reppert shall pay any expense incurred. If Reppert fails to satisfy this condition, Certificate Number 201160658 shall be administratively suspended until such condition is satisfied.

Finally, Certificate Number 201160658 shall be subject to the following probationary condition for two (2) years:

1. If the substance abuse assessment recommends any treatment, Reppert shall submit written progress reports from a consistent licensed or certified counselor on January 1st and July 1st of every year of the probation, certifying that he is compliant with all treatment recommendations, until he is released from treatment. If Reppert chooses to change counselors prior to completing the counselor's recommendations, he shall undergo a new comprehensive alcohol/substance abuse assessment to ensure he is compliant with all recommendations of the new counselor to ensure fulfillment of his probation requirements. If Reppert fails to satisfy any of these conditions, Certificate Number 201160658 shall be administratively suspended until such condition is satisfied.

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

- 17. 2557113 Seth Faulkner
- 18. 2557116 Melissa Goodson
- 19. 2557120 Ryan King
- 20. 2557133 Jorge Romero

Further Investigation
Further Investigation
DWOP
Further Investigation

- 21. 2557139 Caleb York

Approve PRC Agreed Order stating York is retired. York shall not seek or accept any position of employment in Kentucky that requires the use of Certificate Number 200102548. Upon the natural expiration of Certificate Number 200102548, York 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 York, or on his behalf, shall be denied.

- 22. 2557138 Jeffrey Whittinghill
- 23. 2557119 Kaden Kidwell
- 24. 2557140 Angela Gilbert
- 25. 2557108 Tiffany Blazina
- 26. 2557109 Joshua Cook
- 27. 2557110 Tonya Driver
- 28. 2557114 Ebony Hutchinson
- 29. 2557115 David Wright

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

Character/Fitness Review

Case Number

- 1. 2557281
- 2. 2557285
- 3. 2557287
- 4. 2557289

Decision

Approve
Approve
Approve
Approve

Motion made by Dr. Justin Mitchell seconded by Dr. Michael Yoder, to adjourn the meeting.

Vote: *Unanimous*

Meeting adjourned at 5:10 p.m.