

The actions delineated below were taken in open session of the EPSB at the May 26, 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 4:00 p.m. ET. Chair Snell read the EPSB Mission Statement.

Roll Call

The following Board members were present during the May 26, 2026, EPSB meeting: Elizabeth Dinkins, Cathy Gunn, Priscilla Keller, Lori McKeegan, Justin Mitchell, Nicholas Pace, Vice Chair Fryer, and Chair Snell.

CPE: Amanda Ellis

Cabinet: Michael Yoder

Consent Items

Approval of EPSB Meeting Minutes from May 4, 2026

2026-044

Motion made by Dr. Amanda Ellis, seconded by Commissioner Michael Yoder, to approve the item.

Vote: *Unanimous*

Motion made by Ms. Lori McKeegan, seconded by Dr. Nicholas Pace, to go into closed session pursuant to KRS 61.810(1) (c) & (j).

Vote: *Unanimous*

Motion made by Dr. Nicholas Pace, seconded by Dr. Justin Mitchell, to return to open session.

Vote: *Unanimous*

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

Elizabeth Dinkins, Amanda Ellis, C.J. Fryer, Cathy Gunn, Priscilla Keller, Lori McKeegan, Justin Mitchell, Nicholas Pace, Amber Snell, and Michael Yoder.

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

Initial Case Review

Case Number

2657425 Erin Engler

2657429 Andrea Kendall

2657433 Lafonda Stallworth

2657436 Susan Williamson

2657427 Joseph Gormally

2657432 Jacob Phelps

2657420 Brandon Bales

2657421 Brandon Bales

Decision

Further Investigation

Approve PRC Agreed Order stating Kendall 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 Kendall violates this provision, then Certificate Number 78317 shall be automatically permanently revoked, and/or any application for certification shall be denied.

Further Investigation

Further Investigation

Approve PRC Agreed Order stating Gormally is reprimanded for failing to accurately report progress monitoring data for a special education student. As an educator working with special education students, it is his duty to timely and accurately collect data in order to ensure IEPs are being created and modified in accordance with the law.

Gormally is retired. Before returning to a certified position, Gormally shall provide written proof to the Board that he has completed a training under the heading of "Special Populations" on the attached pre-approved Board training list (Attachment A). Failure to comply with this condition shall result in Certificate Number 201198075 being administratively suspended until such condition is fulfilled.

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

Admonish

Further Investigation

Further Investigation

2657434 Frank Stone

Approve PRC Agreed Order stating upon acceptance of this agreement by the Board, Certificate Number 201129979 is suspended beginning July 1, 2026, to August 29, 2026, a period of sixty (60) days. Stone 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. Stone acknowledges it is his responsibility to consult with his employer to determine any consequences to salary or employment benefits as a result of this Agreed Order.

Prior to reinstatement, Stone 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 Stone. Certificate Number 201129979 shall not be reinstated until the Board receives the written proof of completion.

Upon acceptance of this agreement by the Board, Certificate Number 201129979, and any future endorsements or new areas of certification, shall be subject to the following probationary conditions for two (2) years:

During the probationary period, Stone 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 Stone fail to satisfy this condition, Certificate Number 201129979 shall be automatically suspended for a period of ninety (90) days and subject to additional sanctions by the Board pursuant to KRS 161.120.

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

2657430 Chandra Nair

Further Investigation

2657428 Rachele Holmes

Approve PRC Agreed Order stating Certificate Number 201170985 expires on June 30, 2026. Upon expiration, Holmes 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 Holmes, or on her behalf, shall be denied.

2657435 Wesley Wentworth

Dismiss w/Prejudice

2657437 Trenton Fields

Further Investigation

2657422 Donna Annis

Dismiss w/Prejudice

2657423 Stoye Young

Dismiss w/Prejudice

(Dr. Mitchell recused)

2657431 Roger Neace

Defer for Training

2557063 Charity Stout

DWOP

2456378 Kevin Moore

Initiate Hearing

2556792 Frank Moreno Fages

Initiate Hearing

2557123 Ralph Loechle

Initiate Hearing

2557239 Ralph Loechle

Initiate Hearing

Character/Fitness Review

Case Number

Decision

2657578

Approve

2657582

Approve

2657447

Approve

2657588

Approve

2657620

Approve

2657621

Approve

2657622

Approve

2657623

Approve

2657625	Approve
2657628	Approve
2657584	Approve
2657586	Approve
2657587	Approve
2657583	Approve
2657624	Approve
2657630	Approve

Agreed Orders

Case Number

2456192 Kevin Sacksteder

Decision

Accept Agreed Order stating upon acceptance of this agreement by the Board, Certificate number 201137983 is suspended for a period of fifteen (15) days beginning from June 15 through June 30, 2026. Sacksteder 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. Sacksteder 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 October 1, 2026, Sacksteder 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 Sacksteder. Failure to submit written proof of

completion prior to October 1, 2026 will result in Certificate Number 25056 being administratively suspended until such time as Sacksteder provides the written proof.

Upon acceptance of this agreement by the Board, Certificate Number 201137983, 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, Sacksteder shall not receive any disciplinary action from any school district in the Commonwealth of Kentucky. "Disciplinary action" is defined as any suspension, termination, resignation in lieu of termination, or public reprimand issued by any school district in the Commonwealth of Kentucky and upheld, if requested, by either the tribunal and/or arbitration process. Failure to uphold this condition will result in Certificate 201137983 being administratively suspended pending further Board review and disposition.

Sacksteder 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*

2557180

2557311 Stacy Wilson

Accept Agreed Order stating Wilson voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently surrenders Certificate Number 200003849, 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*

2557119 Kaden Kidwell

Accept Agreed Order stating:

- a. **Kidwell is hereby reprimanded for his lack of professional judgment regarding direct communication with students outside of district-approved traceable media. Kidwell is reminded that as a certified educator he is required to meet the high ethical standards defined by the Professional Code of Ethics for Kentucky School Certified Personnel. The Board warns Kidwell to limit his communication with students to district-approved channels going forward and will tolerate no further violations by Kidwell.**

- b. **On or before August 31st, 2026, Kidwell 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;**

AND

- 2) **Any one (1) course under the “Appropriate Boundaries” heading.**

Any cost for said trainings shall be paid for by Kidwell. Failure to submit written proof of completion by the deadline will result in Certificate Number 201302229 being administratively suspended until such time as Kidwell provides the written proof. If Kidwell fails to satisfy any portion of this condition, Certificate Number 201302229 shall be administratively suspended until such condition is satisfied.

- c. **Upon acceptance of this agreement by the Board, Certificate Number 201302229, and any future**

endorsements or new areas of certification, shall be subject to the following permanent probationary conditions:

- 1) During the probationary period, Kidwell 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 Kidwell fail to satisfy this condition, Certificate Number 201302229 shall be automatically suspended for a period of thirty (30) days and be subject to additional sanctions by the Board pursuant to KRS 161.120.
 - 2) As a permanent probationary condition of Certificate Number 201302229, Kidwell shall only communicate with students in compliance with the terms of KRS 160.145 (“SB 181”). If Kidwell fails to satisfy this condition, any and all certificates issued to him shall be automatically permanently revoked.
- d. Kidwell 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*

Accept Agreed Order stating:

- a. **Certificate Number 77300 shall be suspended for thirty (30) days from July 1st, 2026 to July 30th, 2026. Clark 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. Clark 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. **Clark is hereby reprimanded for her lack of professional judgement regarding use of a physical restraint on a student. Clark is reminded that as a certified educator she is required to meet the high ethical standards defined by the Professional Code of Ethics for Kentucky School Certified Personnel.**

- c. **On or before the date of reinstatement, Clark 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;**
 - and**
 - 2) **Any one (1) course under the “Educator Ethics” heading.**

Any cost for said trainings shall be paid for by Clark. If Clark fails to satisfy any

portion of this condition, Certificate Number 77300 shall not be reinstated until such condition is satisfied.

- d. Upon acceptance of this agreement by the Board, Certificate Number 77300, 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, Clark 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 Clark fail to satisfy this condition, Certificate Number 77300 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. Clark 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*

2657409 Edwin Hardin

Accept Agreed order stating Hardin shall be issued a Kentucky teaching certificate upon providing proof that he has met the academic and testing requirements

necessary for issuance of a certificate, and has completed the following:

1. Hardin shall submit written proof to the Board that he has completed the following trainings or courses on the attached pre-approved Board training list (Attachment A):
 - a. Three (3) courses under the “Educator Ethics” heading.

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

Upon issuance, Certificate Number 201326440 shall be subject to the following probationary condition for five (5) years:

1. During the probationary period, Hardin shall not receive any disciplinary action from any school district in the Commonwealth of Kentucky. “Disciplinary action” is defined as any suspension, termination, or public reprimand issued by any school district in the Commonwealth of Kentucky and upheld, if requested, by either the tribunal and/or arbitration process. Resigning in lieu of termination shall also be a violation of this condition. Should Hardin fail to satisfy this condition, Certificate Number 201326440 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 201326440, Hardin 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 Hardin is convicted of, or enters a guilty or no contest plea, to any criminal charge other than minor traffic violations, he shall submit this information to the Board, in writing, within thirty (30) days. Failure to comply with this condition will result in Hardin's certificate being automatically permanently revoked

Vote: Unanimous

2557138 Jeffrey Whittinghill

Accept Agreed Order stating upon acceptance of this agreement by the Board, Whittinghill shall not seek or accept any position of employment in Kentucky that requires the use of Certificate Number 201209346. Upon the natural expiration of Certificate Number 201209346, Whittinghill 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 Whittinghill violates this agreement, Certificate Number 201209346 shall be automatically permanently revoked, and/or any application for certification shall be denied.

Vote: Unanimous

2557177 Don Neal

Accept Agreed Order stating the Board reprimands Neal for failure to comply with applicable state school law. Neal, in his capacity as superintendent, was ultimately responsible for ensuring that the district complied with the hiring process mandated by statute. The Board reminds Neal that he has a statutory duty to follow all state statutes and regulations relating to schools. The Board will not tolerate any further incidents of misconduct by Neal.

Prior to January 1, 2027, Neal shall submit written proof to the Board that he has completed two hours of training on the topic of "Hiring Certified and Classified Employees." Failure to submit written proof of completion prior to January 1, 2027, will result in Certificate Number 41597 being administratively

suspended until such time as Neal provides the written proof.

Neal 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*

2455993 Julie Emery

Accept Agreed Order stating the Board reprimands Emery for neglect of duty. An educator has a duty to take reasonable measures to protect the health, safety, and emotional well-being of students. When an educator fails to maintain supervision in her classroom, students are at risk for both emotional and physical harm. Each educator has the responsibility to seek professional development in classroom management and to stay current on proper disciplinary methods. The Board will not tolerate any further incidents of misconduct from Emery.

On or before October 1, 2026, Emery 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):

- a. Two courses under the “Educator Ethics” heading;
- b. A course under the “Classroom Management” heading.

Any cost for said trainings shall be paid for by Emery. Failure to submit written proof of completion prior to October 1, 2026, will result in Certificate Number 201232006 being administratively suspended until such time as Emery provides the written proof.

Upon acceptance of this agreement by the Board, Certificate Number 201232006, and any future endorsements or new areas of certification, shall be

subject to the following probationary condition for a period of two (2) years:

1. Emery 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 Emery fail to satisfy this condition, Certificate Number 201232006 shall be automatically suspended for a period of thirty (30) days and subject to additional sanctions by the Board pursuant to KRS 161.120.

Emery 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

2657335 Mason McClanahan

Accept Agreed Order stating upon acceptance of this agreement by the Board, Certificate Number 201298397 is permanently revoked. McClanahan 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

Motion made by Dr. Amanda Ellis, seconded by Ms. Cathy Gunn, to adjourn the meeting.

Vote: Unanimous

Meeting adjourned at 4:42 p.m.