

The actions delineated below were taken in open session of the EPSB Virtual Meeting on September 8, 2026. This information is provided in summary form; an official record of the meeting is available in the permanent records of the Education Professional Standards Board (EPSB), 300 Sower Boulevard, 5th Floor, Frankfort, KY 40601.

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

Call to Order

Chair Snell called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m. ET/3:05 p.m. CT. Chair Snell read the EPSB Mission Statement.

Roll Call

The following Board members were present during the September 8, 2026, EPSB virtual meeting: Scottie Collier, Elizabeth Dinkins, Lori McKeehan, Justin Mitchell, Corinne Murphy (arrived at 4:20 p.m. ET/3:20 p.m. CT), Nicholas Pace, Merideth Pittman, Vice Chair Fryer, and Chair Snell.

CPE: Amanda Ellis

Education and Labor Cabinet: Michael Yoder

Consent Items

Approval of EPSB Meeting Minutes and EPSB Waiver Committee Minutes

2026-080

Motion made by Dr. Amanda Ellis, seconded by Dr. Nicholas Pace to approve items.

Vote: Unanimous

Information Items

Amendment to 16 KAR 8:040. Ranking of occupation-based career and technical education teachers.

Joint Resolution adopting the recommendations of the Research Practice Collaborative.

Viewing of the public service announcement released by the EPSB and the Kentucky High School Athletics Association.

Motion made by Dr. Amanda Ellis, seconded by Ms. Lori McKeehan 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. Amanda Ellis seconded by Ms. Lori McKeehan, 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, Lori McKeehan, Justin Mitchell, Corinne Murphy, Nicholas Pace, Merideth Pittman, Michael Yoder, Vice Chair Fryer, and Chair Snell.

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

Initial Case Review

Case Number

1. 2657598 Shawna Vaughn
2. 2657669 Katherine Lyvers
3. 2657676 Jer'Ricas Gentry
4. 2657605 Madeline Lawrence
5. 2657694 Deborah Rivera
6. 2657611 Ryan Rodosky
7. 2657673 Lindsey Eshbaugh
8. 2657689 Kristen Smith
9. 2657693 Amanda Tipton
10. 2657680 Matthew McIntosh
11. 2657690 Jordan Strong
12. 2657678 John Lovell
13. 2657679 John Lovell
14. 2657691 Alan Sullivan

Decision

Further Investigation
Further Investigation
Further Investigation
Further Investigation
DWOP
Further Investigation
Further Investigation
Further Investigation
Further Investigation
Further Investigation
Further Investigation
Further Investigation
Further Investigation
Further Investigation

Mr. Collier Recused

Mr. Collier Recused

15. 2657692 Jacob Thomas

Approve PRC Agreed Order stating the Board reprimands Thomas for embarrassing a student. The Board reminds Thomas that he has a duty to take reasonable measures to protect the health, safety, and emotional well-being of students. By inappropriately commenting on the appearance of a student in front of their peers, Thomas unnecessarily subjected the student to public embarrassment. The Board reminds Thomas that he has an ethical obligation as an educator in the Commonwealth to strive for excellence and to set a good example for students.

Prior to January 15, 2027, Thomas 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 Thomas. Failure to submit written proof of completion prior to January 15, 2027, will result in Certificate Number 201238266 being administratively suspended until such time as Thomas provides the written proof. Thomas agrees that if Certificate 201238266 is administratively suspended for more than 180 days for noncompliance, then Certificate 201238266 shall be automatically permanently revoked.

Upon acceptance of this agreement by the Board, Certificate Number 201238266, 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, Thomas 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 Thomas fail to satisfy this condition, Certificate Number 201238266 shall be automatically suspended for a period of thirty (30) days and subject to additional sanctions by the Board pursuant to KRS 161.120.

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

- 16. 2657688 Maria Rosales
- 17. 2657684 Kenton Partin

Further Investigation
Further Investigation

- 18. 2657685 Andrea Patino

Approve PRC Agreed Order stating Patino is hereby reprimanded for using profanity and other inappropriate language in the presence of students and for teaching or encouraging students to use words and language that are inappropriate for the school setting. The Board will not tolerate any further incidents of misconduct from Patino.

On or before February 15, 2027, Patino 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 Patino. Failure to submit written proof of completion on or before the deadline will result in Certificate Number 201202161 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 201202161, 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, Patino 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 Patino fail to satisfy this condition, Certificate Number 201202161 shall be automatically suspended for a period of thirty

(30) days and subject to additional sanctions by the Board pursuant to KRS 161.120.

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

Ms. Snell Recused

- 19. 2657682 Jaylah Hayes
- 20. 2657681 Haleigh Conley
- 21. 2657683 Cassondra Tucker
- 22. 2657612 Sarah Rose
- 23. 2657670 Deborah Bersaglia
- 24. 2657671 Rachel Clement
- 25. 2657600 Addisson Grimm

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

2657675 and 2657782
Kelly Gates

Approve PRC Agreed Order stating Gates is retired. Gates shall not seek or accept any position of employment in Kentucky that requires the use of Certificate Number 199801427. Upon the natural expiration of Certificate Number 199801427, Gates 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 Gates, or on her behalf, shall be denied.

- 28. 2657493 Lewis Ladd
- 29. 2557293 Allen Dillon
- 30. 2556981 Austin Hall
- 31. 2657366 Teresa Edge

Dismiss w/Prejudice
DWOP
Dismiss w/Prejudice
Initiate Hearing

Character/Fitness Review

Case Number

- 1. 2657847
- 2. 2657849
- 3. 2657850
- 4. 2657770
- 5. 2657852
- 6. 2657879
- 7. 2657807
- 8. 2657883
- 1. 2657843

Decision

Approve
Deny
Approve
Approve w/conditions
Approve
Approve
Approve
Approve
Deny

2. 2657844	Deny
3. 2657803	Deny
4. 2657841	Approve
5. 2657851	Approve
6. 2657855	Approve
7. 2657861	Approve
8. 2657863	Approve
9. 2657842	Deny
10. 2657865	Approve
11. 2657757	Approve
12. 2657853	Deny
13. 2657880	Approve
14. 2657881	Approve
15. 2657857	Deny
16. 2657886	Deny

Agreed Orders

Case Number

1. 2657430 Chandra Nair

Decision

Accept Agreed Order stating Nair is reprimanded for taking a drink of alcohol on school property during her lunch break. The use of intoxicating substances at school is never permitted. The Board will tolerate no further misconduct from Nair.

Nair has provided proof that he has undergone a substance abuse assessment by a licensed counselor.

Finally, Certificate Number 200204947 shall be subject to the following probationary condition for two (2) years:

1. Since the substance abuse assessment recommended treatment, Nair 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 she is compliant with all treatment recommendations, until she is released from treatment. If Nair chooses to change counselors prior to completing the counselor's recommendations, she shall undergo a new comprehensive alcohol/substance abuse assessment to ensure

she is compliant with all recommendations of the new counselor to ensure fulfillment of his probation requirements. If Nair fails to satisfy any of these conditions, Certificate Number 200204947 shall be administratively suspended until such condition is satisfied.

2. During the probationary period, Nair 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 Nair fail to satisfy this condition, Certificate Number 200204947 shall be automatically suspended for a period of thirty (30) days and subject to additional sanctions by the Board pursuant to KRS 161.120.

Nair 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. 2557240

2657565 Eric Lynch

Accept Agreed Order stating upon acceptance of this agreement by the Board, Certificate Number 201132402 is permanently revoked. Lynch 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

3. 2456425 Lauren Rice

Accept Agreed Order stating upon acceptance of this agreement by the Board, Certificate Number 201185057 is

retroactively suspended beginning November 1, 2025 to December 31, 2025. Rice 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 she or she holds a certificate of legal qualifications for the position, issued by the Education Professional Standards Board. Rice 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.

Certificate Number 201185057 is expired. Prior to applying to renew her expired Certificate Number 201185057, Rice shall undergo a comprehensive alcohol/substance abuse assessment by a Kentucky licensed or certified chemical dependency counselor, as approved by the Board and submit written proof to the Board. The assessment shall occur within the thirty (30) days prior to Respondent's submission of the assessment to the Board. Any expense required for said assessment and follow-up shall be paid for by Rice. Failure to do so will result in an administrative suspension of her certificate until such condition is satisfied. Rice agrees that if Certificate Number 201185057 is administratively suspended for more than 180 days for noncompliance, then Certificate Number 201185057 shall be automatically permanently revoked.

Upon acceptance of this agreement by the Board, Certificate Number 201185057, 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, Rice 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 Rice fail to satisfy this condition, Certificate Number 201185057 shall be automatically suspended for a period of sixty (60) days and subject to additional sanctions by the Board pursuant to KRS 161.120.

2. If Rice's comprehensive alcohol/substance abuse assessment recommends any treatment, Rice shall submit written progress reports from a consistent licensed counselor on July 1st of each year of her probation, certifying that she is compliant with all treatment recommendations, until such time as the counselor releases her from treatment. If Rice chooses to change licensed counselors prior to completing the counselor's recommendations, she shall undergo a new comprehensive alcohol/substance abuse assessment to ensure she is compliant with all recommendations of the new counselor to ensure fulfillment of her probation requirements. Failure to do so shall result in the certificate not being reinstated until such condition is satisfied.
3. Rice agrees to waive any confidentiality right, either state or federal, to the extent required to allow any evaluator or provider to share that she is involved in recommended treatment and that she is compliant with treatment. Rice will specifically waive any confidentiality to allow any evaluator to inform the Board if she becomes non-compliant with recommended treatment. If such a waiver is not completed with any treatment provider then Certificate Number 201185057 shall be administratively suspended until such conditions are satisfied. Rice agrees that if Certificate Number 201185057 is administratively suspended for more than 180 days for noncompliance, then Certificate Number 201185057 shall be automatically permanently revoked.

Rice 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. 2456020 Sydnei Frazier

Accept Agreed Order stating:

- a. Upon acceptance of this agreement by the Board, Certificate Number 200220535 shall be retroactively suspended for ninety (90) days from January 1st, 2026 to March 31st, 2026. Frazier 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. Frazier 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 October 30th, Frazier 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;
 - 3) Any one (1) course under the “Appropriate Boundaries” heading; and
 - 4) Any one (1) course under the “Communication” heading.

Any cost for said trainings shall be paid for by Frazier. Failure to submit written proof of completion by the deadline will result in Certificate Number 200220535 being administratively suspended until such time as Frazier provides the written proof.

- c. Upon acceptance of this agreement by the Board, Certificate Number 200220535, 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, Frazier 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 Frazier fail to satisfy this condition, Certificate Number 200220535 shall be automatically suspended for a period of one hundred eighty (180) days and be subject to additional sanctions by the Board pursuant to KRS 161.120.

- d. Frazier 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*

5. 2657614

Accept Agreed Order stating upon acceptance of this agreement by the Board, Certificate number 200002657 is retroactively suspended beginning April 30, 2026 to May 1, 2026. Wicker 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. Wicker 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 October 1, 2026, Wicker shall submit written proof to the Board that she has completed the following trainings or courses on the attached pre-approved Board training list (Attachment A):

1. A course under the “Educator Ethics” heading.

Any cost for said trainings shall be paid for by Wicker. Failure to submit written proof of completion prior to October 1, 2026 will result in Certificate Number 200002657 being administratively suspended until such time as Wicker provides the written proof.

Upon acceptance of this agreement by the Board, Certificate Number 200002657, 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, Wicker 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 Wicker fail to satisfy this condition, Certificate Number 200002657 shall be automatically suspended for a period of thirty (30) days and subject to additional sanctions by the Board pursuant to KRS 161.120.

2.

Wicker 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

6. 2456022 Mallory Pennington

Accept Agreed Order stating prior to December 1, 2026, Pennington 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; and
- 3.** A course under the “Communication” heading.

Any cost for said trainings shall be paid for by Pennington. Failure to submit written proof of completion prior to December 1, 2026 will result in Certificate Number 201214341 being administratively suspended until such time as Pennington provides the written proof.

Pennington 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

7. 2657635 Kenneth Ford

Accept Agreed Order stating upon acceptance of this agreement by the Board, Certificate number 201150768 is retroactively suspended for a period of thirty (30) days beginning from May 6, 2026 through June 6, 2026. Ford 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. Ford acknowledges it is his responsibility to consult with his employer to determine any consequences to salary or employment benefits as a result of this agreement.

Prior to December 1, 2026, Ford 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 Ford. Failure to submit written proof of completion prior to December 1, 2026 will result in Certificate Number 201150768 being administratively suspended until such time as Ford provides the written proof.

Upon acceptance of this agreement by the Board, Certificate Number 201150768, 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, Ford 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 201150768 being administratively suspended pending further Board review and disposition.

Ford 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*

Motion made by Dr. Nicholas Pace, seconded by Ms. Lori McKeehan to adjourn the meeting.

Vote: Unanimous

Meeting adjourned at 4:53 p.m. ET/3:53 p.m. CT)