

Teacher Certification Appeals Council (TCAC)

Meeting Minutes

March 28, 2019

1. **Call to order**

Mr. Rick Wentzel called to order the regularly scheduled meeting of the TCAC at 9:15 am on March 28, 2019 in 1-141 Colorado Room.

2. **Roll call**

The following members were present: Mr. David Beard, Dr. Christine Hypolite, Mr. James Kennedy, Dr. Verjanis Peoples, Ms. Billie Smith, and Mr. Rick Wentzel. Representing the Department of Education (DOE) were Paula Bell, Christy Bellue, Ariel Murphy, Rachel Normand, and Jennifer Tuttleton.

3. **Appellants in attendance**

Melissa Adriano, Dymond Bell, Melissa Bertucci, Evol Datcher, Annette Dugas, Jamie Dyche, Sharon Green, Jason Hazelton, Anthony Jackson, Beverly Jackson, JoAnn Lofton, Victoria McCant, Maricel Salvacion, Joe Simmons, Wandra Vick, Margaret Westmoreland, Desiree Williams

4. **Actions**

- A. On the motion of Mr. James Kennedy, seconded by Mr. David Beard, the Council granted **Sharon Green** a letter of eligibility for a final, one-year extension on her Out-of-State (OS) certificate based upon her attempts at exams, to permit time for her successful completion of Praxis required for initial certification. The letter of eligibility is valid until July 2020.
- B. On the motion of Ms. Billie Smith, seconded by Dr. Verjanis Peoples, the Council granted **Annette Dugas** a final, one-year extension on her Out-of-State (OS) certificate to permit time for her successful completion of the Praxis exams required for initial certification.
- C. Due to LA R.S. 17:7, the Council determined they could not consider issuance of the Level 2 certificate to **Mallory McGowen** without her fulfilling Praxis requirements for Louisiana certification. Issuance of a teaching certificate without fulfilling exam requirements is in violation of state statutes pertaining to teacher certification.
- D. On the motion of Dr. Christine Hypolite, seconded by Mr. James Kennedy, the Council granted **Wandra Vick** a final, one-year extension on her Out-of-State (OS) certificate to permit time for her successful completion of the Praxis exams required for initial certification.

- E. On the motion of Dr. Verjanis Peoples, seconded by Mr. David Beard, the Council granted **Leshia Strong** a final, one-year extension on her Out-of-State (OS) certificate to permit time for her successful completion of the Praxis exams required for initial certification.
- F. On the motion of Ms. Billie Smith, seconded by Dr. Verjanis Peoples, the Council granted **Victoria McCant** a final, one-year extension on her Out-of-State (OS) certificate to permit time for her successful completion of the Praxis exams required for initial certification.
- G. On the motion of Dr. Christine Hypolite, seconded by Mr. David Beard, the Council granted **Francene Smith** a one-year extension on her Out-of-State (OS) certificate to permit time for her successful completion of the Praxis exams required for initial certification.
- H. On the motion of Mr. David Beard, seconded by Dr. Verjanis Peoples, the Council granted **Elizabeth Henke** a one-year extension on her Out-of-State (OS) certificate to permit time for her successful completion of the Praxis exams required for initial certification.
- I. On the motion of Dr. Verjanis Peoples, seconded by Mr. James Kennedy, the Council granted **JoAnn Lofton** a one-year extension on her Out-of-State (OS) certificate to permit time for her successful completion of the Praxis exams required for initial certification.
- J. On the motion of Dr. Christine Hypolite, seconded by Dr. Verjanis Peoples, the Council granted **Melissa Adriano** a one-year extension on her Out-of-State (OS) certificate to permit time for her successful completion of the Praxis exams required for initial certification.
- K. On the motion of Mr. David Beard, seconded by Mr. James Kennedy, the Council granted **Melissa Bertucci** a letter of eligibility for a one-year extension on her Out-of-State (OS) certificate to permit time for her to meet Praxis exclusion with a successful year of teaching on the OS in conjunction with her successful teaching experience in other states prior to the issuance of her OS certificate.
- L. On the motion of Dr. Verjanis Peoples, seconded by Dr. Christine Hypolite, the Council granted **Ashleigh Gonzales** a one-year extension of her Level 1 teaching certificate to permit her time to be evaluated for effectiveness while teaching in her area(s) of certification in order to move to the Level 2 certificate.
- M. On the motion of Dr. Verjanis Peoples, seconded by Mr. David Beard, **Nicole Hue's** appeal was deferred to the August 22, 2019 meeting. Council requested information as to the teaching role, place-of-service, and if she is being evaluated via Compass.
- N. On the motion of Mr. James Kennedy, seconded by Dr. Christine Hypolite, the Council granted **Megan Liles** a one-year extension of her Level 2 teaching certificate to permit her time to be evaluated for effectiveness in order to be granted the five-year renewal of the Level 2 certificate.

- O. On the motion of Mr. James Kennedy, seconded by Ms. Billie Smith, the Council granted **Desiree Williams** a one-year extension of her Temporary-Authority-to-Teach (TAT) authorization based upon her partial attempt to pass the content exam needed to be admitted into a teacher preparation program, evidence that she is teaching in demonstrated area of need, evidence that she met the standards of effectiveness, and verification that the employing district recommends the appellant and will continue to employ her in the upcoming year.
- P. On the motion of Dr. Verjanis Peoples, seconded by Mr. James Kennedy, the Council granted **Jocelyn Jones** a one-year extension of her Temporary-Authority-to-Teach (TAT) authorization based upon her partial attempt to pass the content exam needed to be admitted into a teacher preparation program, evidence that she is teaching in demonstrated area of need, evidence that she met the standards of effectiveness, and verification that the employing district recommends the appellant and will continue to employ her in the upcoming year.
- Q. On the motion of Dr. Christine Hypolite, seconded by Ms. Billie Smith, the Council granted **Julianne Killian** a one-year renewal of her Temporary-Authority-to-Teach (TAT) authorization due to documented medical condition resulting in leave, prohibiting her from fulfilling extension requirements.
- R. On the motion of Dr. Verjanis Peoples, seconded by Mr. James Kennedy, the Council granted **Beverly Jackson** an additional one-year extension of her Temporary-Authority-to-Teach (TAT) authorization based upon her attempts to pass the content exam needed to be admitted into a teacher preparation program, evidence that she is teaching in demonstrated area of need, evidence that she met the standards of effectiveness, and verification that the employing district recommends the appellant and will continue to employ her in the upcoming year.
- S. On the motion of Mr. David Beard, seconded by Ms. Billie Smith, the Council granted **Lauren Jacob's** request to add-on the Early Interventionist endorsement by substituting her demonstrated knowledge and successful special education teaching experience for the deficient three-semester hours in the area of Early Intervention Methods.
- T. On the motion of Dr. Christine Hypolite, seconded by Mr. James Kennedy, with Ms. Billie Smith abstaining from the vote, the Council granted **Maricel Salvacion's** request to add on the English as a Second Language (ESL) endorsement by substituting University of Phoenix's TESOL 570 course for the deficient three-semester hours in the area of Curriculum Design for Multicultural Classroom.
- U. On the motion of Dr. Verjanis Peoples, seconded by Mr. David Beard, with Mr. Rick Wentzel abstaining from the vote, the Council granted **Joe Simmons** a one-year extension on the Out-of-Field-Authority-to-Teach (OFAT) held in the area of School Librarian so he may have additional time to fulfill coursework for add-on.

- V. On the motion of Mr. James Kennedy, seconded by Dr. Verjanis Peoples, with Mr. Rick Wentzel abstaining from the vote, the Council granted **Margaret Westmoreland**'s appeal to add-on the Provisional Principal endorsement to her teaching certificate by accepting her successful completion of Louisiana's current School Leaders Licensure Assessment exam #6011 for the older School Leaders Licensure Assessment exam #1010 or the Educational Leadership: Administration & Supervision exam #0410 which was required under the add-on guidelines if completed prior to December 31, 2008. She fulfilled all requirements prior to the December 31, 2008 deadline for the Provisional Principal add-on with the exception of the exam.
- W. On the motion of Dr. Verjanis Peoples, seconded by Mr. David Beard, the Council granted **Jason Hazelton**'s appeal for the issuance of the Educational Leader 1 (EDL1) eligibility letter by substituting his military instructional experiences in conjunction with his Level 1 teaching certificate for the higher Level 2 or 3 teaching certificate required as he has successfully fulfilled all other requirements for the issuance of the EDL1 certificate.
- X. On the motion of Dr. Christine Hypolite, seconded by Mr. David Beard, the Council granted **Anthony Jackson** a two-year extension on his Educational Leader 1 (EDL1) certificate to allow time for evaluation for effectiveness as a leader in order to progress to the Educational Leader 2 certificate due to changes in his district leadership and their use of evaluations.
- Y. On the motion of Ms. Billie Smith, seconded by Mr. James Kennedy, the Council granted **Jamie Dyche**'s request to use her master's degree in clinical mental health counseling, earned at Louisiana Tech University, accredited by the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Program (CACREP) , to fulfill the required degree in school counseling in conjunction with her contact hours in school counseling and successful completion of the Professional School Counselor Praxis exam for the School Counselor add-on endorsement to her teaching certificate.
- Z. On the motion of Dr. Verjanis Peoples, seconded by Mr. James Kennedy, the Council granted **Dymond Bell** the Ancillary School Counselor certification under the adopted guidelines which expired June 30, 2017 based upon her fulfilling all requirements prior to the deadline, with the exception of her master's degree being awarded in December 2017.
- AA. On the motion of Dr. Christine Hypolite, seconded by Mr. David Beard, with Mr. James Kennedy abstaining from the vote, the Council granted **Evol Datcher** the Ancillary School Counselor certificate by substituting her Lynchburg, Virginia work/counseling experience for the three-semester hour Supervised Practicum in a School Setting requirement contingent upon her successfully completing the six semester hours she is currently enrolled which fulfills Principles & Administration of School Counseling Programs and Social & Cultural Foundations of Counseling.

BB. On the motion of Mr. James Kennedy, seconded by Dr. Verjanis Peoples, the Council granted **Elizabeth Duran Swinford** the Out-of-State Superintendent (OSS) letter of eligibility. Once employed as an assistant Superintendent or Superintendent in a Louisiana school system, the previously issued OSS will be extended for five years, based upon her successfully fulfilling all guidelines needed for initial issuance so that she may have time to meet the standards of effectiveness for at least three years during certification validity pursuant to Bulletin 130 and R.S. 17:3902.

5. The Council discussed recommendations for identifying a replacement chair and co-chair to serve due to Mr. Rick Wentzel retiring and vacating his place on the council. It was decided by a unanimous vote of the Council that Dr. Christine Hypolite, current co-chair, would serve as chair. The Council will identify a new co-chair at the next scheduled meeting.
6. The Teacher Certification Appeals Council is scheduled to meet again in a regularly scheduled appeals meeting August 22, 2019.
7. The meeting was adjourned at 1:40 P.M.