



BOARD of REGENTS
STATE OF LOUISIANA

Minutes

Advisory Commission on Proprietary Schools September 10, 2024

The Louisiana Board of Regents' Proprietary Schools Advisory Commission met on Tuesday, September 10, 2024, in Room 153 in the Claiborne Building. Prior to the start of the meeting, new Commission member, appointed by the Commissioner of Higher Education, Dr. Larry Tremblay, was sworn in. Chair James Fontenot called the meeting to order at 10:07 a.m. The roll was then called by Ms. Courtney Britton and a quorum was established. There were no public comments to be read.

Commission Members Present

Melanie Amrhein, Vice Chair
Sherrie Despino
James Fontenot, Chair
Randy Plaisance
Larry Tremblay

Commission Members Absent

Benjamin Baudoin
Chris Broadwater
Chandler LeBoeuf
Carmen Million

Staff Members Present

Courtney Britton
Chandra Cheatham
Mighan Johnson
Denise Kirkland
Anna Roberts
Antonio Williams

Guests Present

(See Appendix)

The first item of business was the approval of minutes from the Commission's meeting on July 9, 2024.

On motion of Sherrie Despino, seconded by Melanie Amrhein the Proprietary Schools Advisory Commission unanimously adopted the minutes of the July 9, 2024, Proprietary Schools Advisory Commission meeting.

The next item considered by the Commission was the initial application for licensure from GBR Dental Assistant Academy, LLC., located in Prairieville, Louisiana. The school, represented by the owner, Helen Mason, would offer one program: Dental Assisting at 40 clock-hours for 10 weeks. Discussion included the owner's motivation for opening the school, the benefits of the program and field, and praise for how clear, informative, and detailed the application was.

On motion of Melanie Amrhein, seconded by Sherrie Despino, the Proprietary Schools Advisory Commission unanimously voted that the Board of Regents approve the initial license application for GBR Dental Assistant Academy, Prairieville, Louisiana.

The next agenda item considered by the Commission was submitted license renewal applications. Over the previous two months, 35 schools submitted complete renewal applications.

On motion of Sherrie Despino, seconded by Larry Tremblay, the Proprietary Schools Advisory Commission unanimously voted that the Board of Regents renew the licenses of the following proprietary schools:

1. 160 Driving Academy - Shreveport – License #2364
2. Acadiana Area Career College - Lafayette – License #2357
3. Accelerated Dental Academy – Baton Rouge – License #2220
4. Accelerated Dental Academy – Denham Springs – License #2154
5. Accelerated Dental Academy- Hammond -- License #2235
6. Accelerated Dental Academy - Houma – License #2228
7. Accelerated Dental Academy - Lafayette – License #2219
8. Accelerated Dental Academy – Lake Charles – License #2308
9. Accelerated Dental Academy - Metairie - License #2230
10. Accelerated Dental Academy - Monroe– License #2223
11. Accelerated Dental Academy - Slidell – License #2224
12. Advance Nursing Training - New Orleans – License #2197
13. Ark-La-Tex Dental Assisting Academy - Shreveport – License #2131
14. Blue Cliff College - Alexandria – License #2358
15. Blue Cliff College - Lafayette – License #2359
16. Blue Cliff College - Metairie – License #2360
17. Blue Cliff College - Metairie, Satellite Location – License #2361
18. Camelot College - Baton Rouge – License #680
19. Coastal College - Alexandria – License #991
20. Cross Road CDL Academy - Harvey – License #2321
21. Digital Media Institute - Shreveport – License #2198
22. Fortis College - Baton Rouge – License #2134
23. Healthcare Training Institute - Kenner – License #2109
24. Life Care - Marrero – License #2182
25. MedCerts -Livonia, MI – License #2337
26. Medical Training College - Baton Rouge – License #969
27. New Orleans Medical Assistant School (formerly BRDAA-South) - New Orleans – License #2305
28. NOLA Institute of Gaming - New Orleans – License #2322
29. Opelousas Academy of Nondestructive Testing - Opelousas – License #2275
30. RelyOn Nutec USA - Houma – License #2156
31. Remington College - Baton Rouge – License #2277
32. River Cities School of Dental Assisting - Shreveport – License #2089
33. Smith Institute - Shreveport – License #2362
34. Stick It Phlebotomy - Ruston – License #2226
35. Synergy Massage Institute - Metairie – License #2365

There were two schools who chose not to renew their license for this renewal period, and staff has been in contact with the school owners about obtaining the student records.

- License #2363 – OceanPointe Dental Academy of Prairieville – Prairieville, LA
- License #2336 – Synergy Massage Institute - Slidell – Slidell, LA

An additional school, Baton Rouge School of Phlebotomy, License #233, did not submit a complete renewal application by the deadline, and after discussion with the owner, staff determined that the license had expired. However, the school owner asked for an extension and the request was presented to the Commission for consideration. Staff provided the Commission with the school's submitted renewal materials as well as a summary of timelines and staff's communication with the school. School owner, Jessica Shropshire was present to represent the school and discuss the missing materials. Discussion included previous business year dates, previous renewal timelines for the school, status of missing materials as of the meeting date, staff's compilation formula to determine school solvency, timeline and process for an extension, and recommendations to be sent to the Board of Regents.

On motion of Melanie Amrhein, seconded by Randy Plaisance, the Proprietary Schools Advisory Commission unanimously voted that the Board of Regents renew the license of Baton Rouge School of Phlebotomy, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, on the condition that the school submit the correct required financial documents by close of business on September 10, 2024.

The next agenda item was program approval updates. Staff reminded the commission that program approvals are done by staff, and do not require the commission vote for recommendation.

The next agenda item was the fiscal year 2023–2024 updates. Ms. Anna Roberts, Grants and Contracts Manager, presented the fiscal year updates. Discussion included if a report of the actual student protection fund could be presented, that the total of the funds in the student protection account is currently \$1,073,076.20, and possibility of year-to-year comparison reports in the future. Ms. Britton presented the annual numerical summary of proprietary school activities.

Other business included discussion of the off-site storage units as part of the transcript digitization project and an annual student data collection update, as well as an update on the new online application system, EDvera.

The next meeting of the Proprietary Schools Advisory Commission is scheduled for November 12, 2024, at 10:00 a.m., in Room 1–153 of the Claiborne Building. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:57 a.m.

APPENDIX A
GUESTS

Amanda LaGroue

LA Department of Justice

Helen Mason

GBR Dental Assistant Academy

Jessica Shropshire

Baton Rouge School of Phlebotomy