

Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE)  
Teacher Certification Appeals Council (TCAC)

Thursday, September 1, 2022

Minutes — Unofficial

The September 1, 2022 meeting of the Teacher Certification Appeals Council (TCAC) was called to order at 9:05 a.m. by Dr. Christine Hypolite.

Members present were: Ms. Brenna Bethancourt, Ms. Christen DeRise, Mr. Scott Devillier, Dr. Christine Hypolite, Dr. Arthur Joffrion, Dr. Katrina Jordan, and Dr. Rhea Kiper.

Gavin Vitter served as proxy for Mr. James Kennedy, and Dr. Jordan Ahrend served as proxy for Dr. Dustin Hebert.

Absences: none

Appellants in attendance: Alicia Adams, Suellyn Charbonnet, Jacobi Frank, Demmis Hernandez Salas, Jill Reid, Rebekah Richardson, Kara Ulmet-LeBleu, Alvertha Whitaker, Ashley Wright

Representing the Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) were Ms. Paula Bell, Ms. Christy Bellue, Dr. Jenna Chiasson, Ms. Catasha Edwards and Ms. Rachel Normand.

Public comments were received from Kara Ulmet-LeBleu.

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Dr. Hypolite requested a motion to approve the minutes of the June 9, 2022 TCAC meeting. The Council's response was as follows:

1. On motion of Dr. Jordan, seconded by Mr. Devilier, the Council approved the June 9, 2022 meeting minutes.
  
2. On motion of Mr. Devillier, seconded by Dr. Joffrion, the Council went into executive session at 9:10 a.m. to discuss appeals for the following individuals:
  - a. Alicia Adams

- b. Kathy Kovacs
- c. Jill Reid
- d. Susan Charbonnet
- e. Ashlie Messenger
- f. Glenda Smoke
- g. Ashley Wright
- h. Kianna Botley
- i. Demmis Hernandez Salas
- j. Elisa Gutierrez
- k. Samuel Terry
- l. Kim Cooper
- m. Reagan Webster
- n. Laura Brimer
- o. Kristin France
- p. Rebecca Harvey
- q. Rebekah Richardson
- r. William Kellogg
- s. Khalil Roy
- t. Kara Ulmet-LeBleu
- u. Alvertha Whitaker
- v. Jacobi Frank

A roll call vote was taken.

Yeas: Ms. Brenna Bethancourt, Ms. Christen DeRise, Mr. Scott Devillier, Dr. Christine Hypolite, Dr. Arthur Joffrion, Dr. Katrina Jordan, and Dr. Rhea Kiper

Nays: none

Absences: none

The roll call vote to go into executive session was made and passed. It was noted that no votes would be taken in executive session; all votes would be made public.

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4. On motion of Dr. Jordan, seconded by Ms. Bethancourt , the Council reconvened into regular session at 12:46 p.m. and continued with the regular order of the agenda. A quorum was present.
5. On the motion of Mr. Devillier, seconded by Ms. DeRise, the Council granted **Alicia Adams'** request to extend her Level 1 teaching certificate for one year in order to earn the necessary effective evaluation(s) so the certificate can be advanced.
6. On the motion of Mr. Devillier, seconded by Ms. DeRise, with Dr. Kiper abstaining, the Council granted **Kathy Kovacs'** request to extend her Level 1 teaching certificate for two years in order to earn the necessary effective evaluation(s) so the certificate can be advanced.
7. On the motion of Mr. Devillier, seconded by Ms. DeRise, the Council granted **Jill Reid's** request to extend her Level 1 teaching certificate for one year in order to earn the necessary effective evaluation(s) so the certificate can be advanced.
8. On the motion of Dr. Joffrion, seconded by Ms. DeRise, the Council granted **Suellyn Charbonnet's** request to extend her Type C teaching certificate for two years in order to earn the necessary effective evaluation(s) so the certificate can be advanced contingent upon the employing school system attesting to annually evaluating the educator via Compass or a Compass-approved rubric.  
  
Further, Dr. Joffrion requested BESE and LDOE gather data in relation to school systems evaluating educators/employees for effectiveness via Compass, whether effectiveness ratings are being entered into the Compass Information System (CIS) and when it is not, reasons why it is not occurring.
9. On the motion of Ms. Bethancourt, seconded by Mr. Devillier, the Council granted **Ashlie Messenger's** request to extend her Level 2 teaching certificate for three years in order to earn the necessary effective evaluation(s) so the certificate can be advanced/renewed for five years.
10. On the motion of Dr. Joffrion, seconded by Dr. Kiper, the Council denied **Glenda Smoke's** request to extend her Ancillary-School Counselor certificate via appeal due to there being available solutions within certification policy. LDOE will provide additional guidance to appellant.

11. On the motion of Mr. Devillier, seconded by Ms. DeRise, the Council granted **Ashley Wright's** request to extend her Ancillary-School Counselor certificate for three years in order to earn the necessary effective evaluation(s) so the certificate can be renewed for five years.
12. On the motion of Ms. Bethancourt, seconded by Ms. DeRise, the Council granted **Kianna Botley's** request to renew her Practitioner's License (PL) for one year in order to complete the certification-only program and be recommended for initial certification through her program provider.
13. On the motion of Ms. DeRise, seconded by Dr. Kiper, the Council granted **Demmis Hernandez Salas'** request to extend the Foreign Language Special (FLS/FLES) certificate for one year in order to earn the necessary effective evaluation to advance to the World Languages Certificate (WLC).
14. On the motion of Ms. DeRise, seconded by Ms. Devillier, with Ms. Bethancourt and Dr. Hypolite abstaining, the Council granted **Elisa Gutierrez's** request to renew her Practitioner's License (PL) for one year in order to complete the certification-only program and be recommended for initial certification through her program provider.
15. On the motion of Mr. Devillier, seconded by Dr. Joffrion, the Council granted **Samuel Terry's** request to renew his Temporary Authority to Teach (TAT) for one year in order to fulfill requirements for entrance into a Louisiana alternative certification program contingent upon the appellant's documented evidence of registration for the Praxis content exam.
16. On the motion of Dr. Joffrion, seconded by Ms. DeRise, the Council granted **Kim Cooper's** request to extend her Out-of-State (OS) certificate for one year in order to fulfill Praxis exams needed for issuance of the Level certificate contingent upon the educator providing documented evidence she is enrolled in some type of Praxis preparation activity/course.
17. On the motion of Dr. Jordan, seconded by Ms. Bethancourt, the Council granted **Reagan Webster's** request to extend her Out-of-State (OS) certificate for one year in order to fulfill Praxis exams needed for issuance of the Level certificate.
18. On the motion, Dr. Jordan, seconded by Dr. Joffrion, the Council approved considering non-standard certification appeals based on a recent policy approval by BESE currently out for notice of intent.
19. On the motion of Dr. Jordan, seconded by Ms. Bethancourt, the Council granted **Lauren Brimer's** appeal as requested to extend the Out-of-Field Authority to Teach (OFAT) for one-year in the area of School Librarian. The extension would permit more time to meet the add-on requirements, which includes the school librarian practicum or having three years of successful experience as a school librarian.

20. On the motion of Dr. Jordan, seconded by Ms. Bethancourt, the Council granted **Kristin France's** appeal as requested to extend the Out-of-Field Authority to Teach (OFAT) for one-year in the area of Mild/Moderate 4-8. The extension would permit more time to meet the add-on requirements, which includes the passing of three Praxis exams.
21. On the motion of Dr. Jordan, seconded by Dr. Joffrion, the Council granted **Rebecca Harvey's** appeal as requested to extend the Out-of-Field Authority to Teach (OFAT) for one-year in the area of Mild/Moderate 4-8. The extension would permit more time to meet the add-on requirements, which includes the passing of the Praxis middle school content exam. The Council indicated this is the final extension via appeal.
22. On the motion of Dr. Jordan, seconded by Ms. Bethancourt, the Council granted **Rebekah Richardson's** appeal as requested. The Council granted the extension of the Out-of-Field Authority to Teach (OFAT) for one-year in the area of Mild/Moderate 4-8. The extension would permit more time to meet the add-on requirements, which includes one additional course and the passing of three Praxis exams.
23. On the motion of Ms. Bethancourt, seconded by Ms. DeRise, the Council granted **William Kellogg's** request to accept his three semester hour course, HLTH 510, taken outside of the reinstatement period to fulfill the additional hours needed to reinstate his Type B certificate to "valid for life with continuous service" validity.
24. On the motion of Mr Devillier, seconded by Dr. Joffrion, the Council granted **Khalil Roy's** request to be issued the Career and Technical Trade in Industrial Education (CTTIE) using his substitute teaching experience for the one-year work experience required within the last five calendar years.
25. On the motion of Ms. Bethancourt, seconded by Dr. Hypolite, the Council denied **Kara Ulmet-LeBleu's** request to accept 90 clock hours of submitted experience towards fulfilling the 240 clock hours of educational leader experience as required for the Educational Leader Level 1 (alternate pathway 2) certification eligibility. The Council found the documentation and artifacts submitted did not address Performance Expectations 1 and/or 5, as defined in Bulletin 125. Many of the artifacts/experiences submitted were part of her regular job duties as a library media specialist and could not be considered towards the 240 clock hours. The Council recommended that Ms. Ulmet-LeBleu re-submit additional documented evidence of experiences in alignment with the unaddressed Performance Expectations that are not a regular part of her normal job responsibilities, as originally recommended by the Department.
26. On the motion of Dr. Joffrion, seconded by Mr. Devillier, with Dr. Kiper abstaining, the Council granted **Alvertha Whitaker's** request to add Educational Leader Level 1 (via graduate degree pathway) eligibility to her Level 1 certificate based upon military experience, successful experience at Office of Juvenile Justice experience, and completion of Leaders for Tomorrow program as she fulfilled all other eligibility requirements.

27. On the motion of Dr. Joffrion, seconded by Ms. DeRise, the Council granted **Jacobi Frank's** request to substitute his master's degree in sports administration for the graduate degree in education needed to fulfill eligibility requirements for Educational Leader Level 1 (via alternate pathway 2) as all other eligibility requirements were fulfilled.

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With no further business the meeting was adjourned at 1:06 p.m.

The next meeting of the Teacher Certification Appeals Council is scheduled to convene on November 10, 2022.

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