

Teacher Certification Appeals Council (TCAC)

Meeting Minutes

February 21, 2020

1. **Call to order**

Dr. Christine Hypolite called to order the regularly scheduled meeting of the Teacher Certification Appeals Council at 9:25 a.m. on Friday, February 21, 2020, in room 1-155 North Dakota Room.

2. **Roll call**

The following members were present: Mr. Scott Devillier, Dr. Dustin Hebert, Dr. Christine Hypolite, Dr. Arthur Joffrion, Mr. James Kennedy, Dr. Rhea Kiper, Dr. Verjanis Peoples, and Ms. Billie Smith. Representing the Louisiana Department of Education (LDE) were Ms. Paula Bell, Ms. Christy Bellue, and Ms. Rachel Normand. Representing the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) was Ms. Nikki Landry.

3. **Appellants in attendance**

Beau Beaver, Kristy Hargrave, Shere Jackson, Wendy Knight, Nicole LeCompte, Jack Phillips Jr., LaRhonda Prejean, and Danielle Sharp

On motion of Dr. Hebert, seconded by Mr. Kennedy, the Council went into executive session at 9:28 a.m. to discuss:

- a. Beau Beaver
- b. Carlyn Amire-Brahimi
- c. Stacie Green
- d. Willis Dani
- e. Shelly Booth
- f. Betty Watson
- g. Kristy Hargrave
- h. Cheryl Prejean
- i. Britney Pream
- j. Julee Hatcher
- k. Wendy Knight
- l. Nicole LeCompte
- m. Gina Andrus
- n. Tara John
- o. Claire Margaglio
- p. Dian Salts
- q. Micheleen Washington
- r. LaRhonda Prejean
- s. Annie Smith
- t. Biaster George
- u. Sheila Bell
- v. Shere Jackson
- w. Andrea Mangan
- x. Hannah Miller

- y. Robin Chasant
- z. Terry Bonnie-Sept
- aa. Tammie Stafford
- bb. Adrienne Robinson
- cc. Jack Phillips, Jr.
- dd. Roslyn Stumon
- ee. Laura Cawyer
- ff. Terri Smith
- gg. Danielle Sharpe
- hh. Melinda Hobgood
- ii. Svetlana Marr
- jj. Amanda Sullivan
- kk. Allison Johnson (Thomas)

A roll call vote was taken.

Yeas: Dr. Peoples, Dr. Kiper, Mr. Devillier, Dr. Joffrion, Dr. Hebert, Ms. Smith, Mr. Kennedy, Dr. Hypolite.

Nays: None.

Abstentions: None.

Absences: Ms. Karen Parrino.

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

* * * * *

On motion of Dr. Peoples, seconded by Dr. Hebert, the Council reconvened into regular session at 11:43 a.m. and continued with the regular order of the agenda. A quorum was present.

4. **Actions taken**

- A. On the motion of Mr. James Kennedy, seconded by Dr. Arthur Joffrion, the Council granted **Carlyn Amire-Brahimi**, **Beau Beaver**, and **Stacie Green** one-year extensions of their Level 1 teaching certificates to permit time to earn a third effective evaluation rating while teaching in their area(s) of certification in order to move to the renewable Level 2 certificate.
- B. On the motion of Dr. Verjanis Peoples, seconded by Ms. Billie Smith, the Council granted **Dani Willis** a one-year extension on her Level 1 teaching certificate as well as a one-year extension on her Out-of-Field-Authority-to-Teach (OFAT) certificate in the area of Significant Disabilities based upon her exam attempts and efforts to locate coursework in order to add the endorsement to the Level 1 certificate which would allow her to advance to the Level 2.

Mr. James Kennedy recused himself from voting on this item.

C. On the motion of Mr. James Kennedy, seconded by Dr. Arthur Joffrion, the Council granted extensions of professional level certificates as follows:

- Level 2 extensions were granted to **Shelly Booth** (one year), **Kristy Hargrave** (one year), **Julee Hatcher** (one year), **Wendy Knight** (three years), **Nicole LeCompte** (two years), **Britney Predium** (two years), **Cheryl Prejean** (two years), and **Betty Watson** (three years);
- Level 2* extension was granted to **Gina Andrus** (two years); and
- Level 3 extensions were granted to **Tara John** (one year), **Claire Margaglio** (two years), and **Diane Salts** (one year).

The extensions will permit time to be evaluated for effectiveness in order to be granted the five-year renewal of the Level 2 or 3 certificate as current policy is silent on Level 2 or 3 extensions.

D. On the motion of Mr. Scott Devillier, seconded by Dr. Dustin Hebert, the Council granted **Micheleen Washington** a final, one-year extension of her Out-of-State (OS) certificate to permit time for her successful completion of the Praxis exams required for initial certification.

Ms. Billie Smith and Dr. Rhea Kiper recused themselves from voting on this item.

E. On the motion of Mr. James Kennedy, seconded by Dr. Verjanis Peoples, the Council granted **LaRhonda Prejean** and **Annie Smith** one-year extensions of the Out-of-State (OS) certificates to permit time for successful completion of the Praxis exams required for initial certification.

F. On the motion of Dr. Verjanis Peoples, seconded by Mr. James Kennedy, the Council granted **Biaster George** a one-year extension of the Temporary Authority to Teach 3 (TAT3) certificate, permitting time for successfully completing the required Praxis for admission into an alternative teacher preparation program.

Dr. Joffrion and Ms. Smith were recorded as being opposed to the motion.

G. On the motion of Dr. Verjanis Peoples, seconded by Mr. James Kennedy, the Council granted **Sheila Bell** a one-year extension of the Temporary Authority to Teach 3 (TAT3) certificate, permitting time for successfully completing the required Praxis for admission into an alternative teacher preparation program.

- H. On the motion of Mr. James Kennedy, seconded by Mr. Scott Devillier, the Council granted **Shere Jackson**, **Andrea Mangan**, and **Hannah Miller** one-year extensions of their Temporary Authority to Teach (TAT) certificates, permitting time for successfully completing the required Praxis for admission into an alternative teacher preparation program.
- I. On the motion of Dr. Arthur Joffrion, seconded by Mr. James Kennedy, the Council granted **Robin Chastant** a one-year extension of the Career and Technical Trade and Industrial Education 1 (CTTIE-1) certificate in order to permit her time to complete the New Instructor Workshop required for advancing to the renewable CTTIE-2 certificate.
- J. On the motion of Dr. Dustin Hebert, seconded by Mr. James Kennedy, the Council granted **Terry Bonnie-Sept** (one year), **Adrienne Robinson** (two years), and **Tammie Stafford** (two years) extensions of their Ancillary School Counselor certificates as needed to be evaluated via Compass as a School Counselor in order to fully renew the certificates for five years.

- K. On the motion of Dr. Verjanis Peoples, seconded by Mr. James Kennedy, the Council granted **Jack Phillips Jr.** a two-year extension of his Ancillary School Counselor certificate, permitting time to be evaluated via Compass as a School Counselor in order to fully renew the certificate for five years.

Dr. Joffrion was recorded as being opposed to the motion.

Ms. Smith and Dr. Kiper recused themselves from voting on this item.

- L. On the motion of Dr. Arthur Joffrion, seconded by Dr. Rhea Kiper, the Council granted **Roslyn Stumon's** request to place the Ancillary School Counselor certificate into Operational Role status, freezing the certificate validity while serving in a role which is not being evaluated via Compass.
- M. On the motion of Mr. James Kennedy, seconded by Mr. Scott Devillier, the Council granted **Laura Cawyer** (Level 1), **Melinda Hobgood** (Level 3), **Svetlana Marr** (Level 2*), **Danielle Sharpe** (Level 1), and **Terri Smith** (Level 1) non-practicing status of their certificates retroactive to the time they ceased employment in a Louisiana school system in the role for which they are certified.

Ms. Smith and Dr. Kiper recused themselves from voting on this item.

- N. On the motion of Dr. Verjanis Peoples, seconded by Ms. Billie Smith, the Council granted **Amanda Sullivan** the Mild/Moderate 1-5 add-on endorsement, substituting her master's degree in special education for the deficient six semester hours, contingent upon her successfully completing Praxis exam #5543 Special Education Core Knowledge and Mild/Moderate Applications.

Dr. Hebert was recorded as being opposed to the motion.

- O. On the motion of Scott Devillier, seconded by Dr. Dustin Hebert, the Council voted to defer **Allison Johnson's (Thomas')** certification appeal to the March 27, 2020, TCAC meeting to allow time for the LDE Office of Talent Division of Certification to gather documentation that may permit certification within policy that does not require an appeal.

The next meeting of the Teacher Certification Appeals Council is scheduled to convene on March 27, 2020.

With no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 12:18 p.m.

