

Teacher Certification Appeals Council

Minutes

The Teacher Certification Appeals Council met on Thursday, April 24, 2025, in the Thomas Jefferson Room, located in the Claiborne Building in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. The meeting was called to order at 9:18 a.m. by Dr. Christine Hypolite, Chair. Members present were Brenna Bethancourt, Shannon Clement, Dr. Glenda Hembree, Dr. Heather Kennedy, Dr. Rhea Kiper, and Hennessy Melancon.

Frank Jabbia served as proxy for Dr. Jason Fountain.

Christen Derise and Dr. Jason Fountain were absent.

A quorum was present.

Representing the Louisiana Department of Education were Paula Bell, Lana Hutchinson, and Rachel Normand.

Appellants in attendance were Charmisha Baker, Cecelia Dugas, Wanda Evans, Tania Lovell, Anastasia McCoy, Roderick Meaux, Kasey Sharp, Lurlene Stratton, Jason Tubbs, and Dawson Tullos.

1. On motion of Mr. Melancon, seconded by Ms. Bethancourt, the Teacher Certification Appeals Council approved the minutes of the meeting held on November 7, 2024.
2. On motion of Mr. Clement, seconded by Dr. Kiper, Mr. Hennessey Melancon was named Co-Chair of the Teacher Certification Appeals Council.
3. On motion of Ms. Bethancourt, seconded by Dr. Kiper, the Teacher Certification Appeals Council went into executive session at 9:21 a.m. to discuss appeals for the following individuals:

a. Gregory Free	k. Tania Lovell	u. Kasey Sharp	ee. Donovan Hewitt
b. Dorothy Harper	l. Wanda Evans	v. Remi Hill	ff. Avery Glass
c. Penny Thibodeaux	m. Jason Tubbs	w. Robin Sam	gg. Auntresse McClay
d. Charmish Baker	n. Beverly Matthews	x. Paula Savinetti	hh. Jessica Freeman
e. Katie Hutchinson	o. Cullen Gravouia	y. Tetzee Gelua	ii. Curtis Lewis
f. Kelly Billeaudeaux	p. Anastasia McCoy	z. Cecelia Dugas	jj. Michelle Miller
g. Lurlene Startton	q. LaTasha Manuel	aa. Jeffrey Cappell	kk. Neely Darby

h. Tara Courville

r. LaToya Givens

bb. Roylin Jones

ll. Roderick Meaux

i. Victoria Stein

s. Ashley Billiot

cc. Shonda Ford

mm. Jennifer Murphy

j. Julie Belgard

t. Emma Gerard

dd. Dawon Tullos

4. On motion of Mr. Melancon, seconded by Mr. Clement, the Teacher Certification Appeals Council reconvened into regular session at 2:08 p.m. and continued with the regular order of the agenda. A quorum was present.
 5. On motion of Ms. Bethancourt, seconded by Mr. Clement, the Teacher Certification Appeals Council granted **Gregory Free**'s request to extend his Type C teaching certificate for one year in order to earn the necessary effective evaluation(s) so the certificate can be advanced.
 6. On motion of Mr. Melancon, seconded by Ms. Bethancourt, the Teacher Certification Appeals Council granted **Dorthy Harper**'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.
- Dr. Kiper abstained from the vote.
7. On motion of Mr. Melancon, seconded by Dr. Kiper, the Teacher Certification Appeals Council granted **Penny Thibodeaux**'s request to extend her Level 1 teaching certificate for three years in order to earn the necessary effective evaluation(s) so the certificate can be advanced.
 8. On motion of Mr. Melancon, seconded by Dr. Kiper, the Teacher Certification Appeals Council granted **Charmisha Baker**'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 renewed in accordance with policy.
 9. On motion of Mr. Melancon, seconded by Dr. Kiper, the Teacher Certification Appeals Council granted **Katie Hutchinson**'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 renewed in accordance with policy.
 10. On motion of Mr. Melancon, seconded by Dr. Kiper, the Teacher Certification Appeals Council granted **Kelly Billeaudeaux**'s request to extend her Level 2 teaching certificate for two years in order to earn the necessary effective evaluation(s) so the certificate can be renewed in accordance with policy.
 11. On motion of Mr. Melancon, seconded by Dr. Kiper, the Teacher Certification Appeals Council granted **Lurlene Stratton**'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 renewed in accordance with policy.
 12. On motion of Mr. Melancon, seconded by Dr. Kiper, the Teacher Certification Appeals Council granted **Tania Lovell**'s request to extend her Level 2 teaching certificate for one year in order to earn the necessary effective evaluation(s) so the certificate can be renewed in accordance with policy.

13. On motion of Mr. Melancon, seconded by Dr. Kiper, the Teacher Certification Appeals Council granted **Victoria Stein's** request to extend her Level 2 teaching certificate for two years in order to earn the necessary effective evaluation(s) so the certificate can be renewed in accordance with policy.
14. On motion of Mr. Melancon, seconded by Dr. Kiper, the Teacher Certification Appeals Council granted **Julie Belgard's** request to extend her Level 3 teaching certificate for one year in order to earn the necessary effective evaluation(s) so the certificate can be renewed in accordance with policy.
15. On motion of Mr. Melancon, seconded by Dr. Kiper, the Teacher Certification Appeals Council granted **Tara Courville's** request to extend her Level 3 teaching certificate for one year in order to earn the necessary effective evaluation(s) so the certificate can be renewed in accordance with policy.
16. On motion of Dr. Hembree, seconded by Dr. Kennedy, the Teacher Certification Appeals Council granted **Tania Lovell'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 in accordance with policy.

Dr. Kiper abstained from the vote.

17. On motion of Dr. Hembree, seconded by Dr. Kennedy, the Teacher Certification Appeals Council granted **Wanda Evans's** request to extend her Ancillary-School Counselor certificate for one year in order to earn the necessary effective evaluation(s) so the certificate can be renewed in accordance with policy.
18. On motion of Dr. Kiper, seconded by Mr. Melancon, the Teacher Certification Appeals Council granted **Jason Tubbs's** request to extend his Ancillary-Junior Reserves Officer Training Corps teaching certificate for two years in order to earn the necessary effective evaluation(s) so the certificate can be renewed in accordance with policy.
19. On motion of Dr. Hembree, seconded by Dr. Kennedy, the Teacher Certification Appeals Council granted **Beverly Matthews's** request to renew her Temporary Authority to Teach for one year in order to meet requirements for entrance into a Louisiana teacher preparation program.
20. On motion of Dr. Hembree, seconded by Dr. Kennedy, the Teacher Certification Appeals Council granted **Cullen Gravouia's** request to renew her Temporary Authority to Teach for one year in order to meet requirements for entrance into a Louisiana teacher preparation program.

Mr. Clement abstained from the vote.

21. On motion of Dr. Hembree, seconded by Dr. Kennedy, the Teacher Certification Appeals Council granted **Anastasia McCoy's** request to renew her Temporary Authority to Teach for one year in order to meet requirements for entrance into a Louisiana teacher preparation program.

20. On motion of Dr. Hembree, seconded by Dr. Kennedy, the Teacher Certification Appeals Council granted **LaTasha Manuel**'s request to renew her Temporary Authority to Teach for one year in order to meet requirements for entrance into a Louisiana teacher preparation program.
21. On motion of Mr. Clement, seconded by Dr. Kiper, the Teacher Certification Appeals Council denied **LaToya Givens**'s request to renew her Temporary Authority to Teach for one year in order to meet requirements for entrance into a Louisiana teacher preparation program.
22. On motion of Mr. Melancon, seconded by Ms. Bethancourt, the Teacher Certification Appeals Council granted **Ashley Billiot**'s request to extend her Out-of-State teaching certificate for one year in order to fulfill the Praxis exam(s) required for issuance of the Level certificate.
23. On motion of Mr. Melancon, seconded by Ms. Bethancourt, the Teacher Certification Appeals Council granted **Emma Gerard**'s request to extend her Out-of-State teaching certificate for one year in order to fulfill the Praxis exam(s) required for issuance of the Level certificate.
24. On motion of Mr. Melancon, seconded by Dr. Kiper, the Teacher Certification Appeals Council granted **Kasey Sharp**'s request to extend her Out-of-State teaching certificate for one year in order to fulfill the Praxis exam(s) required for issuance of the Level certificate. The Council noted this would be the final extension.
25. On motion of Mr. Melancon, seconded by Ms. Bethancourt, the Teacher Certification Appeals Council granted **Remi Hill**'s request to extend her Out-of-State teaching certificate for one year in order to fulfill the Praxis exam(s) required for issuance of the Level certificate.
26. On motion of Mr. Melancon, seconded by Ms. Bethancourt, the Teacher Certification Appeals Council granted **Robin Sam**'s request to extend her Out-of-State teaching certificate for one year in order to fulfill the Praxis exam(s) required for issuance of the Level certificate.
- Mr. Clement abstained from the vote.
27. On motion of Mr. Melancon, seconded by Ms. Bethancourt, the Teacher Certification Appeals Council granted **Paula Savinetti**'s request to extend her Out-of-State teaching certificate for one year in order to fulfill the Praxis exam(s) required for issuance of the Level certificate.
28. On motion of Mr. Melancon, seconded by Ms. Bethancourt, the Teacher Certification Appeals Council granted **Tetsee Gelua**'s request to extend her Out-of-State teaching certificate for one year in order to fulfill the Praxis exam(s) required for issuance of the Level certificate.
- Mr. Clement abstained from the vote.
29. On motion of Mr. Clement, seconded by Ms. Bethancourt, the Teacher Certification Appeals Council granted **Cecelia Dugas**'s request to extend her Out-of-Field Authority to Teach certificate for one year in order to fulfill the additional requirements needed for adding Mild/Moderate 6-12.

30. On motion of Dr. Hembree, seconded by Dr. Kennedy, the Teacher Certification Appeals Council granted **Jeffrey Cappell**'s request to extend his Practitioner's License for one year in order to fulfill the requirements of his teacher preparation program.
31. On motion of Mr. Melancon, seconded by Mr. Clement, the Teacher Certification Appeals Council granted **Roylin Jones**'s request to extend her Practitioner's License for one year in order to fulfill the requirements of her teacher preparation program.
32. On motion of Dr. Kiper, seconded by Mr. Clement, the Teacher Certification Appeals Council granted with contingency **Shonda Ford**'s request to extend her Educational Leader Level 2 certificate for two years, pending the school system provides evidence the educator will be evaluated in accordance with *Bulletin 130, Regulations for the Evaluation and Assessment of School Personnel*.
33. On motion of Ms. Bethancourt, seconded by Mr. Clement, the Teacher Certification Appeals Council granted **Dawson Tullos**'s request to retain his Provisional Career and Technical Trade and Industrial Education, citing the coursework taken at Southeastern Louisiana University and part-time work experience as a welder.
34. On motion of Mr. Melancon, seconded by Dr. Kennedy, the Teacher Certification Appeals Council granted **Donovan Hewitt**'s request to grant the Career and Technical Trade and Industrial Education certification, citing his industry-based experience earned prior to his employment.
35. On motion of Dr. Kennedy, seconded by Mr. Clement, the Teacher Certification Appeals Council denied **Avery Glass**'s request to add Art K-12 to her Level 1 teaching certificate.
36. On motion of Mr. Melancon, seconded by Ms. Bethancourt, the Teacher Certification Appeals Council denied **Auntresse McClay**'s request to add the Elementary School Principal endorsement to her Level 3 teaching certificate.
37. On motion of Mr. Clement, seconded by Dr. Kennedy, the Teacher Certification Appeals Council denied **Jessica Freeman**'s request to add Mild/Moderate 6-12 to her Level 3 teaching certificate.
- Mr. Melancon abstained from the vote.
38. On motion of Ms. Bethancourt, seconded by Mr. Clement, the Teacher Certification Appeals Council deferred, pending LDOE verification of additional documentation, **Curtis Lewis**'s request to issue the Ancillary-Junior Reserves Officer Training Corps certificate pending LDOE's verification of additional documentation.
39. On motion of Dr. Kiper, seconded by Mr. Melancon, the Teacher Certification Appeals Council granted **Michelle Miller**'s request to issue the School Counselor endorsement to her Level 2 certificate, citing she fulfilled 'Principles and Administration of School Counseling Programs' and 'Supervised Practicum in a School Setting.'

40. On motion of Mr. Clement, seconded by Mr. Melancon, the Teacher Certification Appeals Council denied **Neely Darby**'s request for Educational Leader Level 1 eligibility.
41. On motion of Mr. Clement, seconded by Dr. Kennedy, the Teacher Certification Appeals Council denied **Roderick Meaux**'s request for Educational Leader Level 1 eligibility. The Council noted that, absent any substantive change, this will be the final hearing of this case.
42. On motion of Ms. Bethanourt, seconded by Dr. Hembree, the Teacher Certification Appeals Council granted **Jennifer Murphy**'s request for issuance of the Level certificate, citing she was mentored during her year-long residency.

With no further business to come before the Teacher Certification Appeals Council, the meeting was adjourned at 2:21 p.m.