

Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE)
Teacher Certification Appeals Council (TCAC)
Thursday, June 10, 2021
Minutes — Unofficial

The June 10, 2021 meeting of the Teacher Certification Appeals Council was called to order at 9:02 a.m. by Dr. Christine Hypolite. Members present were:

Dr. Dustin Hebert, Dr. Christine Hypolite, Dr. Rhea Kiper, Ms. Karen Parrino, and Dr. Verjanis Peoples.

Yolanda Williams served as proxy for Mr. Scott Devillier; Gavin Vitter served as proxy for Mr. James Kennedy.

Absences were: Dr. Arthur Joffrion.

Appellants in attendance: Sherita Armstrong, Shemekia Gatlin-Clarkson, Melissa Duplass, Bridget Earl, Adriana Hasley, Michael Johnston, Brenda Mashon

Representing the Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) were Ms. Paula Bell, Ms. Christy Bellue, Mr. Ryan Gremillion, Dr. Keith Leger and Ms. Rachel Normand.

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Dr. Hypolite requested a motion to approve the minutes of the February 25, 2021 TCAC meeting. The Council's response was as follows:

1. On motion of Dr. Hebert, seconded by Dr. Peoples, the Council approved the February 25th meeting minutes.

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2. On motion of Dr. Hebert, seconded by Ms. Parrino, the Council went into executive session at 9:05 a.m. to discuss appeals for the following individuals:

- a. Bridget Calderone
- b. Alisa Coldiron
- c. Jennifer Felts
- d. Bridget Earl
- e. Grayling Evans
- f. Darren Bickham

- g. Gary Burrell
- h. Melissa Duplass
- i. Jeannine Dwyer
- j. Richelle McCollum
- k. Emily Andries
- l. Mindy Guidroz
- m. Vibha Robinson
- n. Xochitl Doty
- o. Patricia Carrow
- p. Kimberly Bourgeois
- q. April Gonzales
- r. Sherita Armstrong
- s. Brenda Mashon
- t. Michael Johnston
- u. Adriana Hasley
- v. Rhonda Smith
- w. Shemekia Gatlin-Clarkson

A roll call vote was taken.

Yeas: Dr. Dustin Hebert, Dr. Christine Hypolite, Dr. Rhea Kiper, Dr. Verjanis Peoples, Karen Parrino

Nays: None

Abstentions: 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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3. On motion of Dr. Hebert, seconded by Dr. Peoples, the Council reconvened into regular session at 1:15 pm. and continued with the regular order of the agenda. A quorum was present.
4. On the motion of Dr. Peoples, seconded by Ms. Parrino, the Council granted **Bridget Calderone's** request to extend her Level 2 teaching certificate for two years in order to earn effective evaluations so the certificate can be fully renewed.
5. On the motion of Dr. Peoples, seconded by Ms. Parrino, the Council granted **Alisa Coldiron's** request to extend her Level 2 teaching certificate for three years in order to earn effective evaluations so the certificate can be fully renewed.
6. On the motion of Dr. Peoples, seconded by Ms. Parrino, the Council granted **Jennifer Felt's** request to extend her Level 2 teaching certificate for three years in order to earn effective evaluations so the certificate can be fully renewed.

7. On the motion of Dr. Peoples, seconded by Ms. Parrino, the Council granted **Bridget Earl's** request to extend her Level 2 certificate for three years in order to earn effective evaluations so the certificate can be fully renewed. Effectiveness earned was not earned during the validity of the certificate.
8. On the motion of Dr. Peoples, seconded by Ms. Parrino, the Council granted **Grayling Evans's** request to extend his Level 2 teaching certificate for one year in order to earn effective evaluations so the certificate can be fully renewed.
9. On the motion of Dr. Peoples, seconded by Ms. Parrino, the Council granted **Darren Bickham's** request to extend his Level 2 teaching certificate for three years in order to earn effective evaluations so the certificate can be fully renewed.
10. On the motion of Dr. Hebert, seconded by Dr. Kiper, the Council granted **Gary Burrelli's** request to extend his Level 3 teaching certificate for two years in order to earn effective evaluations so the certificate can be fully renewed.
11. On the motion of Dr. Hebert, seconded by Dr. Kiper, the Council granted **Melissa Duplass's** request to extend her Level 3 teaching certificate for two years in order to earn effective evaluations so the certificate can be fully renewed.
12. On the motion of Dr. Hebert, seconded by Dr. Kiper, the Council granted **Jeannine Dwyer's** request to extend her Level 3 teaching certificate for three years in order to earn effective evaluations so the certificate can be fully renewed.
13. On the motion of Dr. Hebert, seconded by Dr. Peoples, the Council denied **Richelle McCollum's** request to extend her Level 3 teaching certificate as other options are available within policy.
14. On the motion of Dr. Peoples, seconded by Dr. Hebert, the Council granted **Emily Andries'** request to retroactively be placed into non-practicing status during the time she was not serving as a teacher of record. She has never been employed by a Louisiana school system; therefore has no entity to make the request on her behalf.
15. On the motion of Dr. Peoples, seconded by Dr. Hebert, the Council granted **Mindy Guidroz's** request to retroactively be placed into non-practicing status during the time she was not serving as a teacher of record. She has never been employed by a Louisiana school system; therefore has no entity to make the request on her behalf.
16. On the motion of Dr. Peoples, seconded by Dr. Hebert, the Council granted **Vibha Robinson's** request to retroactively be placed into non-practicing status during the time she was not serving as a teacher of record. She has never been employed by a Louisiana school system; therefore has no entity to make the request on her behalf.

17. On the motion of Ms. Parrino, seconded by Dr. Peoples, the Council granted **Xochitl Doty**'s request to extend her Ancillary School Counselor certificate for one year in order to earn effective evaluations so the certificate can be fully renewed.
18. On the motion of Ms. Parrino, seconded by Dr. Kiper, the Council granted **Patricia Carrow**'s request to extend her Out-of-State (OS1) certificate for one year in order to take the six semester hours of coursework needed for issuance of the three year OS certificate.
19. On the motion of Dr. Kiper, seconded by Ms. Parrino, with Dr. Hebert voting nay, the Council granted **Kimberly Bourgeois**' request to reinstate her Type A teaching certificate substituting her experience in an instructional role, a highly effective evaluation, and job classification in lieu of the required six semester hours of coursework.
20. On the motion of Dr. Peoples, seconded by Ms. Parrino, with Dr. Hebert abstaining, the Council denied **April Gonzales**'s request to substitute her master's in English in lieu of a master's in education for purposes of Educational Leader eligibility via alternate pathway two.
21. On the motion of Ms. Parrino, seconded by Dr. Kiper, the Council granted **Sherita Armstrong**'s request to substitute her experience in Special Education and master's in Special Education in lieu of three semester hours for fulfillment of the mild-moderate 6-12 add-on.
22. On the motion of Dr. Hebert, seconded by Dr. Peoples, the Council denied **Brenda Mashon**'s request to substitute her experience for her deficiencies in coursework, certification area and experience to meet the Educational Diagnostician add-on requirements.
23. On the motion of Ms. Parrino, seconded by Dr. Peoples, with Dr. Kiper abstaining, the Council granted **Michael Johnston**'s request to substitute his 15 years of content knowledge teaching experience, Texas certificate and passing Texas state-approved Social Studies exam in lieu of the deficient 12 semester hours of coursework to add Social Studies.
24. On the motion of Dr. Hebert, seconded by Ms. Parrino, with Dr. Peoples and Dr. Hypolite abstaining, the Council deferred **Adriana Hasley**'s request to accept her coursework completed after 2017 and the School Counselor Praxis to meet the School Counselor add-on requirements. More information is needed for the Council to make a determination.
25. On the motion of Dr. Peoples, seconded by Dr. Hebert, with Ms. Parrino abstaining, the Council denied **Rhonda Smith**'s request to issue the Provisional Ancillary Educational Interpreter certificate due to not having scored the required EIPA standards key score.

26. On the motion of Ms. Parrino, seconded by Dr. Peoples, the Council granted **Shamekia Gatlin-Clarkson's** request to substitute her years of experience as a school counselor and passing of Praxis for school counseling in lieu of completing the practicum and three semester hours she is deficient for certification as a school counselor.

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With no further business, on the motion of Dr. Hebert, seconded by Dr. Peoples, the meeting was adjourned at 1:25 p.m.

The next meeting of the Teacher Certification Appeals Council is scheduled to convene on August 26, 2021.

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