

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

Thursday, March 10, 2022

Minutes — Unofficial

The March 10, 2022 meeting of the Teacher Certification Appeals Council (TCAC) was called to order at 9:10 a.m. by Dr. Christine Hypolite.

Members present were: Ms. Brenna Bethancourt, Mr. Scott Devillier, Ms. Christen DeRise, Dr. Dustin Hebert, Dr. Christine Hypolite, Dr. Katrina Jordan, Mr. James Kennedy, and Dr. Rhea Kiper.

Absences: none

Appellants in attendance: Ms. Sarah Claus, Ms. Paula Cunningham, Ms. Allison Durham, Ms. Jennifer Gonsoulin, Mr. Chauncey Griffin, Ms. Shemia Mark Harris, Mr. Michael LaGarde, Ms. Nancy McAlister

Representing the Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) were Ms. Paula Bell, Ms. Christy Bellue, Ms. Rachel Normand and Ms. Ashley Townsend.

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Dr. Hypolite requested a motion to approve the minutes of the November 4, 2021 TCAC meeting. The Council's response was as follows:

1. On motion of Dr. Hebert, seconded by Mr. Kennedy, the Council approved the November 4, 2021 meeting minutes.

Absences: Dr. Arthur Joffrion

2. A request was made to amend the agenda to include an appeal for Shemia Mark Harris. Per Louisiana Revised Statute 42:19, unanimous approval is required. On the motion of Dr. Hebert, seconded by Mr. Kennedy, the motion was approved.

A roll call vote was taken.

Yeas: Ms. Brenna Bethancourt, Mr. Scott Devillier, Ms. Christen DeRise, Dr. Dustin Hebert, Dr. Christine Hypolite, Dr. Katrina Jordan, Mr. James Kennedy, and Dr. Rhea Kiper

Nays: none

Absences: Dr. Arthur Joffrion

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3. On motion of Mr. Devillier, seconded by Mr. Kennedy, the Council went into executive session at 9:15 a.m. to discuss appeals for the following individuals:

- a. Kari Barker
- b. Aimee Faist
- c. Yussef Jasmine
- d. Allison Durham
- e. Kaliina Fenner
- f. Nancy McAlister
- g. Shana Nguyen
- h. April Reed
- i. Sarah Claus
- j. Jennifer Gonsoulin
- k. Teikeshia Charles
- l. Samantha Manning
- m. Cheryl Shotwell
- n. Megan Grant
- o. Brandon Richard
- p. Kimberly McDonald Duhon
- q. Derric Sterling
- r. Kenneth Matthews
- s. Paula Cunningham
- t. Melissa Grant
- u. Todd Sharp
- v. Chauncey Griffin

w. Michael LaGarde

x. Shemia Mark Harris

A roll call vote was taken.

Yeas: Ms. Brenna Bethancourt, Mr. Scott Devillier, Ms. Christen DeRise, Dr. Dustin Hebert, Dr. Christine Hypolite, Dr. Katrina Jordan, Mr. James Kennedy, and Dr. Rhea Kiper

Nays: none

Absences: Dr. Arthur Joffrion

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. Joffrion, seconded by Mr. Devillier, the Council reconvened into regular session at 12:20 p.m. and continued with the regular order of the agenda. A quorum was present.
5. On the motion of Mr. Kennedy, seconded by Dr. Hebert, the Council granted **Kari Barker'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.
6. On the motion of Mr. Kennedy, seconded by Dr. Hebert, the Council granted **Aimee Fast'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.
7. On the motion of Mr. Kennedy, seconded by Dr. Hebert, the Council granted **Yussef Jasmine'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.
8. On the motion of Mr. Kennedy, seconded by Mr. Devillier, the Council granted **Allison Durham's** 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 to the renewable higher level certificate.
9. On the motion of Mr. Kennedy, seconded by Mr. Devillier, the Council granted **Kaliina Fenner's** 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 to the renewable higher level certificate.
10. On the motion of Mr. Kennedy, seconded by Mr. Devillier, the Council granted **Nancy McAlister'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 to the renewable higher level certificate.

11. On the motion of Mr. Kennedy, seconded by Mr. Devillier, the Council granted **Shana Nguyen**'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 to the renewable higher level certificate.
12. On the motion of Mr. Kennedy, seconded by Mr. Devillier, the Council granted **April Reed**'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 to the renewable higher level certificate.
13. On the motion of Dr. Joffrion, seconded by Ms. DeRise, the Council granted **Sarah Claus**'s request to extend her Type C certificate for two years in order to earn the necessary effective evaluation(s) so the certificate can be advanced to the renewable higher level certificate.
14. On the motion of Dr. Joffrion, seconded by Ms. DeRise, the Council granted **Jennifer Gonsoulin**'s request to extend her Type C certificate for one year in order to earn the necessary effective evaluation(s) so the certificate can be advanced to the renewable higher level certificate.
15. On the motion of Mr. Kennedy, seconded by Dr. Hebert, the Council granted with contingency **Teikeshia Charles**' request to extend her Ancillary School Counselor certificate for one year in order to earn effective ratings to fully renew the ancillary certificate. The extension is contingent on the employing school system showing proof she is in a position to receive, and will receive, an evaluation as a school counselor.
16. On the motion of Mr. Kennedy seconded by Dr. Hebert, the Council granted with contingency **Samantha Mannings**' request to extend her Ancillary School Counselor certificate for three years in order to earn effective ratings to fully renew the ancillary certificate. The extension is contingent on the employing school system showing proof she is in a position to receive, and will receive, an evaluation as a school counselor.
17. On the motion of Dr. Joffrion, seconded by Ms. Brenna Bethancourt, the Council granted **Cheryl Shotwell**'s request to extend her Ancillary School Counselor certificate for two years in order to earn effective ratings to fully renew the ancillary certificate.
18. On the motion of Mr. Kennedy, seconded by Ms. Bethancourt, the Council granted **Megan Grant**'s request to renew her Temporary Authority to Teach (TAT) certificate for one year, allowing time to successfully meet the standard of effectiveness as well as complete all exams required to enroll in an alternative teacher preparation program. The Council will not consider any additional appeals without attempts at Praxis.
19. On the motion of Mr. Kennedy, seconded by Ms. Bethancourt, the Council granted **Brandon Richard**'s request to renew his Temporary Authority to Teach (TAT) certificate for one year, allowing time to successfully meet the standard of effectiveness. The Council will not consider any additional appeals without attempts at Praxis.
20. On the motion of Mr. Kennedy, seconded by Ms. Bethancourt, the Council granted **Kimberly McDonald Duhon**'s request to renew her Temporary Authority to Teach (TAT) certificate for one year, allowing time to successfully meet the standard of effectiveness as well as complete all exams required to enroll in an alternative teacher preparation program. The Council will not consider any additional appeals without attempts at Praxis.

21. On the motion of Mr. Kennedy, seconded by Ms. Bethancourt, the Council granted **Derric Sterling**'s request to renew his Temporary Authority to Teach (TAT) certificate for one year, allowing time to successfully complete all exams required to enroll in an alternative teacher preparation program. The Council will not consider any additional appeals without attempts at Praxis.
22. On the motion of Mr. Devillier, seconded by Dr. Hebert, the Council granted **Kenneth Matthews**' request to extend his Out-of-State (OS) certificate for one year in order to fulfill Praxis exam requirements to advance to the Level certificate.
23. On the motion of Dr. Hebert, seconded by Dr. Jordan, the Council granted **Paula Cunningham**'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 1-5. The extension would permit more time to meet the add-on requirements, which include coursework and Praxis exams.
24. On the motion of Dr. Hebert, seconded by Dr. Jordan, the Council granted **Melissa Grant**'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 Academically Gifted. The extension would permit more time to meet the add-on requirements which include coursework and earning master's degree.
25. On the motion of Dr. Joffrion, seconded by Dr. Kiper, the Council granted **Todd Sharp**'s request to allow for the Supervision of Student Teaching endorsement on his certification beyond the deadline allowed in policy, based upon taking course EDCI 524 'Supervision of Student Teaching' at Louisiana Tech University. The Supervision of Student teaching endorsement will then qualify him to add the Mentor Teacher endorsement.
26. On the motion of Mr. Devillier, seconded by Ms. DeRise, the Council granted **Chauncey Griffin**'s request to be granted issuance of the Provisional Career and Technical Trade and Industrial Education (CTTIE) certificate using his industry-related work experience completed more than five years ago as he has been teaching the content in recent years. The educator has documented industry-based experience and holds the proper industry-based credential (IBC). The educator would have qualified for the certificate at the time he began teaching but the application for such was not submitted at that time.
27. On the motion of Mr. Kennedy, seconded by Dr. Hebert, the Council granted with contingency **Michael LaGarde**'s request to accept satisfactory transcripts showing completion of EDUC 525 "Theories of Growing and Learning" from the University of Phoenix to substitute for Human Growth and Development to grant School Counselor certification. The Council will allow this course to fulfill requirements under previous adopted policy, which needed to have been fulfilled by June 30, 2017.
28. On the motion of Mr. Kennedy, seconded by Dr. Hebert, the Council granted with contingency **Shemia Mark Harris**' request to accept satisfactory transcripts showing completion of a graduate eligible course to fulfill "Human Growth and Development" for issuance of the Ancillary School Counselor certificate. The Council will allow this course to fulfill requirements under previous adopted policy, which needed to have been fulfilled by June 30, 2017.

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With no further business the meeting was adjourned at 12:25 p.m..

The next meeting of the Teacher Certification Appeals Council is scheduled to convene on June 9, 2022.