

Appendix



APPLICATION FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE COMMITTEE OF CREDENTIALS OF THE COMMISSION ON TEACHER CREDENTIALING

A. IDENTIFICATION:

1. Name Christensen Odette Marie
Last First Middle

2. [Redacted]

3. [Redacted]

4. [Redacted]

B. CATEGORY OF APPOINTMENT FOR WHICH YOU ARE APPLYING:

- ☐ **Elementary Teacher.** Must be a full-time certified classroom teacher in the public elementary schools with not less than five (5) years of classroom experience.
- ☐ **Secondary Teacher.** Must be a full-time certified classroom teacher in the public secondary schools with not less than five (5) years of classroom experience.
- ☐ **School Administrator.** Must be a certified practicing administrative employee in the public schools.
- ☐ **School Board Member.** Must be a member of the governing board of a school district.
- ☒ **Public Member.** Must be a representative of the public and may not currently be employed in either a certificated public school position and/or be a member of any governing board of a school district or county board of education.

C. CURRENT AND FORMER EMPLOYMENT:

List your current and former employment for the past ten (10) years. Please include dates of employment.

D. EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE:

1. Name and Location of College or Univ.	Course of Study	Completed		Degree	Date Completed
		Semester	Quarter		

2. Business, Correspondence, Trade, or Service Schools	Course of Study
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3. Currently valid certificates of professional or vocational competence, licenses, and expiration dates.
Multiple subject Teaching Credential expires 2029

4. Membership in professional associations. Please include dates of membership.
California Retired Teachers Association 2022 - present

E. ADDITIONAL ACHIEVEMENTS:

Summarize your accomplishments and involvement in community service which you believe would contribute to your value as a member of the Committee of Credentials:

30 + years public school teacher

Winters Area Educators Association President

Woodland Educators Association Representative

Student Teacher Supervisor UCDavis

Science Mentor Teacher, Winters Joint Unified School District

BITSA Mentor Teacher, Woodland Joint Unified School District

F. KNOWLEDGE AND ABILITIES:

Please review the knowledge and abilities lists on page two of this application packet. Please describe how you satisfy each.

A. In my many roles as a teacher leader I have referred to the Education Code,

California Code of Regulations and case law to guide my counsel to other teachers.

B.1. I have served twice as a juror on trials in which we were called upon to analyze, appraise and apply the appropriate legal standards as instructed by the judges.

B.2. I have experience reading and comprehending material in my role as an educator.

B.3. As a juror and a teacher I have always maintained a fair and impartial attitude without bias or prejudice.

B.4. I have honed my abilities to communicate effectively as a classroom teacher and mentor teacher.

B.5. I have established and maintained cooperative working relationships while serving on many school site and district committees. I have done the same with many school staffs.

B.6. As a juror and a teacher maintaining confidentiality was very important, I will have no difficulty complying with that requirement.

G. PROFESSIONAL FITNESS QUESTIONS

1. Have you ever been convicted of a felony or misdemeanor?

[REDACTED]

(If yes, attach explanation)

2. Have you ever been dismissed or resigned from, or otherwise left employment because of allegations of misconduct or while allegations of misconduct were pending?

[REDACTED]

(If yes, attach explanation)

3. Are you currently the subject of an inquiry or investigation by any law enforcement agency or any licensing agency in California or any other state?

[REDACTED]

(If yes, attach explanation)

4. Are any criminal charges currently pending against you?

[REDACTED]

(If yes, attach explanation)

5. Have you ever had any credential, including but not limited to, any Certificate of Clearance, permit, credential, license or other document authorizing public school service, revoked, denied, suspended, publicly reprimanded, and/or otherwise subjected to any other disciplinary action (including an action that was stayed) in California or any other state or place?

[REDACTED]

(If yes, attach explanation)

6. Have you ever had any professional or vocational (not teaching or educational) license revoked, denied, suspended, and/or otherwise subjected to any other disciplinary action (including an action that was stayed) in California or any other state or place?

[REDACTED]

(If yes, attach explanation)

7. Have you ever been involved in an educator discipline matter or the educator discipline process in California (including investigation, defense, prosecution, employment related hearings, or otherwise)?

[REDACTED]

(If yes, attach explanation)

8. Do you vote or in any other way participate in lobbying as a member of any organization as to issues involving educator discipline in California? If so, please specifically identify the organization, your role as to voting or lobbying on matters regarding educator discipline in California, and whether you receive compensation or gifts (travel, meals, lodging, transportation, etc.) of any kind in exchange for your participation in this activity.



(If yes, attach explanation)

9. Do you know any current or former Commissioners or members of the Committee of Credentials? If so, please list their name(s) and how you know them.

Yes ☐ No ☒

10. Do you know any current or former employees from the Commission on Teacher Credentialing and, if so, in what capacity?

Yes ☒ No ☐

I taught Dr. Mary Sandy's son when he was in fourth grade.

You must obtain fingerprint clearance as part of the appointment process.

H. CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Please disclose any conflicts of interest that you believe will impact your impartiality in making recommendations as to educator discipline cases in California. Explain.

I do not have any conflicts of interest that will impact my impartiality.

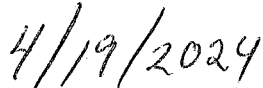
I. LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION

All applicants must provide at least two (2) letters of recommendation. These letters must be submitted with your application.

VERIFICATION BY APPLICANT

I hereby certify that all statements made in this application are true and correct. I understand that if I am selected for appointment I must execute an Oath of Office and abide by the laws and rules applicable to officers of the State of California.


Signature


Date

You may attach a resumé and other materials you wish the Commission to consider.

WOODLAND JOINT UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

"Excellence for All"

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Woodland Prairie Elementary

Scott Clary & Andrea Thomas, Principal
1444 Stetson St, Woodland Ca 95776
530.622.2898
<https://prairie.wjUSD.org/>

District Website: www.wjUSD.org

Tom Pritchard, Superintendent

April 19, 2024

Commission on Teacher Credentialing,

It is a great honor to recommend Odette Christensen for the position of a Public Member on the Committee of Credentials. I have worked with and have known Ms. Christensen for over twenty five years. She is a tremendous teacher, a calm and discerning administrator, a patient and insightful mentor, and an honest and faithful friend. We have worked in many capacities together over the years but there are two experiences that stand out from the rest.

At Dingle Elementary in Woodland, California, I was Ms. Christensen's co-grade-level teacher. I experienced Ms. Christensen's commitment to her students and parents. I personally benefited from her encouraging and insightful mentoring. The school leadership, at the time, was going through a transition and it was a highly stressful situation. It was a true testament to Ms. Christensen's character that she never let herself get bogged down in office politics and grouching, and remained, at all times, completely professional. Ms. Christensen was an inspiration to me. She was always available and offered help to the new teachers. She even helped the administrator communicate with the staff. Her calm demeanor and composure made her a person that the staff, parents and students trusted and relied on.

Later in our careers, Ms. Christensen worked for me as an English Learner Specialist at Woodland Prairie Elementary. The school had over 460 English Learners and was 100% free and reduced lunch. There was a lot to learn and much to oversee. She did everything from teaching ELD, to administering the testing, to monitoring students' progress, to helping parents. It was a very stressful job. Ms. Christensen maintained a high level of professionalism and was committed to doing a quality job for her students, parents and teachers.

Ms. Christensen stands out as one of the most memorable educators I have worked with in my nearly 30 years as an educator and administrator. As one of Ms. Christensen's administrators and friends I find her to be honest, and trustworthy. She expresses herself well and will tell you honestly what she thinks in a kind and thoughtful way. She is a person of her word and follows through with whatever she says. Colleagues, parents and students trust her and rely on her.

If there are any questions, please contact me. I know Ms. Christensen will be a great addition to your committee.

Sincerely,

Andrea Thomas

Former Vice Principal of Woodland Prairie Elementary

4/15/24

Dear Selection Committee-

I am pleased to be able to offer this letter of recommendation in support of Odette Christensen's application to join the California Teacher Commission's Licensure Review Board. I have known Ms. Christensen for close to 20 years, and during that time I have acted as both her professional supervisor as well as a teaching colleague in public education. We have developed a friendship that is based on mutual respect, common values and shared interests. It is my opinion that she is exactly the kind of person you need acting in the role of citizen oversight for the Commission. She has a strong work ethic, and she is guided in her daily life by values that include social justice and investment in the communities in which she lives. Ms. Christensen's values come together with personality characteristics such as integrity and compassion for create a package that is very well suited to the work that is done by this review panel. I believe she would be a most welcome addition to your team.

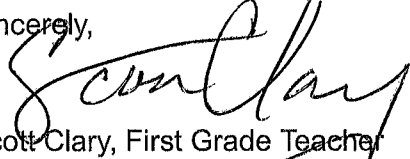
Two of the traits that stand out as a particularly strong combination in terms of supporting this panel's work are Ms. Christensen's open-mindedness and her critical thinking skills. At various points in our professional trajectories, I have acted as an elementary school principal where Ms. Christensen taught. During those periods, I frequently called upon her to act as Teacher-In-Charge when I needed to be gone. I have repeatedly observed firsthand Ms. Christensen's ability to collect information about a situation from multiple viewpoints and then use District and School policies to guide her decision making. I came to trust her judgment as my own in these situations, and I believe she will bring this same combination to her work with the Credential Commission should you select her for the position.

Ms. Christensen's investment in her community is perhaps even a more powerful reason to place her on this panel. During the time I have known her, I have gained a deep respect for her willingness to put her "money where her mouth is" in terms of time, energy, and intellectual resources. She has acted as a mentor to beginning teachers as well as troubled youth, volunteered at the animal shelter as a caregiver and foster placement for animals, and currently serves as one of the officers in a professional association related to education. These are only a few examples of the kind of volunteer work that Ms. Christensen does throughout her life, but I believe they demonstrate that she is exactly the kind of person you need on your panel. She is driven not by her own self-aggrandizement, but by a deep desire to live in a community where people watch out for each other and take care of each other even if that means making difficult decisions.

In short, I recommend Ms. Christensen without reservation to serve on the CTC's review panel. I believe she is seeking this position for the right reasons, I also believe her intellect and willingness to learn will allow her to understand the complexities of the panel's work, and I trust that she will keep all of that work confidential.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you are in need of any more information.

Sincerely,



Scott Clary, First Grade Teacher
Ramon Tafoya Elementary School