

Consulat Général de France à San Francisco

Mission Culturelle et Universitaire Française aux Etats-Unis
88 Kearny Street Suite 600, San Francisco CA 94108

Jean Charconnet,
Attaché de Coopération pour le Français.

Dear colleagues,

I am writing this letter to draw your attention to the case of five teachers at the Santa Rosa French American School, MM. Perez, Catelin, Berger-Catelin, Delerue, and Arnaud-Chasles, and express the concern of the Consulate of France.

Yesterday I had a very positive meeting with the Superintendent of the District, Ms. Diann Kitamura, and her staff, but the question of the third year of teaching for these teachers remains in your hands.

Indeed, these teachers, who are fully qualified teachers in France, and have passed all the necessary exams in France, have not passed all the sections of CBEST. Three of them passed the math and reading section and none passed the writing section.

We would be very grateful if you would consider their cases with kindness and give them the opportunity to teach a third year in Santa Rosa, for several reasons:

- These teachers show goodwill and will continue to attend the CBEST. They are already qualified in France and teach in a program in French, where their knowledge of English is not problematic and does not affect the learning of students in any way.
- These teachers have families and children enrolled in school and are well integrated in the community and this summer it would be very problematic for them if they had to go back to France, with such a short notice if they wanted to go back to their jobs in their former schools in France, they would have to show their intention to reintegrate their schools in France before the first of June (three months before the start of classes).
- Three of them have already passed two of the sections of the CBEST. It is therefore possible to grant them a waiver for a third year. They are assured to attend the remaining section test. As far as

the others are concerned, the 44856.(b) Ed Code article seems to me to apply: *The person may be employed for a period not to exceed two years, except that thereafter the period of employment may be extended from year to year for a total period of not more than five years upon verification by the employing school district that termination of the employment would adversely affect an existing bilingual or world language program or program of cultural enrichment, and that attempts to secure the employment of a certificated California teacher qualified to fill the position have been unsuccessful.*

To my understanding, not giving those teachers a waiver for a third year would put the school in a difficult situation: it will be very complicated to recruit qualified French-speaking teachers at this time, because in France the positions are already allocated for the next school year and many regions of France also face a teacher shortage.

We hope that a solution will be found for this next year. Afterwards we are at your disposal to work on a long-term solution and we have already started to talk about different possibilities with the school district and the school management to avoid this kind of problem in the coming years.

Sincerely,

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