

**MINUTES OF THE
GEORGIA DRIVER'S EDUCATION COMMISSION MEETING
March 16, 2016
10:00 am
Governor's Office of Highway Safety Conference Room**

Chairman Blackwood called the March 16, 2016 Georgia Driver's Education Commission meeting to order at 10:09 am. The Chairman conducted a roll call of members. Those in attendance and constituting a quorum were as follows:

Members in Attendance

Mr. Harris Blackwood, Chairman
Mr. Kevin Boyd (by phone)
Mr. Bert Brantley (by phone)
Ms. Beth Graham (by phone)
Mr. Eddie Rish (by phone)

Members Not in Attendance

Ms. Frankie Jones
Mr. Wright Edge

Non-members in attendance were as follows:

Ms. Amy Radley, Georgia Attorney General's Office
Mr. Josh Turner, Georgia Driver's Education Commission
Mr. Jim Andrews, Governor's Office of Highway Safety
Mr. John Fleisch, Governor's Office of Planning and Budget
Ms. Vita Jordan, Governor's Office of Highway Safety
Ms. Kecia Bivins (by phone), Georgia Department of Driver Services
Ms. Denae Hartsfield (by phone), Georgia Department of Driver Services
Ms. Juenesse Holman (by phone), Georgia Department of Driver Services
Mr. Al Barber (by phone), Barber's Driving School
Mr. Barry Schrenk (by phone), Taggart's Driving School & Georgia Association of Risk Reduction and Defensive Driving Educators (GARDE)

Adoption of Agenda

Mr. Kevin Boyd made a motion to approve the March 16, 2016 Agenda. Ms. Beth Jones seconded the motion. The Chair asked if there was any discussion. Hearing none, the Chair conducted a roll call vote and the results were as follows:

Harris Blackwood: Yes.
Kevin Boyd: Yes.
Bert Brantley: Yes.
Beth Graham: Yes.
Eddie Rish: Yes.

The motion was approved.

Approval of September 15, 2015 Meeting Minutes

Mr. Eddie Rish made a motion to approve the November 10, 2015 minutes. Mr. Kevin Boyd seconded the motion. The Chair asked if there was any discussion. Hearing none, the Chair conducted a roll call vote and the results were as follows:

Harris Blackwood: Yes.

Kevin Boyd: Yes.

Bert Brantley: Yes.

Beth Graham: Yes.

Eddie Rish: Yes.

The motion was approved.

Acceptance of Amended Fiscal Year 2016 Budget Allocation

Chairman Harris Blackwood presented a copy of the budget approved by the commission on June 29, 2015 and the Amended Fiscal Year 2016 budget allocation of \$821,554 as provided to the Commission members on March 14, 2016. The handout is attached as “Exhibit A”

Mr. Kevin Boyd made a motion to accept the Amended Fiscal Year 2016 budget allocation of \$821,554 as passed by the General Assembly and signed by the governor and directs the staff of the Georgia Driver’s Education Commission to present an amended budget to the Commission for approval at a later date. Ms. Beth Graham seconded the motion. The Chair asked if there was any discussion. Hearing none, the Chair conducted a roll call vote and the results were as follows:

Harris Blackwood: Yes.

Kevin Boyd: Yes.

Bert Brantley: Yes.

Beth Graham: Yes.

Eddie Rish: Yes.

The motion was approved.

Adoption of Resolution 2016-02

Chairman Harris Blackwood presented Resolution 2016-02 and read the resolution for the record in its entirety. A copy of the resolution is attached as “Exhibit B”.

Whereas, the Georgia Drivers Education Commission has provided an open scholarship program with the Technical College System of Georgia during Fiscal Years 2015 and 2016, and

Whereas, the Commission by this resolution, desires in Fiscal Year 2017, to convert the present open program to a needs based scholarship program for students with demonstrated need, including but not limited to students in good standing who receive free or reduced school lunch and children of public safety professionals and military veterans who have been killed in the line of duty. The program will offer scholarship funds for students to choose from public or private driver training providers who are

approved by the Commission, including those which are private and licensed by the state, as well as colleges of the Technical College System of Georgia, and

Whereas, the Commission hereby requests the Department of Law assist in reviewing for compliance with state law the guidelines set by the Commission for the needs based scholarship program. The guidelines will be reviewed in a regularly scheduled meeting of the Commission and a public hearing will be conducted before adoption, and

Whereas, the Commission hereby requests the Department of Administrative Services to conduct a Request for Proposals from private companies who can provide applications, review, and award of the needs based scholarships to approved recipients,

Therefore, be it resolved by the Georgia Drivers Education Commission that the steps toward the needs based program will begin upon the passage of this resolution and the passage of legislation extending the commission's funding beyond Fiscal Year 2016.

Mr. Bert Brantley made a motion to adopt Resolution 2016-02. Mr. Kevin Boyd seconded the motion. The Chair notified the Commission that on the teleconference were representatives of the private driving organizations (Georgia Association of Risk Reduction and Defensive Driving Educators – GUARDE) and stated that they were aware this policy will be finalized at an open meeting at a later time. Chairman Blackwood further stated that he had conducted a meeting with the Department of Administrative Services and that this needs based program will not be implemented until January 1, 2017 as time will be required to identify a vendor and then implement the program. Because of the time needed for the procurement process, no scholarships will be awarded using Fiscal Year 2017 funds until January 1, 2017.

The Chair asked if there was any further discussion from members of the Commission. Hearing none, the Chair conducted a roll call vote and the results were as follows:

Harris Blackwood: Yes.

Kevin Boyd: Yes.

Bert Brantley: Yes.

Beth Graham: Yes.

Eddie Rish: Yes.

The motion to adopt the Resolution was adopted. A copy of the resolution is attached as "Exhibit B."

Public Comment

The Chairman asked if there were any public comments.

Mr. Al Barber identified himself and stated that those in the private sector had discussed capping the amount of the scholarship for each student at \$495. Chairman Blackwood responded that there would be a cap in the final approval. Mr. Barber explained that he was concerned about runaway costs from startups and wanted to ensure that the \$495 was included as discussed. In addition, Mr. Barber discussed his concerns of a selection process of not everyone being entitled

to these limited funds so they would have to compete based on something like a GPA and good conduct record as well as the parent agreeing in writing that they or someone over twenty-one is willing to give the forty hours of wheel time as mandated by Georgia law to the recipient. Mr. Barber further explained that if all of those things are part of the program, you will have a winning situation for the entire state and he sees the program expanding and we will bring in more deserving kids and we will have a thriving driver's education program for the State of Georgia. The Chairman thanked Mr. Barber for his comments.

The Chairman recognized Mr. Barry Schrenk who echoed Mr. Al Barber's comments and thanked the Chairman for following with through with what they had agreed upon at their meeting at the Capitol in previous days. The Chairman thanked Mr. Schrenk for his comments.

Other Business

The Chairman asked if there was other business to come before the commission. There was none.

Adjourn

Mr. Kevin Boyd made a motion to adjourn. Ms. Beth Graham seconded the motion. There was no objection to the adoption of the motion to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 10:20 am.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Josh Turner.

“Exhibit A”

GDEC 2016 Budget by Cost Category*	
Personal Services Total	\$ 115,600.00
Regular Operating Total	\$ 60,500.00
Travel Total	\$ 23,550.00
Equipment Total	\$ 10,000.00
Contractual Services Total	\$ 1,772,272.00
Per Diem and Fees Total	\$ 6,300.00
Telecommunications Total	\$ 2,000.00
Rent and Real Estate Total	\$ 11,157.00
Grants	\$ 912,516.00
Total	\$ 2,913,895.00

Budget proposal represents a 7.9% Operating Cost when the research/evaluation contract and anticipated vehicle repairs are excluded and a 13.1% Operating Cost when the research/evaluation contract and anticipated vehicle repairs are included.

*As approved on June 29, 2015

AFY 2016 Budget Allocation	
Total	\$ 3,735,449.00
Representating an Increase of:	\$ 821,554.00

“Exhibit B”



RESOLUTION 2016-02

A Resolution by the Georgia Drivers Education Commission

Whereas, the Georgia Drivers Education Commission has provided an open scholarship program with the Technical College System of Georgia during Fiscal Years 2015 and 2016, and

Whereas, the Commission by this resolution, desires in Fiscal Year 2017, to convert the present open program to a needs based scholarship program for students with demonstrated need, including but not limited to students in good standing who receive free or reduced school lunch and children of public safety professionals and military veterans who have been killed in the line of duty. The program will offer scholarship funds for students to choose from public or private driver training providers who are approved by the Commission, including those which are private and licensed by the state, as well as colleges of the Technical College System of Georgia, and

Whereas, the Commission hereby requests the Department of Law assist in reviewing for compliance with state law the guidelines set by the Commission for the needs based scholarship program. The guidelines will be reviewed in a regularly scheduled meeting of the Commission and a public hearing will be conducted before adoption, and

Whereas, the Commission hereby requests the Department of Administrative Services to conduct a Request for Proposals from private companies who can provide applications, review, and award of the needs based scholarships to approved recipients,

Therefore, be it resolved by the Georgia Drivers Education Commission that the steps toward the needs based program will begin upon the passage of this resolution and the passage of legislation extending the commission's funding beyond Fiscal Year 2016.

This 16th day of March, 2016

ATTESTED TO BY:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Harris Blackwood", is written over a horizontal line.

Harris Blackwood, Chairman
Georgia Driver's Education Commission

WITNESSED BY:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Josh Turner", is written over a horizontal line.

Josh Turner, Director
Georgia Driver's Education Commission