

**MINUTES OF THE  
GEORGIA DRIVER'S EDUCATION COMMISSION MEETING  
November 16, 2016  
Georgia Governor's Office of Highway Safety**

Chairman Blackwood called the November 16, 2016 Georgia Driver's Education Commission meeting to order at 10:30 am. Those in attendance and constituting a quorum were as follows:

**Board Members in Attendance**

Mr. Harris Blackwood, Chairman  
Mr. Bert Brantley, Vice Chairman (by telephone)  
Mr. Alfred Barber (by telephone)  
Ms. Beth Graham (by telephone)  
Ms. Frankie Jones (by telephone)  
Ms. Lidell Greenway (by telephone)

**Board Members Not in Attendance**

Mr. Eddie Rish  
Mr. Kevin Boyd

**Non-members in attendance were as follows:**

Mr. Josh Turner, Georgia Driver's Education Commission  
Ms. Erika Sims, Georgia Driver's Education Commission  
Ms. Amy Radley, Attorney General's Office  
Mr. Jimmy Sumner, Georgia Driver's Education Commission  
Mr. Travis Johnson, Technical College System of Georgia  
Mr. Jim Andrews, Governor's Office of Highway Safety  
Mr. Tommy Grant, Georgia Department of Driver Services (by telephone)  
Ms. Denae Hartsfield, Georgia Department of Driver Services (by telephone)  
Ms. Pamela Farr, Technical College System of Georgia (by telephone)

**Call to Order**

Chairman Harris Blackwood called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. and called a roll of Commission members and established that a quorum was present. Chairman Blackwood notified the Commission that as the majority of the Commission is attending the meeting by conference call, all votes taken will be by roll-call vote. During times of discussion, Commission members were asked to identify themselves before speaking. Chairman Blackwood then asked non-members of the Commission to identify themselves.

**Adoption of Agenda**

Frankie Jones made a motion to adopt the agenda as proposed. Ms. Beth Graham seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Approval of September 26, 2016 Board Meeting Minutes**

Beth Graham made a motion to approve the September 26, 2016 meeting minutes. Ms. Lidell Greenway seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Courtesy Reminder for Affidavit filing from an Appointed Public Officer**

Chairman Blackwood brought the Commission members attention to the Courtesy Reminder for Affidavit Filing from an Appointed Public Officer as provided to members in the meeting documents on page 46. Chairman Blackwood advised Commission members that his notice will serve as notification of their obligation to electronically file an annual affidavit swearing that

they did not take any official action from which they derived personal gain in the previous calendar year. The affidavit must be filed prior to January 31st, each year. Chairman Blackwood then advised that if as a member of this Commission, a board member took action from which he or she derived personal gain in the previous calendar year, they must file a full Personal Financial Disclosure Statement no later than July 1. Questions or requests for informational assistance should be electronically submitted to Maria Bazile with the Georgia Government Transparency and Campaign Finance Commission by email at [mbazile@ethics.ga.gov](mailto:mbazile@ethics.ga.gov).

### **Adoption of Amendment to Student and Provider Eligibility Requirements for Grant Scholarship Program**

Chairman Blackwood introduce Josh Turner to present the proposed changes. Mr. Turner presented the proposed to the Commission as outlined below.

- Section A, Paragraph 4, increase the maximum income level to 125% of the eligibility for free and reduced price meals for the State of Georgia.
- Section A, Paragraphs 4 and 5 are amended to evenly distribute the scholarships among Georgia's fourteen Congressional districts.
- Section A, Paragraph 7 is amended to only allow students to apply for a scholarship one time.
- Section A, Paragraph 7 is amended to allow providers to charge up to \$4.00 per hour and up to \$62.50 per hour of behind the wheel training for students who withdraw from the course or fail to timely complete the course within 180 days. The total amount of the reimbursement for a student who withdraws is \$491.00.

Mr. Turner advised that these recommendations were arrived at during a meeting with two members of the board representing the private and public sector.

Mr. Turner also shared a public comment received by email for the Commission which is detailed below.

*From Pamela Farr: "Looks much better! Thanks so much for getting the income levels up to a more reasonable level. And I appreciate the funding for partial completions. Assuming that includes fails?"*

*I'm still a little concerned about the fact students won't be able to reapply if they don't receive the award because I anticipate quite a lot of applications initially once the word gets out...maybe on the third round. Also, if the last priority of scholarships is distributed evenly by congressional district, does that mean the number will be proportionate to the population or just the same amount for each district, no matter the size?"*

Mr. Turner addressed Ms. Farr's concerns by stating that each Congressional district will be awarded the same amount of grant scholarships each month, and it will be proportional as Congressional districts are based on population. Additionally, Mr. Turner stated that he believed that there will be ample applicants to be awarded scholarships. Scholarships not awarded will be rolled over to the next month's award.

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Ms. Lidell Greenway made a motion to adopt the proposed changes. Mr. Alfred Barber seconded the motion.

Chairman Blackwood asked if there was any discussion.

The Chair recognized Mr. Alfred Barber. Mr. Barber explained his support for the proposed changes in Section A, Paragraph 7 regarding students only being eligible to apply for a scholarship one time.

Chairman Blackwood recognized a new caller on the line. Vice Chairman Bert Brantley identified himself.

Chairman Blackwood asked if there was any other discussion. Being no further discussion, Chairman Blackwood called the roll for a vote. The motion passed unanimously.

**Public Comment**

Chairman Blackwood called for any public comment.

Mr. Alfred Barber. "I'd like to offer one just I think a positive comment, if I might, Mr. Chairman."

Chairman Harris Blackwood. "Sure."

Mr. Alfred Barber: "I realize were an ongoing Commission that, if in fact, the way we have the allotments are the timeframe in which someone can submit and get approved for a scholarship. I'm certain that the Commission would hear further testimony in the future to make any modifications to make sure this program is a highly successful program and easy to access for the teams who need it.

Chairman Harris Blackwood: "Absolutely." We believe this is a frame that will work for us and we believe that as we move along if there is a need for changes those changes can't be made. "Any other comments?"

**Other Business**

Chairman Blackwood called for any other business. No additional business was brought before the commission.

**Motion to Adjourn**

Mr. Alfred Barber made a motion to adjourn. Ms. Lidell Greenway seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 10:42 am.