

Hope Scholarship Committee on Appeals Minutes

Microsoft TEAMS

January 16, 2025 at 11:00 A.M.

The meeting of the Hope Scholarship Committee on Appeal was called to order by Zak Ritchie, Acting Chair, on Thursday, January 16, 2025 at 11:05 A.M. after determination that a quorum of members was present through a silent roll call. Committee members attending the meeting: Jamion Wolford

The following West Virginia State Treasurer's Office (WVSTO) staff members attended the meeting: Gina Joynes, Amy Willard, Michelle Penaloza, James Fuerhoff, Lindsay Marchio, Mindy Parsley, Amy Constable, Kayla McNair, Kortnie Workman, Christian White, and Elizabeth Liston.

The agenda for the meeting consisted of the following:

- I. Welcome – Introductions/Roll Call – Call to Order
- II. Approval of Minutes from the November 8, 2024 meeting
- III. Review and Consideration of Applicant Appeals
- IV. Review and Consideration of Reimbursement Appeals
- V. Future Meetings
- VI. Adjournment

Approval of the Minutes

Zak Ritchie, Acting Chair, indicated the first item on the agenda was the approval of the minutes of the November 8, 2024 meeting, which were distributed to the members prior to the meeting. The Acting Chair asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes and none were noted. Jamion Wolford moved to approve the minutes and the motion was seconded by Zak Ritchie. The Acting Chair asked for discussion and there was none. The Acting Chair polled the members and the motion to approve the minutes was adopted.

Review and Consideration of Applicant Appeals

Zak Ritchie, Acting Chair, indicated the next item on the agenda of the meeting was the review and consideration of applicant of appeals pursuant to W.Va. CSR 112-19-11. Zak Ritchie made a motion to enter Executive Session as provided in *[West Virginia Code, Chapter 6, Article 9A, Section (4), Subsection (b), Subdivision (12)]*, which states a public agency may hold an Executive Session if there is discussion of "...any matter which, by express provision of federal law or state statute or rule of court is rendered confidential, or which is not considered a public record within the meaning of the freedom of information act." Jamion Wolford seconded the motion. No discussion was heard. The Acting Chair polled the members, and the motion was approved to move into Executive Session.

The Committee entered Executive Session at 11:07 A.M. There were only board members and board staff in attendance.

The Board returned to order at 11:23 A.M. The Acting Chair issued a reminder that no action was taken during the Executive Session.

Zak Ritchie made the following motion regarding applicant appeals:

- For appeal #301, 311, 312 and 313, I hereby move the appeals be approved and that the Hope Scholarship Board staff notify the applicants of the Board's determination.

Jamion Wolford seconded the motion. No discussion was heard. The Acting Chair polled the members and the motion carried.

Review and Consideration of Reimbursement Appeals

Zak Ritchie, Acting Chair, indicated the next item on the agenda of the meeting was the review and consideration of applicant of appeals pursuant to W.Va. CSR 112-19-11. Charlie Russell made a motion to enter Executive Session as provided in *[West Virginia Code, Chapter 6, Article 9A, Section (4), Subsection (b), Subdivision (12)]*, which states a public agency may hold an Executive Session if there is discussion of "...any matter which, by express provision of federal law or state statute or rule of court is rendered confidential, or which is not considered a public record within the meaning of the freedom of information act." Jamion Wolford seconded the motion. No discussion was heard. The Acting Chair polled the members, and the motion was approved to move into Executive Session.

The Committee entered into Executive Session at 11:24 A.M. There were only board members and board staff in attendance.

The Board returned to order at 11:33 A.M. The Acting Chair issued a reminder that no action was taken during the Executive Session.

Zak Ritchie made a motion that reimbursement appeal #R214 be placed on hold in abeyance pending consideration of the full Hope Scholarship Board regarding whether the item purchased is considered a qualifying expense and that the Hope Scholarship Board staff notify the applicant of the Board's determination.

Zak Ritchie made a motion that reimbursement appeals #R215 through #R222 be denied and that the Hope Scholarship Board staff notify participants of the Board's determination.

The Acting Chair asked if any members wished to vote separately on any of the student reimbursement appeals and the offer was declined. Jamion Wolford seconded the motion. No discussion was heard. The Acting Chair polled the members and the motion carried.

Future Meetings

The Acting Chair indicated that the next order of business was to discuss future meetings. He stated that the Committee on Appeals will meet as needed depending on eligibility appeals received by staff.

Staff will coordinate with Committee members on the need for meetings when appeals are received. The date and time of any meetings will be announced later in accordance with the Open Meetings Act.

No additional discussion was heard regarding future meetings.

Adjournment

The Acting Chair asked if there was any other business to come before the Committee on Appeals. Hearing none, Mr. Ritchie made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Wolford seconded the motion. Upon hearing no discussion, the Acting Chair polled the members and the motion to adjourn the meeting passed. The meeting was adjourned at 11:35 A.M.

Minutes prepared by Elizabeth Liston

Minutes approved by the Committee on February 27, 2025



Jonathan "Zak" Ritchie
Acting Chair of Hope Scholarship Committee on Appeals