

# Hope Scholarship Committee on Appeals Minutes

Microsoft TEAMS

March 18, 2026, 3:00 PM

The meeting of the Hope Scholarship Committee on Appeal was called to order by Jamion Wolford, Chair, on Wednesday, March 18, 2026, at 3:01 P.M. after determination that a quorum of members was present through a silent roll call. Committee members attending the meeting: Jamion Wolford, Alice Bonnell and Michael Cook.

The following West Virginia State Treasurer's Office (WVSTO) staff members attended the meeting: Amy Willard, Michelle Penaloza, Lindsay Marchio, Amy Constable, Christian White, and Carly Williams.

The agenda for the meeting consisted of the following:

- I. Welcome – Introductions/Roll Call – Call to Order
- II. Approval of Minutes from January 30, 2026, Meeting
- III. Review and Consideration of Applicant Appeals
- IV. Review and Consideration of Reimbursement Appeals
- V. Future Meetings
- VI. Adjournment

## Approval of the Minutes

The Chair indicated the first item on the agenda was the approval of the minutes of the January 30, 2026, meeting, which were distributed to the members prior to the meeting. The Chair asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes and none were noted. Michael Cook moved to approve the minutes, and the motion was seconded by Alice Bonnell. The Chair asked for discussion; none was heard. The Chair polled the members and the motion to approve the minutes was adopted.

## Review and Consideration of Applicant Appeals

The Chair indicated the next item on the agenda of the meeting was the review and consideration of applicant appeals pursuant to W.Va. CSR 112-19-11. Alice Bonnell 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.” Michael Cook seconded the motion. No discussion was heard. The Chair polled the members, and the motion was approved to move into Executive Session.

The Chair advised members of the public to log off and wait a few minutes before logging back in, where they would be held in the TEAMS lobby until the Executive Session was complete. The Committee entered the Executive Session at 3:03 P.M. There were only board members and board staff in attendance.

The Board returned to order at 3:16 P.M. The Chair issued a reminder that no action was taken during the Executive Session.

Michael Cook made the following motion regarding applicant appeals:

For appeals #408 and #410, I hereby move the appeals to be denied and that the Hope Scholarship Board staff notify the applicants of the Committee’s determination.

For appeal #409, I hereby move the appeal to be approved and that the Hope Scholarship Board staff notify the applicant of the Committee’s determination.

For appeals #411 and 412, I hereby move the appeals to be placed on hold in abeyance pending requests for additional documentation from the parent and that the Hope Scholarship Board staff notify the applicants of the Committee’s determination.

The Chair asked if any member of the committee wished to vote separately on any of the application appeals and the offer was declined. The Chair seconded the motion. Hearing no discussion, the Chair polled the members, and the motion carried.

## **Review and Consideration of Reimbursement Appeals**

The Chair indicated the next item on the agenda of the meeting was the review and consideration of reimbursement of appeals pursuant to W.Va. CSR 112-19-11. Alice Bonnell 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.” Michael Cook seconded the motion. No discussion was heard. The Chair polled the members, and the motion was approved to move into Executive Session.

The Chair advised members of the public to log off and wait a few minutes before logging back in, where they would be held in the TEAMS lobby until the Executive Session was complete. The Committee entered the Executive Session at 3:18 P.M. There were only board members and board staff in attendance.

The Board returned to order at 3:45 P.M. The Chair issued a reminder that no action was taken during the Executive Session.

Michael Cook made the following motion:

- For reimbursement appeals R313, R314, and R316 through R320, I hereby move the appeals be denied and that the Hope Scholarship Board staff notify the account holders of the Committee's determination.
- For reimbursement appeal R315, I hereby move the appeal be placed on hold in abeyance pending requests for additional documentation from the parents and that the Hope Scholarship Board Staff notify the applicants of the Committee's determination.

The Chair asked if any member of the committee wished to vote separately on any of the reimbursement appeals and the offer was declined. Alice Bonnell seconded the motion. Hearing no discussion, the Chair polled the members, and the motion carried.

### **Future Meetings**

The 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 Chair asked if there was any other business to come before the Committee on Appeals. None was heard. Michael Cook made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Alice Bonnell seconded the motion. Upon hearing no discussion, the Chair polled the members and the motion to adjourn the meeting passed. The meeting was adjourned at 3:47 P.M.

Minutes prepared by Carly Williams

**Minutes approved by the Committee on April 30, 2026**



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**Jamion Wolford**  
**Chair of Hope Scholarship Committee on Appeals**