Hope Scholarship Committee on Appeals Minutes

Microsoft TEAMS
August 12, 2026 11:00 AM

The meeting of the Hope Scholarship Committee on Appeal was called to order by Jamion Wolford, Chair, on Wednesday, August 12, 2026, at 11:13 A.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: Michelle Penaloza, Amy Constable, Mindy Parsley, Carly Williams, Steve Bohman and James Fuerhoff.

The agenda for the meeting consisted of the following:

I. Welcome – Introductions/Roll Call – Call to Order

II. Approval of Minutes from July 10, 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 minutes from the July 10, 2026, meeting will be presented to the Committee at the next appeals meeting along with today's minutes for August 12, 2026.

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." The Chair 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 11:14 A.M. There were only board members and board staff in attendance.

The Board returned to order at 11:19 A.M. The Chair issued a reminder that no action was taken during the Executive Session.

Alice Bonnell made the following motion regarding applicant appeals:

- For appeal #428, 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 application appeals and the offer was declined. Michael Cook 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 order of business on the agenda is to review and consider any reimbursement appeals. The Chair stated there are no outstanding reimbursement appeals for today's meeting so the Committee will proceed with agenda item five.

Review and Consideration of General Appeals

The Chair indicated the next item on the agenda of the meeting was the review and consideration of general 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." The Chair 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 11:22 A.M. There were only board members and board staff in attendance.

The Board returned to order at 11:30 A.M. The Chair issued a reminder that no action was taken during the Executive Session.

Alice Bonnell made the following motion regarding general appeals:

- For appeals G5, G6, G7, G8, and G9, I hereby move the appeal be denied and that the Hope Scholarship Board staff notify the account holder 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.

VI – Review and Consideration of Disqualification Appeals

The Chair indicated the next item on the agenda of the meeting was the review and consideration of disqualification appeals pursuant to W.Va. CSR 112-19-13. 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." The Chair 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 11:32 A.M. There were only board members and board staff in attendance.

The Board returned to order at 11:44 A.M. The Chair issued a reminder that no action was taken during the Executive Session.

Alice Bonnell made the following motion regarding disqualification appeals:

- For disqualification appeal **#4**, hereby move the appeals be denied and that the Hope Scholarship Board recommend to the full Board that the permanent disqualification be upheld and that the Hope Scholarship Board staff notify the appellant(s) of the Committee's recommendation.

The Chair asked if any member of the committee wished to vote separately and the offer was declined. Michael Cook 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 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. Alice Bonnell made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The Chair 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 11:46 A.M.

Minutes prepared by Carly Williams

Minutes approved by the Committee on September 18, 2026

9/24/26

Jamion Wolford
Chair of Hope Scholarship Committee on Appeals