

Hope Scholarship Board Meeting Minutes

315 70th Street, SE – 2nd Floor Conference Room
Charleston, WV 25304

November 12, 2024

The special meeting of the Hope Scholarship Board was called to order by Deputy Treasurer, Steve Bohman, Chair, on Tuesday, November 12, 2024, at 2:02 p.m., after determination that a quorum of members was present through a silent roll call. The following Board members attended the meeting: State Treasurer Designee, Steve Bohman; State Attorney General Designee, Steven Travis; State Auditor Designee, Anthony Woods; Director of the Herbert Henderson Office of Minority Affairs, Jill Upson; parent representatives Charlie Russell and Zak Ritchie; State Superintendent of Schools Designee, Dustin Lambert, and Chancellor of Higher Education's Designee, Brian Weingart. Amanda Hoylman was absent.

The following West Virginia State Treasurer's Office (WVSTO) staff members attended the meeting: Lindsay Marchio, Mindy Parsley, James Fuerhoff, Amy Willard, Michelle Penalzoza, Riley Keaton, Carrie Hodousek, Christian White, Kayla McNair, Amy Constable, Kortnie Workman, 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 September 20, 2024 Meeting
- III. Consideration of Appeals Committee Report
- IV. Hope Scholarship Program Update
- V. Consideration of Military Service Member Eligibility Board Policy
- VI. Consideration of qualified expense requests pursuant to W.Va. Code §18-31-7(a)(13) and amendment to Board's Non-Qualifying Expense List
- VII. Consideration of Hope Scholarship Board Inquiries and audits into potential misconduct. This agenda item may involve an Executive Session pursuant to West Virginia Code §6-9A-4(b)(7), which states that a public agency may hold an executive session "to plan or consider an official investigation or matter relating to crime prevention or law enforcement." The Board majority must vote to have an executive session.
- VIII. Consideration of board action relating to Hope Scholarship Program audits into potential misconduct.
- IX. Future Meetings
- X. Other Business
- XI. Adjournment

II. Approval of Minutes

The Chair indicated the first item on the agenda was the approval of the meeting minutes from September 20, 2024, which were distributed to the members prior to the meeting. The Chair asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes. None were

heard. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Anthony Woods and was seconded by Zak Ritchie. There being no discussion, the Chair polled the members and the motion to approve the minutes was adopted.

III. Consideration of Committee on Appeals Report

The Chair indicated the next order of business before the Board was consideration of the Committee on Appeals report. The Chair recognized Anthony Woods, Chairman of the Committee on Appeals, to provide the report.

Mr. Woods advised the Chair there were two Committee on Appeal meetings held since the last full Board meeting. The meetings took place on October 3, 2024, and November 8, 2024.

Mr. Woods noted during the October 3, 2024 meeting, the committee heard eleven (11) applicant appeals. Of those, eleven (11) were denied.

Mr. Woods noted during the November 8, 2024 meeting, the committee heard twelve (12) applicant appeals. Of those, eleven (11) were approved and one (1) was held for additional documentation. Additionally, the committee heard seventeen (17) reimbursement appeals. Of those, one (1) was approved and sixteen (16) were denied.

The Chair asked if there were any questions for Mr. Woods. None were heard. The Chair then asked for a motion for the Board to adopt the committee report and meeting minutes, included in the Board packet. Zak Ritchie made the motion, and Charlie Russell seconded the motion. No discussion was heard. The Chair polled the members and the motion carried.

IV. Hope Scholarship Program Update

The Chair indicated the next order of business before the Board was an update regarding the Hope Scholarship Program. The Chair recognized Assistant Treasurer of Hope Scholarship, Amy Willard, to give the update.

Ms. Willard advised since the Board's last meeting in September, the program has experienced a large influx in applications under the 45-day rule. At the September meeting, Ms. Willard announced the program had received 11,676 total applications with 10,174 of those approved. As of November 11, 2024, a.m., the application count is as follows:

Approved	11,352
On-Hold	111
Declined	477
Submitted	31
<u>Ineligible</u>	<u>1,025</u>
<u>Total</u>	<u>12,996</u>

Ms. Willard noted this is an increase of 1,320 applications received. The total number of approved applications has increased by 1,178 students during the same period, which represents new approvals offset by additional declines.

Ms. Willard advised over 900 students were sent 45-day closeout letters in early October due to an analysis with the WV Department of Education that showed the students still enrolled in public school. Although some of these were WVEIS errors that were corrected, Board staff expect roughly 800 students to move from Approved to Declined status later this month.

Ms. Willard advised the disbursement of \$16,183,609 to schools, service providers, and parents as of the morning of November 11, 2024. The program has received 1,472 reimbursement requests and only 29 remain unprocessed.

Ms. Willard noted that as of the September meeting, the program had received 9,334 TheoPay orders and only 6,346 or 68% had been processed with 2,988 orders still awaiting fulfillment. As of the morning of November 11, 2024, the program had received 17,383 TheoPay orders and only 374 are awaiting fulfillment. She noted that Amazon is by far the vendor with the highest number of orders.

TheoPay rolled out some enhancements during October which include: providing families their order number from the vendor, a family note field used by the fulfillment team to copy and paste order details, i.e. the unit price, shipping costs, sales tax, etc. thus providing full transparency to our families, and a detailed return process for TheoPay orders if a family not longer wished to keep a product.

Ms. Willard advised a Hope Scholarship Family Forum was held on October 1, 2024 to allow families an opportunity to provide feedback regarding challenges they have faced with the program and the new online portal. A summary of the remarks from the registered speakers was shared with the Board via email in mid-October.

Ms. Willard noted as of November 1, 2024, Board staff had manually onboarded 103 new schools and service providers to the online platform. Over 60 additional providers have expressed interest, and staff is awaiting confirmation of the required background checks, before establishing their accounts in the online platform.

Ms. Willard added monthly office hours continue to be held for schools and service providers to relay updates and help resolve outstanding issues. A monthly newsletter is sent to Hope participants.

In conclusion, Ms. Willard advised the Board's legislative rules will be heard by the Legislative Rule Making Review Committee on November 13, 2024, at 9 am. After discussion with legislative committee staff, we anticipate some permissive language will be added which would allow the Board to authorize applicants to use a residency verification system and authentication process in lieu of providing the other residency documentation set forth in the rules. We also anticipate some additional technical corrections to change existing references to the WV Department of Health and Human

Resources to the two new state agencies of the WV Department of Health and WV Department of Human Services.

The Chair asked if there were any questions for Ms. Willard. None were heard.

V. Consideration of Military Service Member Eligibility Board Policy

The Chair indicated the next order of business was consideration of a Military Service Member Eligibility Board Policy. The Chair recognized Legislative Director, James Fuerhoff, to give the presentation.

Mr. Fuerhoff advised Board staff have received inquiries from West Virginia military service members regarding eligibility of their children if they are required, pursuant to a military order, to temporarily relocate to another state and return to West Virginia upon completion of duty. The requests can be broken down into two categories. The first circumstance is families that wish to participate in the Hope Scholarship during their relocation.

The Service members Civil Relief Act (SCRA) is a federal law that prevents a state from a creating a presumption that an active-duty military member becomes domiciled in that state simply because he or she is stationed there. Additionally, the Military Spouses Residency Relief Act (MSRRA) extends many of those benefits to military spouses, as well. So long as a military service member (and their family) do not change their permanent residency to the state they are stationed in, Board staff believes these students are statutorily eligible for the Hope Scholarship Program. Additionally, because their residence is still with the state of West Virginia, they are still required to pay all applicable income and property taxes, etc. Therefore, Board staff recommend adoption of the following policy with regards to eligibility for families of military service members to participate in the Hope Scholarship Program during their relocation:

In the event of the temporary relocation of a West Virginia military service member's family pursuant to active duty military orders, a child may participate in the Hope Scholarship Program. *Provided*, the family must maintain West Virginia as their State of Legal Residency (SLR), comply with all Program rules and requirements, and certify they will not participate in any full-time public-school program.

The second circumstance is families that wish to participate in the Hope Scholarship *upon return from their relocation*. These are families that are concerned that by not participating in the Hope Scholarship Program during their relocation, their child will be required to meet the 45-day public school requirement when they return to West Virginia.

For the reasons previously stated, Board staff does not feel that a temporary relocation pursuant to active duty military orders should jeopardize a student's ability to participate in the Hope Scholarship Program. Therefore, Board staff recommend adoption of the following policies with regards to eligibility for families of military service members upon return to West Virginia:

In the event of the temporary relocation of a West Virginia military service member's family pursuant to active duty military orders, a school aged (at the time of the required relocation) child's Hope Scholarship Program eligibility will be frozen at the

time of the required relocation. Upon the family returning to West Virginia, the child's eligibility will return to its status at the time of the required relocation. The student must be awarded the Hope Scholarship Program prior to attending a public elementary or secondary program or any other program authorized under W.Va. Code §18-8-1.

In the event of the temporary relocation of a West Virginia military service member's family pursuant to active duty military orders, a non-school aged (at the time of the required relocation) child will be permitted to apply for the Hope Scholarship Program without fulfilling the 45 calendar day public school enrollment requirement upon returning to West Virginia. The student must be awarded the Hope Scholarship Program prior to attending a public elementary or secondary program or any other program authorized under W.Va. Code §18-8-1.

Mr. Fuerhoff noted that, provided the Hope Scholarship Act remains unchanged, the Program will open to all students in the 2026-2027 academic year. At that time, the two policies above will become obsolete because individuals moving to West Virginia will no longer be required to fulfill the forty-five (45) calendar day public school enrollment to become eligible for the Hope Scholarship Program.

The Chair asked if there were any questions for James. None were heard. The Chair asked for a motion to adopt the Military Service Member Eligibility Board Policy as explained by Board staff. Anthony Woods made the motion and Steven Travis seconded the motion. No discussion was heard. The Chair polled the members and the motion carried.

VI. Consideration of Qualified Expense Request pursuant to W.Va. Code §18-31-7(a)(13) and amendment to the Board's Nonqualifying Expense List

The Chair indicated the next order of business on the agenda is the consideration of qualified and nonqualified expenses for the Hope Scholarship Program. The Chair recognized the Assistant Treasurer of Hope Scholarship, Amy Willard, to give the presentation.

Ms. Willard advised pursuant to West Virginia Code §18-31-7(a)(13), Hope Scholarship Board staff have identified multiple items for which staff are requesting the Board's assistance in determining whether these items should be considered a qualifying expense, whether limitations should be imposed on any of the items, or whether the items should be added to the Board's non-qualifying expense list. Ms. Willard went over each item on the list. She further noted that she had emailed sample motions for every possible scenario she could think of to the Board in advance of the meeting to assist with the motions portion of the discussion.

Mountain Bikes

Board staff received a Qualifying Expense Request form from a parent requesting mountain bikes and helmets e approved as a qualifying expense. The request indicated that organized sports are difficult in a rural setting and that the parent would like to expand their child's education to include the care and maintenance of the bikes and research of safety standards for helmets.

Ms. Willard advised if the Board wishes to allow bikes and helmets as allowable expenses, Board staff recommend a price limit for the bikes, due to depending on the type and quality, bikes could cost thousands of dollars.

Ms. Upson asked how many parents have requested a mountain bike. Ms. Willard advised one family with students has made the request. Mr. Lambert expressed concern over not being able to differentiate between educational and personal use of a bicycle. Ms. Willard advised it is difficult and that is why it needed to be brought before the Board.

Lifetime Subscription of Rosetta Stone

Board staff received a Qualifying Expense Request form from a parent requesting a lifetime subscription to Rosetta Stone to help their student learn foreign languages.

Lifetime subscriptions are generally concerning to the Board staff since they can be utilized well beyond the Hope Scholarship student's eligibility for the program, however, pricing for Rosetta Stone is much more economical purchasing the lifetime membership at \$199 vs. an annual membership of \$125.

Board staff recommend adding lifetime subscriptions or memberships to the nonqualifying expense list with an exception for Rosetta Stone. Ms. Upson asked what would happen if the lifetime subscription rate were to go up. Ms. Willard advised that without a discount the lifetime subscription is \$300. She added we can also periodically monitor the cost.

Subscription Boxes that include Food Items

Board staff have received multiple requests from families to allow subscription boxes which include food items as a qualified expense. For example, there are subscription boxes for science experiments and geography that sometimes include food items that are currently nonallowable due to groceries/food being included on the nonallowable expense list. There are also subscription boxes for baking and cooking activities. Such subscription boxes are very popular with IIP families but currently aren't allowed due to the inclusion of groceries/food as nonqualified expenses.

Board staff recommend amending the existing nonqualifying expense language for groceries/food to read as follows:

Groceries/food (Exceptions: (1) Student lunch fees charged by a participating school for lunches consumed on school premises during the school day and (2) educational subscription boxes that include some food ingredients as part of the lesson plan for the box.)

Mr. Woods asked if we have a list of specific vendors who offer these services. Ms. Willard advised we know of seven or eight vendors offering these services. Mr. Lambert questioned if an educational plan comes with each box. Ms. Willard advised, as far as we know, a specific educational plan would come based on the type of box requested.

Laminating Machines

Board staff received a request for the purchase of an industrial laminating machine with a cost of \$1,900. Such a laminating machine has the appearance that it could be used for more than just the Hope Scholarship student whose funds would be used to make the purchase. While laminating machines may be very helpful to an IIP student, personal usage laminating machines are available at a much more affordable cost. Prices from a quick internet search range from as low as \$25 to mid-range price of around \$300.

Board staff recommend disallowing laminating machines in excess of \$300. No questions were heard from members.

Metal Detectors

Board staff received a request for the purchase of a metal detector to assist with the study of geology.

If the Board wishes to allow the use of metal detectors, Board staff recommend instituting a dollar limitation such as \$200. A quick internet search shows prices for metal detectors range from \$60 - \$1500. No questions were heard from members.

Cameras

Board staff have received multiple requests to purchase cameras, ranging from Polaroid cameras to digital cameras to video cameras such as a GoPro.

If the Board wishes to allow cameras Board staff recommend instituting a dollar limit on each camera purchase. Depending on the type and quality, they can run thousands of dollars. No questions were heard from members.

Ping Pong Tables

Board staff received a Qualifying Expense Request form for a ping pong table. The parent believes that ping pong tables should be allowed because they help develop spatial awareness, concentration reflexes, and strategy. The parent further indicated they also are a great tool for physical activity to combat sedentary behaviors.

Board staff have historically denied purchase requests for large sports equipment that could be utilized by the entire family. Ping Pong tables can range in price from \$100 to over \$6,000. If the Board wishes to allow ping pong tables, Board staff recommend instituting a dollar limit on the purchase. No questions were heard from members.

Trampolines

Board staff received a request for trampolines to be a qualified expense.

Board staff have historically denied purchase requests for large sports equipment that could be utilized by the entire family and not just the Hope Scholarship student. Trampolines can range in price from hundreds to thousands of dollars. If the Board wishes to allow trampolines, Board staff recommend instituting a dollar limit on the purchase. No questions were heard from members.

Horse Rental Fees for Riding Lessons

An interested service provider who owns a stable and provides horseback riding lessons submitted a service offering for a horse rental fee to use the stable's horses for the riding lessons. The horseback riding lessons themselves have already been approved by Board staff as a physical education qualified expense. Failure to approve the associated horse rental/usage fee would disproportionately impact low income Hope Scholarship families who do not own their own horse for their riding lessons. Board staff recommend that rental fees for the use of stable horses for riding lessons be considered a qualified expense as part of the cost of the riding lessons.

Mr. Lambert asked if a family could use the entire Hope Scholarship award for riding lessons or is there was a limit. Ms. Willard said there is currently no limit on how much a family could spend on riding lessons but noted that if a parent did spend the full scholarship on riding lessons, they still had to provide an education for their child and meet the academic progress requirements, so they would be purchasing curriculum and other items out of pocket.

White Boards/Dry Erase Boards

Board staff receive a lot or questions about white boards. Large, classroom size white boards have been interpreted to fall into the nonqualifying expense category of household furniture because they would be mounted to a wall and serve as a furnishing. However, a smaller, personal size whiteboard could be considered a school supply that would be allowable under the program.

Board staff recommend making a distinction for the maximum dimensions of a white board that can be considered for personal use for purchase with Hope Scholarship funds. White boards are available in various sizes and dimensions. Board staff recommend allowing white boards with dimensions no greater than 24 inches by 24 inches and specifically listing white boards with dimensions greater than 24 inched by 24 inches on the nonqualifying expense list. No questions were heard from members.

The Chair advised he would proceed through the motions one by one.

The Chair asked for a motion regarding bikes and helmets. Mr. Woods made a motion that bikes and helmets be added to the Hope Scholarship nonqualifying expense list. Mr. Weingart seconded the motion. No discussion was heard. The Chair polled the members and the motion carried.

The Chair asked for a motion to add lifetime subscriptions or memberships except for Rosetta Stone lifetime memberships to the Board's nonqualifying program expense list. Mr. Woods made a motion to add lifetime subscriptions or memberships, except for Rosetta Stone lifetime memberships to the Board's nonqualifying program expense list. Mr. Weingart seconded the motion. No discussion was heard. The Chair polled the members and the motion carried.

The Chair asked for a motion to amend the existing nonqualifying expense language for groceries/food to add an additional exception for education subscription boxes that include some food ingredients as part of the lesson plan for the box. Mr. Woods made a motion to amend the existing nonqualifying expense language for groceries/food to add an additional exception for educational subscription boxes that include some food ingredients, provided that a lesson plan is included in each box. Mr. Lambert seconded the motion. The Chair asked if this will put more administrative burden on the staff to determine what box does or doesn't have a lesson plan included. Ms. Willard advised it would require additional verification, but it could certainly be something that the fulfillment team could look at when they are reviewing the orders. No additional discussion was heard. The Chair polled the members and the motion carried.

The Chair asked for a motion to add laminating machines in excess of \$300 to the Board's nonqualifying expense list. Mr. Woods made a motion to add laminating machines in excess of \$300 to the board's nonqualifying expense list. Mr. Weingart seconded the motion. No discussion was heard. The Chair polled the members and the motion carried.

The Chair asked for a motion regarding metal detectors. Mr. Woods made a motion that metal detectors costing in excess of \$300 be added to the Hope Scholarship Program nonqualifying expense list. There was no second so Mr. Woods withdrew his motion. Mr. Weingart made a motion that metal detectors be added to the Hope Scholarship Program nonqualifying expense list. Mr. Lambert seconded the motion. No discussion was heard. The Chair polled the members and the motion carried.

The Chair asked for a motion regarding cameras. Mr. Woods recommended that cameras be added to the two-year technology limitation and an agreed upon allowable dollar amount. Mr. Weingart asked if the Board staff have a recommendation. Mr. Lambert indicated he felt cameras need to be on the nonqualifying list. Mr. Lambert made a motion to add cameras to the Hope Scholarship nonqualifying list. Ms. Upson seconded the motion. No additional discussion was heard. The Chair polled the members and the motion carried.

The Chair asked for a motion regarding ping pong tables. Mr. Woods made a motion to add ping pong tables to the Hope Scholarship Program nonqualifying expense list. Mr.

Lambert seconded the motion. No discussion was heard. The Chair polled the members and the motion carried.

The Chair asked for a motion regarding trampolines. Mr. Woods made a motion to add trampolines to the Hope Scholarship Program nonqualifying expense list. Mr. Lambert seconded the motion. No discussion was heard. The Chair polled the members and the motion carried.

The Chair asked for a motion to interpret rental fees for the use of stable horses for riding lessons as part of the cost of the riding lessons and therefore a qualified expense. Ms. Upson made the motion to interpret rental fees for the use of stable horses for riding lessons as part of the cost of the riding lessons and therefore a qualified expense. Mr. Weingart seconded the motion. No discussion was heard. The Chair polled the members and requested a roll call vote. Mr. Woods, Mr. Lambert, Mr. Travis, and the Chair, Mr. Bohman voted No, Ms. Upson & Mr. Weingart voted yes. By a vote of 4-2, the motion was rejected.

For clarification, Ms. Willard asked the Board was intending to disallow riding lessons altogether since the motion had failed. Mr. Lambert advised this one is difficult due to there not being a limit. Mr. Travis concurred as the entirety of the Hope Scholarship money could be used up very quickly on horse riding. Ms. Willard asked if the Board would want to do a price cap on riding lessons, and any associated cost, including the horse rental. Mr. Travis feels that it would make sense to get some type of holistic position on this type of expense, asking if we would allow the purchase of saddles and riding clothing. The Chair asked how many requests we have had for riding lessons. Ms. Penalozza advised we have four stables that have become vendors. Ms. Willard added the Board staff concern is a denial would disproportionately impact the lower income students who wouldn't otherwise be able to afford to pay out-of-pocket. Ms. Willard said there are also other activities, such as dance lessons, gymnastics, and private basketball. She further noted if the Board is going to put a cap on riding lessons, we may have to put a cap on other categories also to be consistent. Mr. Travis asked if it makes sense from a policy standpoint to say that only a certain portion of the Hope Scholarship money can be used for that most consider extracurricular activities. Ms. Upson mentioned horseback riding lessons can be used as therapy. Ms. Willard advised there is already a separate qualifying expense line item for therapies and that equine therapy services could be treated separately from regular riding lessons. Ms. Willard suggested tabling this decision and gather additional information as to the different types of activities that may fall into this category and let the Board vote at the December meeting. Ms. Marchio added that all extracurriculars need to be consistent across the board. The Chair advised this does not require a motion. It will be tabled until the December Board meeting.

The Chair asked for a motion that white boards with dimensions in excess of 24 inches by 24 inches be added to the Board's nonqualifying expense list. Mr. Woods made a motion that white boards with dimensions in excess of 24 inches by 24 inches be added to the Board's nonqualifying expense list. Ms. Upson seconded the motion. No discussion was heard. The Chair polled the members and the motion carried.

VII. Consideration of Hope Scholarship Board Inquiries and Audits into Potential Misconduct

The Chair indicated the next order of business was an inquiry into a specific case involving suspected violations of program rules and the Hope Scholarship Act. The Chair asked for a motion to enter Executive Session, as this discussion will involve an ongoing law-enforcement investigation. Mr. Woods made a motion to enter Executive Session for this agenda item as provided in West Virginia Code, Chapter 6, Article 9A, Section (4), Subsection (7), which states a public agency may hold an executive session "To plan or consider an official investigation or matter relating to crime prevention or law enforcement." Mr. Travis seconded the motion. No discussion was heard, and the motion was approved to move into Executive Session.

The Board entered Executive Session at 3:05 P.M. Board members, board staff, Lauren Plymale, General Counsel, West Virginia State Auditor's Office, and Trooper Christopher Eastridge were in attendance.

The Board returned to order at 3:41 P.M. The Chair issued a reminder that no action was taken during the Executive Session.

VIII. Consideration of Board Action Relating to Hope Scholarship Program Audits into Potential Misconduct

The Chair advised the next agenda item is consideration of any necessary Board action based upon the ongoing audit and investigation discussed under the previous item. Are there any motions.

Mr. Woods made the following motion: Based on the findings of the Board's audit into certain misconduct by an account holder and pursuant to West Virginia Code Section eighteen, Article thirty-one, Section ten, Subsection (b), and Section ten, Subsection three of this Board's legislative rules, I move that the Board declare the account holder and associated spouse of the following Hope Scholarship accounts, identified by their associated applicant ID numbers in the Hope Scholarship portal, permanently ineligible to participate in the Hope Scholarship Program: 113380, 113379, and 113376. Mr. Lambert seconded the motion. No discussion was heard. The Chair polled the members and the motion carried.

The Chair asked if there was an additional motion. Mr. Woods made the following motion: Based on the findings of the Board's audit into certain misconduct by an account holder and pursuant to West Virginia Code Section eighteen Article thirty-one, Section ten, Subsection (b), and Section ten, Subsection three of this Board's legislative rules I move that the Board declare the account holder and associated spouse of the following Hope Scholarship accounts, identified by their associated applicant ID numbers in the Hope Scholarship portal, permanently ineligible to participate in the Hope Scholarship Program: 113473, 113462, 113460, 113459, 113458, 113456, 113455, and 113454. Ms. Upson seconded the motion. No discussion was heard. The Chair polled the members and the motion carried.

The Chair asked if there was an additional motion. Mr. Woods made the following motion: Based on the findings of the Board's audit into certain misconduct involving Hope

Scholarship accounts and pursuant to West Virginia Code Section eighteen, Article thirty-one, Section ten, Subsection (b), and Section ten, Subsection three of this Board's legislative rules, I move that the Board declare the Ryan Buck of Ryan Properties permanently ineligible to participate in the Hope Scholarship Program in any capacity. Ms. Upson seconded the motion. No discussion was heard. The Chair polled the members and the motion carried.

The Chair asked if there was an additional motion. Mr. Woods made the following motion: Based on the findings of the Board's audit into certain misconduct involving Hope Scholarship accounts and pursuant to West Virginia Code Section eighteen, Article thirty-one, Section ten, Subsection (b), and Section ten, Subsection three of this Board's legislative rules, I move that the Board declare the account holder and associated spouse of the following Hope Scholarship account, identified by the associate applicant ID number in the Hope Scholarship portal, permanently ineligible to participate in the Hope Scholarship Program: 111982. Ms. Upson seconded the motion. No discussion was heard. The Chair polled the members and the motion carried.

The Chair advised Board staff will provide notice to all affected individuals of the Board actions taken under this agenda item, according to the Board's procedural rules.

IX. Future Meetings

The Chair moved to the next order of business, future meetings. He announced the next meeting of the full Hope Scholarship Board will be announced in accordance with the Open Meetings Act. He asked for discussion regarding future meetings, and none was heard.

X. Other Business

The Chair asked if there was any other business to come before the board. None was heard.

XI. Adjournment

Mr. Woods made a motion to adjourn the meeting and the motion was seconded by Mr. Weingart. Hearing no discussion, the Chair polled the members and the motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 3:48 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Elizabeth Liston

Minutes approved by the Board on December 9, 2024.



**Steve Bohman, Deputy State Treasurer & Acting Chair
Hope Scholarship Board**