

**MINUTES OF THE**  
**GEORGIA DRIVER’S EDUCATION COMMISSION MEETING**

December 17, 2019 at 9:00 a.m.

Georgia Governor’s Office of Highway Safety  
7 Martin Luther King Jr., Drive, Suite 643, Atlanta, Georgia 30334.

Chairman Poole called the December 17, 2019, Georgia Driver’s Education Commission meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Those in attendance and constituting a quorum were as follows:

<b>Board Members in Attendance</b>	<b>Board Members not in Attendance</b>
Mr. Allen Poole, Chairman	Mr. Kevin Boyd
Mr. Spencer Moore, Vice Chairman	
Dr. Malika Reed Wilkins	

**Non-Members in Attendance were as follows:**

Mr. Josh Turner, Georgia Department of Driver’s Education Commission  
Ms. Kisha Bell, Georgia Department of Driver’s Education Commission  
Ms. Lisa Owens, Georgia Governor’s Office of Highway Safety  
Mr. Robert Hydrick, Georgia Governor’s Office of Highway Safety  
Mr. Mike Mitchell, Georgia Department of Driver’s Services  
Ms. Denae Hartsfield, Georgia Department of Driver’s Services  
Ms. Amy Radley, Georgia Attorney General’s Office  
Ms. Eva Hill, Malcom Omari Hill Scholarship Fund, Inc.  
Mr. Toni Abasi Hill, Malcom Omari Hill Scholarship Fund, Inc.

**Approval of Agenda**

Chairman Poole presented the agenda. Dr. Wilkins makes a motion to adopt the agenda and Vice Chairman Moore seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Approval of September 30, 2019 Meeting Minutes**

Chairman Poole presented the meeting minutes from September 30, 2019 meeting. Dr. Wilkins makes a motion to adopt the minutes and Vice Chairman Moore seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, with no discussion.

**Public Comment**

Toni Abasi Hill advised that many schools in the State of Georgia are unaware of the Georgia Driver’s Education Grant Scholarship program. Mr. Hill advised he will continue distributing the Georgia Driver’s Education Scholarship brochures providing awareness about the program. Chairman Poole took a moment and thanked Mr. Hill and his wife Eva Hill for their efforts in educating the public that a scholarship is available.

**Staff Report**

Mr. Josh Turner presented the staff report, the Provider Scholarship Redemption Report from September 27, 2019 through December 13, 2019 which shows the number of scholarships each provider has redeemed since the last board meeting.

The second quarter customer service report for the months of October, November and December. The staff answered 3,346 provider inquiries and 2,945 student and parent inquiries sent to the general information email account not including inquiries directed to individual staff. Additionally, we have addressed 1,123 voicemails. We have processed 546 invoices this quarter which is an increase of 2% since the last quarter.

Tier eligibility levels. Tier I is for the students who are dependents of military personnel killed in action or public safety professionals killed in the line of the duty. Tier 2 is for students who qualify on a financial needs basis determined by 125% of the free and reduced price meal eligibility levels for Georgia. Tier 3 is for all other student who does not qualify under Tier 1 or Tier 2.

October 2019 Scholarship Report. 649 applications were submitted with 3 applicants in Tier 1, 369 applicants in Tier 2, and 277 applicants in Tier 3. 385 applicants were awarded scholarships. All 3 applicants in Tier 1 and all 369 applicants in Tier 2 were awarded scholarships. 13 applicants in Tier 3 were denied scholarships.

November 2019 Scholarship Report. 612 applications were submitted with 394 applicants in Tier 2 and 218 applicants in Tier 3. 385 applicants in Tier 2 were awarded scholarships while 9 applicants in Tier 2 were denied scholarships. All 218 applicants in Tier 3 were denied scholarships.

Finally, the December 2019 Scholarship Report. 534 applications were submitted with 337 applicants in Tier 2, and 197 applicants in Tier 3. All 337 applicants in Tier 2 were awarded scholarships and 197 applicants in Tier 3 were awarded scholarships. 48 applicants in Tier 3 were denied scholarships.

Finally, at the last meeting, there was a request for data on crashes, injuries, and fatalities involving young drivers. The data has been retrieved and will be sent to you by email. After researching the data, the effectiveness of the scholarship program, the program only serving about 5,500 students annually out of over 215, 000 students who receive a permit or license annually. Mr. Turner would argue that 2.5% of students serviced by our scholarship program does not make a large enough footprints in the overall number of student driver's to determine the success of the program by the number of crashes, injuries and fatalities involving young drivers. If there is interest, more research can be provided and presented at the next board meeting.

Vice Chairman Moore stated he support the efforts to determine if indeed that the commission is accomplishing its mission by reaching the right students. The Chairman and the board members supports any research that we can do to help strengthen or streamline our processes so, we are having a larger impact for the State of Georgia.

### **Adjournment**

Dr. Wilkins made a motion to adjourn. Vice Chairman Moore seconded the motion. The motion to adjourn passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kischa Bell  
Business Operations Analyst  
Georgia Driver's Education Commission