

Brian P. Kemp
Governor



Commission Members:
Spencer R. Moore, Vice Chairman
Alfred Barber
Kevin Boyd
Beth Graham
Lidell Greenway
Allen Poole
Malika Reed Wilkins

Georgia Driver's Education Commission

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MINUTES OF THE GEORGIA DRIVER'S EDUCATION COMMISSION MEETING

March 28, 2019, 1:32pm

Georgia Department of Department of Driver Services headquarters located at
2206 East View Parkway, Conyers, Georgia 30013

Vice Chairman Moore called the March 26, 2019, Georgia Driver's Education Commission meeting to order at 1:32pm. Those in attendance and constituting a quorum were as follows:

Board Members in Attendance	Board Members not in Attendance
Mr. Spencer Moore, Vice Chairman	Mr. Kevin Boyd
Mr. Alfred Barber	
Ms. Beth Graham (by phone)	
Ms. Lidell Greenway (by phone)	
Mr. Allen Poole	
Dr. Malika Reed Wilkins	

Non-Members in Attendance were as follows:

Mr. Josh Turner, Georgia Driver's Education Commission
Ms. Pamela Farr, Georgia Driver's Education Commission, (by phone)
Ms. Kisha Bell, Georgia Driver's Education Commission
Mr. Jimmy Sumner, Georgia Governor's Office of Highway Safety
Ms. Lisa Owens, Georgia Governor's Office of Highway Safety
Mr. Robert Hydrick, Georgia Governor's Office of Highway Safety
Ms. Amy Radley, Georgia Attorney General's Office
Mr. Michael Mitchell, Georgia Department of Driver's Services
Ms. Juenesse Holman, Georgia Department of Driver's Services
Ms. Donae Hartsfield, Georgia Department of Driver's Services
Mr. Brian Lawler, Office of Planning Budget
Mr. Toni Abasi Hill, Malcom Omari Hill Scholarship Fund, Inc.
Ms. Eva Hill, Malcom Omari Hill Scholarship Fund, Inc.
Mr. Pierre Maloof, Tiny Towne
Mr. Marcus Sabir, 1st United Driving School

Swearing- In Ceremony

Allen Poole, Director of the Georgia Governor's Office of Highway Safety was sworn in as the Governor's Office of Highway Safety's representative to the Georgia Driver's Education Commission by Vice Chairman Spencer Moore.

Approval of March 26, 2019 Agenda

Vice Chairman Moore presented the agenda. Dr. Wilkins made a motion to approve the agenda. Mr. Poole seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of December 20, 2019 Minutes

Vice Chairman Moore presented the meeting minutes from the December 20, 2019 meeting. Ms. Beth Graham made a motion to approve the meeting minutes, as presented. Ms. Greenway seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment

Mr. Marcus Sabir from 1st United Driving School worked with students that were approved for the GDEC scholarship by assisting with registration. He stated there was a parent that submitted an application in January and her spouse who was a military service member died in the line of duty. Her child's application was denied. Mr. Sabir expressed that he inquired about the application status and was informed that it was denied due to limited funding. Mr. Sabir added he understood the eligibility requirements for this program but wanted to know were there any exceptions. Vice Chairman Moore asked for general information regarding the student such as the first and last name. Mr. Turner provided insight on our monthly report and advised there were no applicants for Tier 1 (a child or dependent of a public safety professional or member of the United States military killed in the line of duty) and no one contacted GDEC office regarding this matter. Mr. Al Barber asked was there a place on the GDEC application to identify if a child or dependent of public safety professional died in the line of duty. Mr. Turner explained that there was indeed a selection box and continued with the policy and procedures for selecting Tier 1, including submitting form DD1300, which is a military form that must be submitted along with the application. Our office advised Mr. Sabir that we would further investigate this matter and follow-up with the Commission members on the findings.

Mr. Pierre Maloof from Tiny Towne expressed his willingness to assist GDEC with helping students and meeting them at the point of their needs with Tiny Towne's driving course curriculum and driving training course. Vice Chair Moore thanked Mr. Maloof for his services.

Adoption of Amendment to Driver's Education Gran Scholarship Program Eligibility

Requirements

Mr. Turner presented the proposed changes to Driver's Education Gran Scholarship Program Eligibility Requirements. Mr. Turner explained paragraph A-4 would be amended to delete the chart used to determine financial need eligibility and language added authorizing agency staff to make necessary adjustments to the needs-based income level to ensure that financial need eligibility is consistent with 125% of the Free and Reduced Price Meal Eligibility program for the State of Georgia as determined by the Georgia Department of Education as changes are published.

Mr. Barber asked has the commission discovered any fraud in the last seven years with applicant's entering the incorrect income on their applications. Mr. Turner advised there has not been any fraudulent activity but the most common mistakes by applicants is entering their yearly income verses their monthly income. When GDEC has an application that is flagged for incorrect income, revisions can be applied.

Chairman Poole made a motion to adopt the proposed changes to the Driver's Education Grant Scholarship Program Eligibility Requirements as presented. Mr. Barber seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Adoption of Resolution 2019-01

Vice Chairman Moore presented Resolution 2019-01 which authorizes Mr. Allen Poole to have signatory and contracting authority for the Commission. Dr. Wilkins made a motion to adopt Resolution 2019-01 and Ms. Graham seconded the motion. Mr. Poole requested that he be recused from the vote. He was recused without objection. The motion passed unanimously.

Staff Report

Mr. Turner presented the he Provider Scholarship Redemption Report from December 20, 2018 through March 24, 2019 which shows the number of scholarships each provider has redeemed since the last board meeting. Further, Mr. Turner presented the third quarter customer service report for the months of January, February and March which showed the staff answered 2,848 provider email inquiries and 2,206 student and parent email inquiries and responded to 867 voicemails. 433 invoices have been processed which is an increase of 10% since last quarter. Mr. Barber asked what kind of inquiries are from the providers. Mr. Turner advised the inquiries can range from different subjects such as what is the status of an applications, invoices, confirmations of redemptions codes, deadline date, contract expiration date, etc..

Mr. Barber recommended a FAQ on our website to assist our providers. Mr. Turner advised that we had that option available but the common problem is that most providers do not use those resources. Therefore, they contact the office directly to speak with someone instead of visiting the website. Mr. Barber proceeded to ask how many providers GDEC has. Mr. Turner advised we have at least 120 different locations and about 70 providers. Mr. Barber was amazed with the number of customer service inquiries we obtained on a daily or quarterly basis.

Vice Chairman Moore stated there is a wide variations of scholarships redeemed based on different providers and asked if there is a common reason why that variation is so great? Mr. Turner advised that it depends on a number of different factors including the number of driving schools located within each region and the number of different locations a single provider may operate throughout the state.

Mr. Turner proceeded to explain the Tier Levels for the scholarships before presenting the monthly scholarship report.

The January 2019 Scholarship reports shows 725 applications were submitted with 0 applicants in Tier 1, 354 applicants in Tier 2, and 371 applicants in Tier 3. 350 applicants were awarded scholarships. All 350 applicants awarded scholarships were in Tier 2. 4 applicants in Tier 2 were denied and all 371 applicants from Tier 3 were denied scholarships.

The February 2019 Scholarship report shows 795 applications were submitted with 0 applicants in Tier 1, 434 applicants in Tier 2, and 361 applicants in Tier 3. 350 applicants were awarded scholarships. All 350 applicants awarded scholarships were in Tier 2. 84 applicants in Tier 2 were denied and all 361 applicants from Tier 3 were denied scholarships.

Finally, the March 2019 Scholarship report shows 791 applications were submitted with 0 applicants in Tier 1, 414 applicants in Tier 2, and 377 applicants in Tier 3. 350 applicants were awarded scholarships. All 350 applicants awarded scholarships were in Tier 2. 64 applicants in Tier 2 were denied and all 377 applicants from Tier 3 were denied scholarships.

Mr. Turner advised that House Bill 226, the extension of Joshua's Law and the Georgia Driver's Education Commission has passed the House and Senate and will now move forward to the Governor for signature. The bill extends the sunset provision of the Commission until June 30, 2022. Mr. Turner advised that Amended FY 2019 appropriation bill has been signed and allocated an additional \$90,000 for scholarships.

Next, The Georgia Driver's Education Grant Scholarship program has been posted on the Georgia Procurement Registry for some time to notify driver's education providers of the opportunity to apply and become an authorized provider in the program. In addition, we have provided notification of the Georgia Driver's Education Grant Scholarship Program to the Secretary of State to post the grant description in accordance with the Fair and Open Grants Act to notify students of the opportunity.

Finally, The 2019 Georgia Highway Safety Conference, hosted by the Governor's Office of Highway Safety will be held in Savannah on August 11-14, 2019. As always, the Georgia Driver's Education Commission board members are invited to attend.

Other Business

There was no other business.

Adjournment

Mr. Poole made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Barber seconded the motion. The motion to adjourn passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Kischa Bell
Executive Assistant
Georgia Driver's Education Commission