

**MINUTES OF THE  
GEORGIA DRIVER'S EDUCATION COMMISSION MEETING  
April 20, 2016  
Department of Driver Services Headquarters, Conyers, GA**

Chairman Blackwood called the April 20, 2016 Georgia Driver's Education Commission meeting to order at 11:08 am. Those in attendance and constituting a quorum were as follows:

**Board Members in Attendance**

Mr. Harris Blackwood, Chairman  
Mr. Kevin Boyd (by telephone)  
Mr. Bert Brantley  
Ms. Beth Graham (by telephone)  
Ms. Frankie Jones  
Mr. Eddie Rish

**Board Members not in Attendance**

Mr. Wright Edge

**Non-members in attendance were as follows:**

Mr. Josh Turner, Georgia Driver's Education Commission  
Ms. Erika Sims, Georgia Driver's Education Commission  
Ms. Amy Radley, Attorney General's Office  
Mr. John Fleisch, Office of Planning and Budget  
Mr. Jim Andrews, Georgia Governor's Office of Highway Safety  
Mr. Spencer Moore, Georgia Department of Driver Services  
Mr. Tommy Grant, Georgia Department of Driver Services  
Ms. Kecia Bivins, Georgia Department of Driver Services  
Ms. Juenesse Holman, Georgia Department of Driver Services  
Mr. Barry Schrenk (by phone), Taggart's Driving School & Georgia Association of Risk Reduction and Defensive Driving Educators (GARDE)  
Mr. Al Barber, Barber's Driving School  
Ms. Vita Jordan, Georgia Governor's Office of Highway Safety

**Invocation**

Chairman Harris Blackwood called on Mr. Eddie Rish to offer the invocation.

**Adoption of Agenda**

Mr. Bert Brantley made a motion to adopt the agenda. Mr. Eddie Rish seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Approval of March 16, 2016 Meeting Minutes**

Mr. Bert Brantley made a motion to approve the March 16, 2016 meeting minutes. Ms. Beth Graham seconded the motion. A clerical error was identified in the minutes and corrected without objection. The motion passed unanimously.

**Election of a Vice Chairman**

Chairman Harris Blackwood opened the floor for nominations of vice chairman. Mr. Eddie Rish nominated Mr. Bert Brantley as vice chairman. The nomination of Mr. Bert Brantley was seconded by Ms. Frankie Jones. Chairman Harris Blackwood called for any other nominations. Hearing none, nominations were closed and Mr. Bert Brantley was unanimously elected as vice chairman.

**Adoption of Amended FY 2016 Budget**

Chairman Harris Blackwood presented the proposed amended budget. Mr. Blackwood stated the proposed budget amendment, at the recommendation from the Governor's Office, includes funding for the hiring of an investigator to ensure compliance from Georgia Driver's Education Commission driver training providers. Chairman Blackwood added that the investigator will be involved in the transition to the new scholarship program including the vendor selection process as well as working to implement policies and procedures for providers and scholarship applications. Chairman Blackwood also announced that amendment increased the scholarship fund through the contract with the Technical College System of Georgia. Mr. Kevin Boyd made a motion to approve the amended FY 2016 budget. Vice Chairman Bert Brantley seconded the motion. Vice Chairman Brantley added that the Georgia Department of Drivers Services was fully committed to working together with the investigator to ensure compliance. The motion passed unanimously.

**Adoption of GDEC Bylaws**

Chairman Blackwood presented the proposed by-laws for the Georgia Driver's Education Commission and called on Mr. Josh Turner to further present the by-laws. Mr. Turner announced that announced that bylaws were drafted and presented to the board many years ago but were never formally adopted. This is a new document drafted by counsel modeling other state boards. Chairman Blackwood announced the bylaws can be changed in the future as the board deems necessary. Vice Chairman Brantley inquired about the meeting times. Chairman Blackwood stated that the board would meet once per quarter and by called meeting if necessary. Ms. Frankie Jones made a motion to adopt the GDEC Bylaws as proposed. Mr. Eddie Rish seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Initial Adoption of Proposed Rule Changes**

Chairman Harris Blackwood presented the proposed rule changes as attached to these minutes. The proposed rule changes will update the address of the Commission and the procedure for requesting rule enactment or change. The proposed rule changes are necessary to the passage of HB 806 which changed the administrative functions for the Georgia Driver's Education Commission from the Georgia Department of Drivers Services to the Georgia Governor's Office of Highway Safety. Chairman Harris Blackwood announced that there will be a Public Hearing on the proposed rule changes at the Department of Driver's Services Headquarters on May 24, 2016 at 11:00 a.m. and that a board meeting will follow to adopt the rule changes. Attention was given to the Public Hearing notice and explanation of the proposed rule changes given to the board members in their meeting packets. Vice Chairman Bert Brantley made a motion for initial adoption of the proposed rule changes. Beth Graham seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Other Business**

Mr. Harris Blackwood opened the floor for any other business to come before the Georgia Driver's Education Commission. No additional business was brought before the Commission.

**Public Comment**

Chairman Blackwood called for any public comment.

Mr. Barber inquired about the investigators duties to develop criteria. Chairman Blackwood explained the investigator would be involved in developing the criteria for scholarship recipients and providers and would conduct audits and inspections of providers. Mr. Barber explained that he and other driver

**Georgia Driver's Education Commission Meeting Minutes cont'd**  
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training school owners were primarily concerned about the selection process for scholarship recipients and stated that good grades, good conduct and other criteria were critical criteria to keep in mind as we move forward. Chairman Blackwood explained that the biggest priority is formulating a plan and identifying a vendor to process payments in an expeditious manner. Mr. Barber further clarified that after July 1, 2016, there would be no further money awarded to any high school, college, or vo-tech, which is not received in the previous year. Chairman Blackwood explained that there would be carry-forward funds that would extend beyond the current fiscal year in some situations.

**Motion to Adjourn**

Mr. Bert Brantley made a motion to adjourn. Ms. Frankie Jones seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 11:28 am.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Ms. Erika Sims.