

MINUTES

TENNESSEE STUDENT ASSISTANCE CORPORATION

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

TUESDAY, MAY 19, 2020

2:00 PM CDT (REMOTE)

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Tony Niknejad at 2:00 pm. Board members present:

Chairman Tony Niknejad	Commissioner Penny Schwinn
Mike Krause	Linda Martin (for Pres. Boyd)
Claude Pressnell	Cyrus Vatandoost
Kristina Podesta (for Comptroller Wilson)	John Smarrelli
Ashley Nabors (for Treasurer Lillard)	Sharon Hayes
Greg Turner (for Commissioner McWhorter)	
Heidi Leming (for Chancellor Tydings)	

Chairman Niknejad asked for a motion to approve a virtual meeting as authorized under Governor Bill Lee's Executive Order 16. A motion was made by Claude Pressnell and a second was given by Dr. Linda Martin.

Chairman Tony Niknejad - aye	Commissioner Penny Schwinn - aye
Claude Pressnell - aye	Linda Martin (for Pres. Boyd) - aye
Kristina Podesta (for Comptroller Wilson) - aye	Cyrus Vatandoost - aye
Ashley Nabors (for Treasurer Lillard) - aye	John Smarrelli - aye
Greg Turner (for Commissioner McWhorter) - aye	Sharon Hayes - aye
Heidi Leming (for Chancellor Tydings) - aye	

Motion to adoption of agenda

Chairman Niknejad then asked for a motion to adopt the agenda. Ashley Nabors made the motion and Claude Pressnell seconded the motion. A roll call was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Tony Niknejad - aye	Commissioner Penny Schwinn - aye
Claude Pressnell - aye	Linda Martin (for Pres. Boyd) - aye
Kristina Podesta (for Comptroller Wilson) - aye	Cyrus Vatandoost - aye
Ashley Nabors (for Treasurer Lillard) - aye	John Smarrelli - aye
Greg Turner (for Commissioner McWhorter) - aye	Sharon Hayes - aye
Heidi Leming (for Chancellor Tydings) - aye	

Approval of minutes

Chairman Niknejad asked for a motion to approve minutes from the January 9, 2020 board meeting. Sharon Hayes made a motion to approve minutes and John Smarrelli seconded the motion. A roll call was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Tony Niknejad - aye	Commissioner Penny Schwinn - aye
Claude Pressnell - aye	Linda Martin (for Pres. Boyd) - aye
Kristina Podesta (for Comptroller Wilson) - aye	Cyrus Vatandoost - aye
Ashley Nabors (for Treasurer Lillard) - aye	John Smarrelli - aye
Greg Turner (for Commissioner McWhorter) - aye	Sharon Hayes - aye
Heidi Leming (for Chancellor Tydings) - aye	

Chairman's Report

Chairman Nicknejad did not have anything to report.

Executive Director's Report

Director Krause provided an update on the GIVE Act which made substantial changes to various financial aid programs. He also referenced legislation that allowed the executive director of TSAC to waive or modify financial aid statutes and rules in light of the extraordinary circumstances facing students and institutions during the COVID-19 pandemic. One of the changes already issued by TSAC was waiving the TN Promise summer term community service requirement, due on July 1. Mr. Krause also provided a brief update on TN Promise endowment earnings trending downward since the early stages of COVID-19, however there are sufficient earnings and lottery transfers in the current year to adequately fund the TN Promise scholarships. TSAC is assessing the TN

Reconnect Program to determine whether changes might need to be made in future years should lottery revenues continue to decline.

DECISION ITEMS

A. SELECTION OF 2020-21 OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chairman Nicknejad introduced Peter Abernathy to give an update on the selection of the 2020-21 officers and committee members. Mr. Abernathy noted the current slate of officers and committee members and recommended passage of these names for continuation in the same positions in the new year. Seeing no questions Chairman Nicknejad asked for a motion, Commissioner Penny Schwinn made a motion and Cyrus Vantandoost seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Tony Niknejad - aye	Commissioner Penny Schwinn - aye
Claude Pressnell - aye	Linda Martin (for Pres. Boyd) - aye
Kristina Podesta (for Comptroller Wilson) - aye	Cyrus Vantandoost - aye
Ashley Nabors (for Treasurer Lillard) - aye	John Smarrelli - aye
Greg Turner (for Commissioner McWhorter) - aye	Sharon Hayes - aye
Heidi Leming (for Chancellor Tydings) - aye	

B. ADOPTION OF HIGH NEED DUAL ENROLLMENT COURSES AND PROGRAMS

Chairman Nicknejad introduced Peter Abernathy to present the recommendation for the dual enrollment courses and programs awarded under the GIVE Act of 2019. Mr. Abernathy introduced the recommendation by stating that TSAC and THEC staff have worked closely with the Department of Education, Department of Labor, and the Tennessee Board of Regents to derive a list of courses and programs that fall within the Act's directive to focus on high-need, technical subject areas. Mr. Abernathy then asked Ms. Amanda Klafehn of THEC to provide a more detailed summary of the selection methodology.

Seeing no questions Chairman Nicknejad asked for a motion, Mrs. Sharon Hayes made a motion and Heidi Leming seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

With no further business, the board meeting was adjourned.