

**VIRGINIA BOARD OF AUDIOLOGY AND SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY  
SPECIAL CONFERENCE COMMITTEE MINUTES  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS  
HEARING ROOM 4  
HENRICO, VA  
AUGUST 8, 2023**

- CALL TO ORDER:** A meeting of a Special Conference Committee (“Committee”) of the Virginia Board of Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology (“Board”) was convened on August 8, 2023, at 9:00 a.m., at the Department of Health Professions, Perimeter Center, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Center, Hearing Room 4, 9960 Mayland Drive, Henrico, Virginia 23233.
- MEMBERS PRESENT:** Melissa McNichol, Au.D., CCC-A, Chairperson  
Bradley Kesser, M.D.
- STAFF PRESENT:** Kelli Moss, Deputy Executive Director  
Heather Pote, Sr. Discipline Case Specialist  
Christine Corey, Adjudication Specialist, Administrative Proceedings Division
- MATTER SCHEDULED:** **Swetha Bathina, Provisional Speech-Language Pathologist Applicant  
Case No. 229718**
- DISCUSSION:** Ms. Bathina appeared before the Committee in accordance with a Notice of Informal Conference dated July 6, 2023, to consider her application for provisional licensure to practice as a Speech-Language Pathologist in the Commonwealth of Virginia, and to determine if there is sufficient evidence that she has met the eligibility requirements for provisional licensure as a Speech-Language Pathologist in Virginia and is safe and competent to practice. The Committee fully discussed the allegations contained in the Notice with Ms. Bathina.
- CLOSED SESSION:** Dr. Kesser moved that the Committee convene a closed meeting pursuant to § 2.2-3711(A)(27) of the Code for the purpose of deliberation to reach a decision in the matter regarding **Swetha Bathina, Provisional Speech-Language Pathologist Applicant**. Additionally, Dr. Kesser moved that Ms. Moss attend the closed meeting because her presence in the closed meeting was deemed necessary and would aid the Committee in its

deliberations. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

**RECONVENE:**

Dr. Kesser moved that the Committee certify that it heard, discussed or considered only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements under the Virginia Freedom of Information Act and only such public business matters as were identified in the motion by which the closed meeting was convened. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

The Committee reconvened in open session pursuant to § 2.2-3712(D) of the Code.

**DECISION:**

**Case No. 229718**

Dr. Kesser moved that the Committee deny the provisional license application of Swetha Bathina to practice Speech-Language Pathology in the Commonwealth of Virginia, and that the basis for this decision will be set forth in a final Board order sent to Ms. Bathina. The motion was seconded and properly carried.

The hearing concluded at 9:46 a.m.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kelli Moss". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Kelli Moss, Deputy Executive Director