

Draft Minutes
Virginia Board for the Blind and Vision Impaired
DBVI Headquarters
397 Azalea Avenue Richmond VA 23227
June 28, 2022 at 11:00 AM

Board Attendees

Bonnie Atwood; Robert Bartolotta; Mazen Basrawi, *Chair*; Paul D’Addario; Deborah Helms, Ken Jessup.

Members Absent

Barbara McCarthy.

Members of the Public

Sandy Halverson, National Federation of the Blind (virtual); Yvonne Mastromano, CEO, Virginia Voice; Neely Oplinger, Executive Director, Metro Washington Ear (virtual); Joe Orozco, National Federation of the Blind (virtual); Tracy Soforenko, President, National Federation of the Blind (virtual).

DBVI Staff to the Board

Jessica Collette, Director of Communications, DBVI; Wallica Gaines, Deputy Commissioner for Administration, DBVI; Maggie Mills, Executive Assistant to the Commissioner, DBVI; Dr. Rick Mitchell, Commissioner, DBVI.

Guests

R. Bryce Lee, Managing Director – Investments – The Optimal Service Group
Karen Logan, Vice President – Investments – The Optimal Service Group
Marcus Crowell, Intern - Investments – The Optimal Service Group
Caren Phipps – Director of Services to Children and Youth - DBVI

Call to Order & Welcome

Chairman Basrawi called the meeting to order and welcomed the members in attendance.

Business Items

Introductions

Chairman Basrawi conducted a roundtable of introductions.

Consent of Agenda

Paul D’Addario moved to approve the agenda; motion passed unanimously.

Consent of Minutes

No changes to the March 2022 minutes were made. Minutes adopted.

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Investment Report: The Optimal Service Group (OSG) OSG reviewed DBVI's investment portfolio to date which has been in a long-term asset allocation since December 2021. An update was provided regarding the portfolio through the end of May 2022.

Public Comment

None.

Grant Proposal Presentations/ Discussion

Metropolitan Washington Ear: This application is for \$51,400 for programmatic expenses. Discussion took place around the application submitted by the Metropolitan Washington Ear. Deborah Helms moved to approve the application from Metropolitan Washington Ear; motion passed.

Virginia Voice: This application is two-fold. First is for \$50,000 for programmatic expenses; second is \$88,500 for relocation expenses. Discussion took place around the application submitted by Virginia Voice. Rob Bartolotta moved to continue the authorization regarding the relocation expenses as approved in 2021; motion passed. Ken Jessup moved to approve the application from Virginia Voice regarding the \$50,000 programmatic expenses; motion passed.

New Vision: This application is for a total of \$12,500 to be allocated as follows: \$6,250 for calendar sponsorship, \$1,250 for podcast sponsorship and \$5,000 for technology upgrades. Discussion took place around the application submitted by New Vision. Paul D'Addario moved to approve the application from New Vision; motion passed.

NFB Silver Bells: This application is for a total of \$100,000 for the Silver Bells program. Discussion took place around the application submitted by the National Federation of the Blind. Ken Jessup moved to approve the application from NFB for the Silver Bells program; motion passed.

Super Summer Camp: This application is for a total of \$55,000 for the Super Summer Camp FY23 program and \$55,000 for the FY24 program. Discussion took place around the application submitted by the Virginia Department for the Blind and Vision Impaired. Ken Jessup moved to approve the application from DBVI for the Super Summer Camp program for FY23; motion passed. Paul D'Addario moved to approve the application from DBVI for the Super Summer Camp program for FY24; motion passed.

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Agency Reports

Commissioner Mitchell presented an update regarding the Virginia Department for the Blind and Vision Impaired.

The Chairman asked if the Secretary of Health and Human Resources could be invited to the next Board Meeting.

New Business

2022 – 2023 Board Meeting Dates

The Board discussed potential meeting dates for the remainder of 2022 and the first two meetings of 2023. The proposed meetings are September 27, 2022, December 13, 2022 (meeting typically moved to second Tuesday in December), March 21, 2023 and June 27, 2023.

Bonnie Atwood moved to approve the 2022 – 2023 meeting dates; motion passed unanimously.

2021 – 2022 Board Officers

Bonnie Attwood nominated Mazen Basrawi for Chairman; Rob Bartolotta seconded and motion passed. Ken Jessup nominated Paul D’Addario for Vice-Chairman; Mazen Basrawi seconded and motion passed. Ken Jessup nominated Bonnie Atwood for Secretary; Mazen Basrawi seconded and motion passed.

Adjournment

Ken Jessup moved to adjourn the meeting at 2:08 pm; motion passed unanimously.

Next Meeting: September 27, 2022