

Virginia Board for the Blind and Vision Impaired Quarterly Board Meeting
June 23, 2026 11 am – 2 pm
Location: Department for the Blind and Vision Impaired
397 Azalea Avenue, Richmond, VA 23227
DRAFT Minutes

Board Members in Attendance

Joseph Ashley-Vice Chair; Paul D’Addario-Chair, Michael Kasey-Secretary; Tina Egge, Tracy Bowdish, Suleiman Alibhai

Board Members Not in Attendance

Kathryn Campbell

DBVI Staff in Attendance

Rachel Dancy, Executive Assistant; Wallica Gaines, Deputy Commissioner, Administration; Matt Koch, Deputy Commissioner of Enterprises; Kathy Malone, Deputy Commissioner of Services; Maggie Mills, Executive Assistant to Commissioner; Rick Mitchell, Commissioner

Call to Order & Welcome

Chair D’Addario called the meeting to order and welcomed attendees. A quorum was confirmed.

Business Items

- **Consent of Agenda**
- Dr. Ashley moved to adopt the agenda. Ms. Bowdish seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- **Consent of June 12, 2026, Meeting Minutes**
- Mr. Kasey moved to approve the Minutes as presented. Ms. Egge seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment

- No public comments were received.

Endowment Grant Application Presentations/Q&A

The Chair outlined the presentation and review process for grant applicants.

The Chair also provided an overview of the grant program:

- Previous year: Seven grants totaling \$240,000 were awarded, representing the maximum amount permitted under Board spending policy.
- Current year: The maximum amount available for grants is \$260,000 due to investment performance.
- Applications received: 20 applications requesting approximately \$800,000.
- Finalists: 15 applicants were invited to present, requesting a combined total of just over \$600,000.

Grant Presentations

The following entities were called upon to present and answer questions regarding their initiatives.

American Council of the Blind of Virginia, Inc.
GFRLC Charities – No representative was available to present when called
Rockbridge County Public Schools
EnhanceAbility
Access Virginia
National Federation of the Blind of Virginia
DBVI Bristol Regional Office Audible Egg Hunt
Therapeutic Adventures, Inc.
Prevention of Blindness Society of Metropolitan Washington
DBVI Super Summer Camp
Virginia Association of the DeafBlind Camp
Together Achieving Dreams Foundation, Inc.
Virginia Voice, Inc.
The Virginia School for the Deaf and the Blind
ENDependence Center of Northern Virginia

Discussion/Vote Endowment Grant Applications

The Board voted on the following grant funding:

American Council of the Blind of Virginia Inc. \$7,750.00
GFRLC Charities – No representative was available to present when called.
Rockbridge County Public Schools \$7,500.00
EnhanceAbility \$19,500.00
Access Virginia \$4,500.00
National Federation of the Blind of Virginia \$57,000.00
DBVI Bristol Regional Office Audible Egg Hunt \$1,100.00
Therapeutic Adventures, Inc. \$8,000.00
Prevention of Blindness Society of Metropolitan Washington \$6,700.00
DBVI Super Summer Camp \$40,500.00
Virginia Association of the DeafBlind Camp \$7,400.00
Together Achieving Dreams Foundation, Inc. \$0.00
Virginia Voice, Inc. \$41,000.00
The Virginia School for the Deaf and the Blind \$19,000.00
ENDependence Center of Northern Virginia \$40,000.00

Notice of status of funding requests will be emailed to entities. Funds will be disbursed in approximately 60 days from receipt of the entities' W-9 form.

New Business

Election of 2026-2027 Board Officers

The board conducted officer elections for the upcoming term (July–June cycle).

Chair Election

- Ms. Egge nominated Dr. Ashley for Chair.
- Dr. Suleiman seconded.
- All in favor.

Vice Chair Election

- Dr. Ashley nominated Tracy Bowdish.
- Dr. Suleiman seconded.
- All in favor.

Secretary Election

- Current Secretary: Michael Kasey
- Ms. Egge moved to continue Mr. Kasey as Secretary pending formal administrative reappointment
- Dr. Ashley seconded motion.
- All in favor.

Attendance Policy

The Chair reviewed the Board's Attendance Policy and reported on Board Member Kathryn Campbell's unexcused absences. Ms. Egge moved to recommend to the Governor's Office to have Ms. Campbell's seat on the Board replaced. Dr. Ashley seconded the motion. All in favor.

Dates for 2026-2027 Board Meetings

Dates for the upcoming Quarterly meetings were presented.

September 22, 2026

December 15, 2026

March 23, 2027

June 22, 2027

Other

Dr. Ashley motioned to recognize Paul D'Addario's service. "In recognition and appreciation of Paul 'Daddario's eight years of service to the Virginia Board for the Blind and Vision Impaired and three years serving as Board Chair, we do acknowledge his leadership and thank him for his service."

Ms. Egge seconded the motion. All in favor.

Adjournment

Dr. Ashley moved to adjourn the meeting.

Mr. Kasey seconded the motion.

All in favor.