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## Brown v. Board of Education Scholarship Committee

May 9, 2023, at 1:00 p.m.

Pocahontas Building, Senate Committee Room A

[brownscholarship.virginia.gov](https://brownscholarship.virginia.gov)

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The Brown v. Board of Education Scholarship Committee (the Committee) met in Richmond with Senator Mamie E. Locke, chair, presiding.<sup>1</sup> The meeting began with introductions and opening remarks followed by presentations, a review of scholarship applications, and discussion. Materials presented at the meeting are accessible through the [Committee's meetings webpage](#).

### Electronic Meeting Policy

*Lily Jones, Legislative Projects Manager, Division of Legislative Services*

As of September 1, 2022, a new provision of the Freedom of Information Act went into effect allowing for virtual participation in committee meetings. The provision allows for individuals to participate remotely at in-person meetings, provided that an in-person quorum is established at the meeting location, and for the entire committee to meet virtually, provided that the committee does not hold two consecutive virtual meetings. The committee voted unanimously to adopt said provision.

### Updates on the Brown v. Board of Education Scholarship Program

*Lily Jones, Legislative Projects Manager, Division of Legislative Services*

Ms. Jones provided an overview of the status of the Brown v. Board of Education Scholarship Program. The Committee's last meeting was in 2019, when the most recent new student was accepted into the program. In 2020, 2021, and 2022, there were no new applicants to consider and the committee did not meet. There are two current students who have continued on renewal scholarships each year. This year the committee considered the two current students as well as one new applicant.

The two current students enrolled in the program who are receiving scholarship funds have anticipated completion dates in 2024. Through the end of the last academic year, 2022, \$989,185 remained in the fund.

### Executive Session

The Committee voted to convene an executive session pursuant to subdivision A 36 of § 2.2-3711 of the Code of Virginia to discuss and consider matters pertaining to the Brown v. Board of Education Scholarship Program excluded from public discussion under this section. At the conclusion of the executive session, the Committee voted to return to open session.

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<sup>1</sup> **Members Present:** Senator Mamie E. Locke (chair), Delegate Candi Mundon King (vice-chair), Delegate Angelia Williams Graves, Joan Johns Cobbs, Robert Hamlin, M. Vishon Luck, Dr. Karen Eley Sanders

**Members Absent:** Senator Ghazala F. Hashmi, Delegate Chris Runion, Joy Cabarrus Speakes

## 2023–2024 Academic Year Scholarships

The Committee directed staff to notify the two current students of the Committee's approval of their scholarship renewal for the 2023–2024 academic year and to notify one student of the Committee's approval of the student's enrollment in undergraduate studies for the 2023–2024 academic school year.

## Implementation of Expanded Eligibility

The Committee discussed the future of the scholarship fund in relation to the passage of HB 1419 (Kory, 2023) and identical SB 1498 (McClellan, 2023). These bills, which were signed by the Governor and will go into effect on July 1, 2023, expand eligibility for the scholarship program to descendants of anyone who was eligible for the scholarship under the original criteria. HB 1419 and SB 1498 include "lineal and collateral" descendants in the definition of "eligible student" for the purposes of the scholarship program, which includes children and grandchildren as well as nieces and nephews of any generation. The Committee discussed how to plan, promote, and implement this expansion and directed staff to develop a proposal for consideration.

## Congressionally Directed Spending Grant Application

The Committee voted unanimously to send a letter to Senators Kaine and Warner in support of an application for a Congressionally Directed Spending grant submitted by Ken Woodley. The grant, if approved, would bring \$1 million in new funding to the Brown v. Board of Education Scholarship Fund and would support the program's eligibility expansion.

## Next Meeting

Senator Locke directed staff to poll members for the next meeting.

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For more information, see the [\*Committee's website\*](#) or contact the Division of Legislative Services staff:

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