

NMAA Hardship Review Committee Eligibility Hearings

January 13, 2026

8:00 a.m.

Virtual

Welcome – Meeting called to order by Mr. Gary Salazar, NMAA Hardship Review Committee Chair, at 8:07 a.m. Ms. Alissa Wesbrook, Assistant to the Executive Director, conducted roll call and the following members were present:

Mr. Bruce Carver
Mr. Matt Martinez
Ms. Karen Nougues
Mr. Sam Olney
Mr. Gary Salazar – Chair
Mr. Gary Schuster

Not present:

Ms. Taryn Bachis
Mr. Ernie Viramontes

6 committee members were present

Approval of the Agenda: Mr. Salazar asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Mr. Schuster made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Mr. Martinez seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and passed unanimously (6-0).

Yes/For	No/Against	Hardship Committee Member Name
X		Mr. Bruce Carver
X		Mr. Matt Martinez
X		Ms. Karen Nougues
X		Mr. Sam Olney
X		Mr. Gary Salazar
X		Mr. Gary Schuster

Manzano High School Hardship Hearing: Mr. Salazar asked the petitioning party whether they wished to conduct the hearing in open or closed session. The petitioning party requested the hearing be conducted in closed session.

Closed Session: Mr. Salazar asked for a motion to go into closed session to conduct the Manzano High School Hardship Hearing. Mr. Martinez made a motion to enter closed session at 8:09 a.m. Mr. Carver seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously (6-0).

Yes/For	No/Against	Hardship Committee Member Name
X		Mr. Bruce Carver
X		Mr. Matt Martinez
X		Ms. Karen Nougues
X		Mr. Sam Olney
X		Mr. Gary Salazar
X		Mr. Gary Schuster

Executive Session: Mr. Salazar asked for a motion to go into executive session for deliberations at 8:32 a.m. Mr. Schuster made a motion to enter executive session. Mr. Martinez seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously (6-0).

Yes/For	No/Against	Hardship Committee Member Name
X		Mr. Bruce Carver
X		Mr. Matt Martinez
X		Ms. Karen Nougues
X		Mr. Sam Olney
X		Mr. Gary Salazar
X		Mr. Gary Schuster

Mr. Salazar asked for a motion to exit out of executive session at 8:43 a.m. A motion to exit executive session was made by Mr. Olney. Mr. Martinez seconded the motion. Mr. Salazar stated no action was taken in executive session. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously (6-0).

Yes/For	No/Against	Hardship Committee Member Name
X		Mr. Bruce Carver
X		Mr. Matt Martinez
X		Ms. Karen Nougues
X		Mr. Sam Olney
X		Mr. Gary Salazar
X		Mr. Gary Schuster

Mr. Salazar asked for a motion to exit closed session and go back into open session at 8:44 a.m. to vote on the Manzano High School Hardship Hearing. Mr. Schuster made a motion to exit closed session. Mr. Martinez seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously (6-0).

Yes/For	No/Against	Hardship Committee Member Name
X		Mr. Bruce Carver
X		Mr. Matt Martinez
X		Ms. Karen Nougues
X		Mr. Sam Olney
X		Mr. Gary Salazar
X		Mr. Gary Schuster

Action: Mr. Salazar asked for a motion on the Manzano High School Hardship hearing. Mr. Olney made the motion to deny Manzano High School's hardship petition. Mr. Martinez seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and passed unanimously (6-0).

Yes/For	No/Against	Hardship Committee Member Name
X		Mr. Bruce Carver
X		Mr. Matt Martinez
X		Ms. Karen Nougues
X		Mr. Sam Olney
X		Mr. Gary Salazar
X		Mr. Gary Schuster

Hope Christian High School Hardship Hearing: Mr. Salazar asked the petitioning party whether to conduct the hearing in open or closed session. A representative stated that legal counsel for the NMAA had already been informed regarding their preference. Mr. Jason Burnette, legal counsel for the NMAA, stated in response that they were informed by counsel for the family that they would like the hearing to be conducted in open session, and that it is their understanding that neither the parents nor the school agreed to today's hearing, and while they may observe today's proceeding, neither the school, the family or family's counsel are planning on participating.

Mr. Salazar stated the hearing will be conducted in open session.

Introductions

Mr. Bruce Carver
 Mr. Matt Martinez
 Ms. Karen Nougues
 Mr. Sam Olney
 Mr. Gary Salazar – Chair
 Mr. Gary Schuster

Also present was Mr. Dusty Young, NMAA Executive Director; Mr. Scott Owen, NMAA Associate Director; Ms. Alissa Wesbrook, NMAA Assistant to Executive Director; and Mr. Jason Burnette- NMAA Legal Counsel, German Burnette and Associates.

The petitioning party declined to make introductions.

Mr. Salazar asked if there was any one present to represent Hope Christian School.

No one was present to represent Hope Christian High School and no action was taken.

Motion to Recess: At 8:52 a.m. Mr. Salazar asked for a motion to recess until 9:30 a.m. Mr. Schuster made the motion to recess. Mr. Martinez seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (6-0).

Returned to Regular Session at 9:30 a.m.

Mesilla Valley Christian School Hardship Hearing: Mr. Salazar asked the petitioning party whether there was a representative from Mesilla Valley Christian School to determine whether to conduct the hearing in open or closed session. A representative stated that legal counsel for the NMAA had already been informed regarding their preference. Mr. Jason Burnette, legal counsel for the NMAA, stated that they were advised by the family and counsel that they would like the hearing to be conducted in open session.

Mr. Salazar reviewed the agenda.

Introductions

Mr. Bruce Carver

Mr. Matt Martinez

Ms. Karen Nougues

Mr. Sam Olney

Mr. Gary Salazar – Chair

Mr. Gary Schuster

Also present was Mr. Dusty Young, NMAA Executive Director; Mr. Scott Owen, Associate Director; Ms. Alissa Wesbrook, NMAA Assistant to Executive Director; and Jason Burnette-NMAA Legal Counsel, German Burnette and Associates.

The petitioning party declined to make introductions.

Mr. Salazar asked if there was a representative present for Mesilla Valley Christian School to present this hardship appeal to the hardship review committee. Mr. Blair Dunn, legal counsel representing the Evaro Family, stated that it is the position of the parents and the student that there is no pending hardship application for this committee and that this hearing is an attempt to avoid the district court's jurisdiction.

Mr. Salazar again asked if there was any representation present for Mesilla Valley Christian School.

No one was present to represent Mesilla Valley Christian School and no action was taken.

Mr. Salazar stated for the record that there was no action taken on the Mesilla Valley Christian School hardship petition due to lack of representation, and stated regarding item 2.b., that there was no action taken on the Hope Christian High School hardship petition for the same reason.

Consider Adjournment: Mr. Salazar asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:35 a.m. Mr. Olney made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Carver seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (6-0).