

NMAA Hardship Review Committee Eligibility Hearings
March 3, 2026
8:00 a.m.
Virtual

Welcome – Meeting called to order by Mr. Gary Salazar, NMAA Hardship Review Committee Chair, at 8:08 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
 Mr. Ernie Viramontes

Not present:
 Ms. Taryn Bachis

7 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. Viramontes seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and passed unanimously (7-0).

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

Approval of the Minutes: Mr. Salazar asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the February 10, 2026, meeting. Mr. Viramontes made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Mr. Olney seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and passed unanimously (7-0).

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

X		Mr. Ernie Viramontes
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Cobre 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 Cobre High School Hardship Hearing. Mr. Schuster made a motion to enter closed session at 8:12 a.m. Mr. Viramontes seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously (7-0).

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

Executive Session: Mr. Salazar asked for a motion to go into executive session for deliberations at 8:24 a.m. Mr. Schuster made a motion to enter executive session. Mr. Viramontes seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously (7-0).

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

Mr. Salazar asked for a motion to exit out of executive session at 8:33 a.m. A motion to exit executive session was made by Mr. Martinez and seconded by Mr. Schuster. Mr. Salazar stated no action was taken in executive session. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously (7-0).

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

X		Mr. Sam Olney
X		Mr. Gary Salazar
X		Mr. Ernie Viramontes

Mr. Salazar asked for a motion to exit closed session and go back into open session at 8:34 a.m. to vote on the Cobre High School Hardship Hearing. Mr. Viramontes made a motion to exit closed session. Mr. Martinez seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously (7-0).

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

Action: Mr. Salazar asked for a motion on the Cobre High School Hardship hearing. Mr. Olney made the motion to deny eligibility for the Cobre High School hardship petition. Mr. Martinez seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and passed unanimously (7-0).

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

Alamogordo 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 Alamogordo High School Hardship Hearing. Mr. Schuster made a motion to enter closed session at 8:48 a.m. Mr. Carver seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously (7-0).

Yes/For	No/Against	Hardship Committee Member Name
X		Mr. Bruce Carver
X		Mr. Matt Martinez

X		Mr. Gary Schuster
X		Ms. Karen Nougues
X		Mr. Sam Olney
X		Mr. Gary Salazar
X		Mr. Ernie Viramontes

Executive Session: Mr. Salazar asked for a motion to go into executive session for deliberations at 9:09 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 (7-0).

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

Mr. Salazar asked for a motion to exit out of executive session at 9:12 a.m. A motion to exit executive session was made by Mr. Viramontes and seconded by Mr. Olney. Mr. Salazar stated no action was taken in executive session. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously (7-0).

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

Mr. Salazar asked for a motion to exit closed session and go back into open session at 9:13 a.m. to vote on Alamogordo High School's 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 (7-0).

Yes/For	No/Against	Hardship Committee Member Name
X		Mr. Bruce Carver
X		Mr. Matt Martinez
X		Mr. Gary Schuster

X		Ms. Karen Nougues
X		Mr. Sam Olney
X		Mr. Gary Salazar
X		Mr. Ernie Viramontes

Action: Mr. Salazar asked for a motion on the Alamogordo High School Hardship hearing. Mr. Martinez made the motion to grant eligibility for the Alamogordo High School hardship petition. Mr. Olney seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and passed unanimously (7-0).

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

Academy for Technology and the Classics (ATC) 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 ATC Hardship Hearing. Mr. Schuster made a motion to enter closed session at 9:32 a.m. Mr. Carver seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously (7-0).

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

Executive Session: Mr. Salazar asked for a motion to go into executive session for deliberations at 9:46 a.m. Mr. Schuster made a motion to enter executive session. Mr. Viramontes seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously (7-0).

Yes/For	No/Against	Hardship Committee Member Name
X		Mr. Bruce Carver
X		Mr. Matt Martinez
X		Mr. Gary Schuster

X		Ms. Karen Nougues
X		Mr. Sam Olney
X		Mr. Gary Salazar
X		Mr. Ernie Viramontes

Mr. Salazar asked for a motion to exit out of executive session at 9:51 a.m. A motion to exit executive session was made by Ms. Nougues and seconded by Mr. Viramontes. Mr. Salazar stated no action was taken in executive session. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously (7-0).

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

Mr. Salazar asked for a motion to exit closed session and go back into open session at 9:52 a.m. to vote on the ATC Hardship Hearing. Mr. Schuster made a motion to exit closed session. Ms. Nougues seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously (7-0).

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

Action: Mr. Salazar asked for a motion on the ATC Hardship hearing. Mr. Olney made the motion to grant eligibility for the ATC hardship petition. Mr. Martinez seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and passed unanimously (7-0).

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

X		Mr. Sam Olney
X		Mr. Gary Salazar
X		Mr. Ernie Viramontes

Consider Adjournment: Mr. Salazar asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:54 a.m. Mr. Viramontes made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Martinez seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (7-0).