

Board of Registration of Dispensing Opticians

This meeting was held by conference call. Please participate by Phone at:  
United States (Toll Free): 1 877 309 2073 or United States: +1 (646) 749-3129  
Access Code: 660-705-117  
Date: April 1, 2020 Time: 10:00 a.m.

Public Meeting Minutes

**Board Members Present:**

Gary Peters  
David Fogg  
Deanna Kurlowecz  
Marty Bregman

**Staff Present:**

Sheila York, Board Counsel  
Michael Hawley, Executive Director  
Thomas F. Burke, Associate Exec. Director

**Members of the Public Present:**

Jim Morris  
Camille Pensavalli, Division of Apprentice Standards  
Ahhyee R. Ma  
Blair Wong

**Meeting called To Order:**

- Mr. Peters called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m.
- Exit and Evacuation procedures were tabled.

**Review Meeting Minutes:**

- The review of the minutes of March 4, 2020 Meeting: **Ms. Kurlowecz moved to accept the minutes. Mr. Bregman seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**

**Board Business:**

- **Report from Executive Director, Michael Hawley**  
Mr. Hawley noted that, in light of Governor Baker's state of emergency order, license renewal applications and completion of continuing education requirements have been extended for ninety days past the license renewal deadline and after the emergency order has ended. He noted that as of this meeting, both exam vendors have delayed exam administration indefinitely.
- **Signature of Apprenticeship Completion Certificates**  
Because of the emergency order regarding Covid-19, the Board discussed the need for staff to sign completed apprentice certificates to assist apprentices in applying for licensure.

**After discussion, Mr. Bregman moved to delegate Board staff to sign apprentice completion certificates until the emergency order has ended. Mr. Fogg seconded. Motion passed by a roll call vote: Mr. Peters: "Yes", Mr. Fogg: "Yes", Mr. Bregman: "Yes", Ms. Kurlowecz: "Yes".**

### **Apprentice Reinstatement Requests:**

- **Kerri Bosi** – Tabled.

**After discussion, Ms. Kurlowecz moved to invite Ms. Bosi to attend the May 6, 2020 Board meeting to discuss her request. Mr. Fogg seconded. Motion passed by a roll call vote: Mr. Peters: “Yes”, Mr. Fogg: “Yes”, Mr. Bregman: “Yes”, Ms. Kurlowecz: “Yes”.**

### **Board Discussion:**

- **Impact of COVID-19** –
  - Test Center Closures
  - Governor’s Executive Order
  - Renewal Extensions
  - Continuing Education Extensions
  - Other Impacts

Mr. Jim Morris of ABO addressed the Board regarding the closure of Prometric testing centers across the country in light of Covid-19. Mr. Morris reported that ABO is prepared to offer proctored exams via electronic means for the ABO and NCLE exams pending Board approval. He announced that registration will be available starting on April 3, 2020. In response to questions from the Board, Mr. Morris noted that the proctored exam will be a temporary measure for as long as the lockdown continues. Prometric centers are equipped to provide security experts to proctor each exam.

**After discussion, Mr. Fogg moved to approve the virtual proctored ABO/NCLE exams until the emergency order is lifted. Mr. Bregman seconded. Motion passed by a roll call vote: Mr. Peters: “Yes”, Mr. Fogg: “Yes”, Mr. Bregman: “Yes”, Ms. Kurlowecz: “Yes”.**

Mr. Hawley noted that NCSORB has established a temporary plan for resuming testing procedures at Pearson View. He will provide further updates to the Board. The Board members discussed concerns about health risks and the need for social distancing based on the governor’s emergency order. Finally, Blair Wong notified the Board that the Benjamin Franklin Institute of Technology (“BFIT”) has converted all classes to virtual learning at regularly scheduled times. Currently, BFIT is scheduled to hold graduation in May 2020. Mr. Wong reported that the Opticians Association of Massachusetts (“OAM”) has transferred its annual meeting date from May 3 to June 7, 2020. The conference will be conducted by electronic means and participants will receive signed certificates following the meeting.

### **Cases, Investigative Conference, [Closed session pursuant to G.L. c. 112 §65C]:**

**At 11:41 a.m., Mr. Fogg moved to enter into Investigative Conference to discuss pending cases. [Closed session pursuant to G.L. c. 112 §65C]. Ms. Kurlowecz seconded the motion.**

**Motion passed by a roll call vote: Mr. Peters: “Yes”, Mr. Fogg: “Yes”, Mr. Bregman: “Yes”, Ms. Kurlowecz: “Yes”.**

At the end of the closed session, the open meeting resumed.

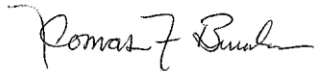
During the closed session, the Board voted to take the following actions:

- 2019-001408-IT-ENF – Referred to Prosecutions.

**Adjournment:**

**At 12:44 p.m., Mr. Bregman moved to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Kurlowecz seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Motion passed by a roll call vote: Mr. Peters: “Yes”, Mr. Fogg: “Yes”, Mr. Bregman: “Yes”, Ms. Kurlowecz: “Yes”.**

Respectfully Submitted,



---

Thomas F. Burke  
Associate Executive Director

**Documents used in the open meeting:**

- Agenda for DO Board Meeting of April 1, 2020
- Minutes of March 4, 2020 Board meeting
- Apprentice Extension Request for Kerri Bosi