

**Board of Registration of Dispensing Opticians
Public Session Minutes**

Date: August 3, 2022 Time: 10:00 a.m.

A public meeting of the Massachusetts Board of Registration of Dispensing Opticians (“the Board”) was held via Videoconference and Conference Call pursuant to Chapter 22 of the Acts of 2022, signed into law on February 12, 2022.

Board Members Present:

William Carleton, Board Chair
Mark Davini, Board Secretary
Jesse Ellis
Deborah Black
Alicja Prachanronarong

Staff Present:

Sheila York, Board Counsel
Thomas F. Burke, Executive Director

Meeting called To Order:

- Mr. Burke called the meeting to order at 10:20 am and established a quorum via calling attendance: William Carleton, Alicja Prachanronarong, Jesse Ellis, Deborah Black, and Mark Davini participating via video.
- Exit and Evacuation procedures were tabled. Mr. Burke invited staff and Board counsel, as well as Board members to introduce themselves to members of the public.

Election of Officers:

- Board members agreed to hold elections for Board chair and secretary to serve from now until the Board’s annual elections in October.
- **Mr. Ellis nominated Mr. Carleton as the Board chair and Ms. Prachanronarong seconded. Mr. Carleton accepted the nomination. The motion passed by a roll call vote: Ms. Black: “Yes”, Mr. Ellis: “Yes”, Dr. Davini: “Yes”, Mr. Carleton: “Yes”, Ms. Prachanronarong: “Yes”.**
- **Dr. Davini nominated himself as the Board secretary and Ms. Prachanronarong seconded. Dr. Davini accepted the nomination. The motion passed by a roll call vote: Ms. Black: “Yes”, Mr. Ellis: “Yes”, Dr. Davini: “Yes”, Mr. Carleton: “Yes”, Ms. Prachanronarong: “Yes”.**

Board Business:

- **Report from Executive Director, Thomas Burke**
Mr. Burke reported that the that the COVID Extension bill, S. 2985 (“An Act Relative to Extending Certain State of Emergency Accommodations”) was signed by the Governor and is now in effect. The bill extends certain COVID-19 related measures until March 31, 2023, including allowing public bodies to hold meetings remotely. Mr. Burke announced that the Board will transfer to the Department of Public Health in November 2022. He will continue to provide updates to the Board.

- **Report from Board Counsel, Sheila York**

Ms. York reported that Executive Order No. 600 prohibits any executive department, employee, or officer from assisting another state's investigation in a person or entity for receiving or delivering reproductive health services that are legal in Massachusetts. The Executive Order also protects Massachusetts providers who deliver reproductive health services from losing their professional licenses or receiving other professional discipline based on potential out of state charges. DOL will be reaching out to all of the boards of registration to implement policies that ensure that no one is denied a license or have a license subject to discipline due to provision of reproductive health care services that are covered under the executive order.

- **Board Elections:** Topic was addressed earlier in the meeting. No further discussion.

Board Minutes:

- Public Meeting Minutes from May 4, 2022: **Dr. Davini moved to accept the minutes and Ms. Prachanronarong seconded. Motion to accept May 4, 2022 minutes passed by a roll call vote: Ms. Black: "Yes", Mr. Ellis: "Yes", Dr. Davini: "Yes", Mr. Carleton: "Yes", Ms. Prachanronarong: "Yes".**

Apprentice Reinstatement/Extension:

- Rob Volpe

Deborah Black recused herself from review and discussion of this matter and left the meeting. Mr. Volpe appeared before the Board to address questions regarding his apprenticeship hours. He acknowledged that he earned hours while managing his supervisor, but noted that he followed guidance provided by Division of Apprentice Standards ("DAS") and resumed his apprenticeship hours in November 2020. After discussion, the Board instructed DAS to provide an update of approved training hours for Mr. Volpe. The Board also instructed Mr. Volpe's sponsoring employer to follow up with DAS to request an extension of his apprenticeship. He passed the ABO and NCLE. He needs to obtain the apprentice completion certificate, at which time Mr. Volpe's application will be considered for licensure. No vote was taken.

Ms. Black rejoined the meeting.

- Benjamin LeMaine

Mr. LeMaine appeared before the Board to request an additional apprenticeship extension so that he may complete his hours and receive his completion certificate.

After discussion, Ms. Prachanronarong moved to grant Mr. LeMaine up to a six-month extension to complete his apprenticeship training. Mr. Ellis seconded. **Motion passed by a roll call vote: Ms. Black: "Yes", Mr. Ellis: "Yes", Dr. Davini: "Yes", Mr. Carleton: "Yes", Ms. Prachanronarong: "Yes".**

Application Review:

At 10:45 a.m., the Board was scheduled to meet with applicants for licensure and reviewed applications and additional documentation. Below is a list of the candidates for review and the motion and roll call vote for each:

Andrew Nass – After review of Mr. Nass’s application, the Board instructed him to request an official letter from the Division of Apprentice Standards (“DAS”) to document that he completed 2100 hours of apprentice training in no less than eighteen months. The Board will resume review of his application upon receipt of the DAS letter. No vote was taken.

Erica Anderson – **After review of Ms. Anderson’s application, Mr. Ellis moved to approve her for licensure. Ms. Black seconded. Motion passed by a roll call vote: Ms. Black: “Yes”, Mr. Ellis: “Yes”, Dr. Davini: “Yes”, Mr. Carleton: “Yes”, Ms. Prachanronarong: “Yes”.**

Faye Sosnowski – Tabled.

Theresa Vu – Tabled.

Badiollah Badihi – Tabled.

Rob Volpe – Tabled.

O’Neill Wright – **After review of Mr. Wright’s application, Mr. Ellis moved to approve him for licensure. Ms. Prachanronarong seconded. Motion passed by a roll call vote: Ms. Black: “Yes”, Mr. Ellis: “Yes”, Dr. Davini: “Yes”, Mr. Carleton: “Yes”, Ms. Prachanronarong: “Yes”.**

Discussion:

- **Application Processing** – The Board instructed staff to provide copies of the revised Verification of Hours form and internal check list at the subsequent meeting for review. The Board discussed whether supervised work experience must be hands-on training or may be conducted via electronic means. The Board expressed interest in revisiting this topic.
- **Liaison to Division of Apprentice Standards** – After discussion, Ms. Prachanronarong moved to nominate Jesse Ellis and Deborah Black to serve as liaisons to the Division of Apprentice Standards (“DAS”). Dr. Davini seconded. Motion passed by a roll call vote: Ms. Black: “Yes”, Mr. Ellis: “Yes”, Dr. Davini: “Yes”, Mr. Carleton: “Yes”, Ms. Prachanronarong: “Yes”.

Open session for topics not reasonably anticipated 48 hours in advance meeting:

Heather Platt appeared before the Board to request assistance from the Division of Apprentice Standards regarding the completion of her apprenticeship training. The Board referred her to contact Ms. Pendexter directly.

Jim Morris, Executive Director of the ABO-NCLE, introduced himself to the new Board members.

Dr. Frank Miller appeared before the Board to request guidance on requirements for Optometrists who sponsor apprentice opticians. Board staff requested that Dr. Miller submit specific questions to the dedicated email address: dispensing.opticians@mass.gov.

Shaunna Clemens appeared before the Board to request guidance on the review of her application for licensure. Board staff directed her to follow up directly via email.

At 12:45 p.m., Mr. Ellis made a motion, seconded by Ms. Prachanronarong to adjourn the public meeting and to enter into closed session pursuant to G.L. c. 30A, §18, to conduct a quasi-judicial session to discuss the issuance of a final decision in an adjudicatory matter.

The Board will not resume public meeting at the conclusion of the closed session.

Motion passed by a roll call vote: Ms. Black: “Yes”, Mr. Ellis: “Yes”, Dr. Davini: “Yes”, Mr. Carleton: “Yes”, Ms. Prachanronarong: “Yes”.

The Board agreed to take a fifteen-minute break.

Closed Quasi Judicial Session:

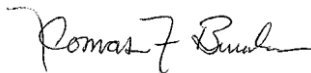
During the closed session, the Board took the following action:

2020-001105-IT-ENF – Board provided guidance to Board Counsel on issuance of final decision.

Adjournment:

- **At 1:28 p.m. Mr. Ellis moved to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Prachanronarong seconded. Motion passed by a roll call vote: Ms. Black: “Yes”, Mr. Ellis: “Yes”, Dr. Davini: “Yes”, Mr. Carleton: “Yes”, Ms. Prachanronarong: “Yes”.**

Respectfully Submitted,



Thomas F. Burke
Executive Director

Documents used in the open meeting:

- Agenda for DO Board Meeting of August 3, 2022
- Public Meeting Minutes from May 4, 2022
- Apprentice Reinstatement/Extension Request for R. Volpe. B. LeMaine.
- Applications for A. Nass, E. Anderson, F. Sosnowski, T. Vu, B. Badihi. R. Volpe, O. Wright (protected personal data redacted)