

Board of Registration of Dispensing Opticians

Public Session Minutes

Date: June 7, 2023 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 section 40 of chapter 2 of the acts of 2023, signed into law on March 29, 2023.

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
Margaret McKenna, Board Staff

Housekeeping:

- In lieu of Board Chair, William Carleton, Mr. Burke called the meeting to order at 10:02 am and established a quorum via calling attendance: Jesse Ellis, Deborah Black, Alicja Prachanronarong, and Mark Davini. All members participated remotely via Webex by Cisco.
- Mr. Burke advised members of the public to mute their volume and utilize the raise hand function to address the Board. He asked that members of the public turn off their cameras during the meeting and when not directly addressing the Board.

Board Business:

- **Report from Executive Director, Thomas Burke:** None.

Board Minutes:

- Public Meeting Minutes from April 5, 2023: **Dr. Davini instructed the Executive Director to amend the April 5, 2023 public meeting minutes to include additional public comments. The matter was tabled and no vote was taken.**
- Public Meeting Minutes from May 3, 2023: **Dr. Davini moved to accept the minutes and Mr. Ellis seconded. The motion to accept the May 3, 2023 minutes passed by a roll call vote: Ms. Black: “Yes”, Mr. Ellis: “Yes”, Dr. Davini: “Yes”, Mr. Carleton: “Yes”, Ms. Prachanronarong: “Yes”.**

Application Review:

At 10:07 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:

- Camille Dubois – After review of Ms. Dubois’ application, Ms. Black moved to approve her for licensure. 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”.

Rulxer Dumornay – After review of Mr. Dumornay’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: “No”, Ms. Prachanronarong: “Yes”.

Charbel Louis – After review of Mr. Louis’ application, Mr. Ellis moved to approve him for licensure. 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”.

Takeiya Perry – After review of Ms. Perry’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”.

Discussion:

- **CEPA Agreement and Memo** – The Board briefly discussed the CEPA agreement and memo. The discussion was tabled for further discussion at a subsequent Board meeting.
- **Penn Foster Optician School Online** – In response to a recent inquiry from a prospective applicant regarding the accreditation status of the Penn Foster online optician school, the Board reviewed Penn Foster’s training curriculum and exam preparation. Ms. York noted that the prospective applicant, who is also a full-time registered apprentice, was interested in completing a hybrid pathway of one year of study in an educational program combined with 2100 hours of apprenticeship training to fulfill licensure requirements. Ms. York reminded the Board that because educational programs must be accredited by the Commission on Opticianry Accreditation (“COA”) or by another accreditation entity recognized and approved by the Board, Penn Foster’s optician online school would not meet either of the two criteria set forth in 235 CMR 2.07 (1) (b). The Board stated, based on the regulation, that applicants seeking licensure under the hybrid model must complete the 2100 apprenticeship training hours and one year of schooling at a program accredited by COA or a Board-approved accreditation entity. There is no documentation showing that Penn Foster optician program meets either of these requirements. The Board requested information as to whether Penn Foster’s online school is accredited by an outside entity. Further, the Board inquired about the Division of Apprentice Standards requirements for related classroom instructions in relation to the Penn Foster program. The Board instructed staff to review and report back to the Board.

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

- Ms. York took the opportunity to introduce Attorney Lynn Worley to the Board. Ms. Worley recently joined the Bureau of Health Professions Licensure as Board Counsel.
- Professor Blair Wong, opticianry chair at the Benjamin Franklin Cummings Institute of Technology, thanked the Board for its discussion on the Penn Foster online school and noted that the program's exam preparation would be a good source of on-the-job training for apprentices.
- Ms. Dubois inquired about how she and other recently licensed opticians will receive their license cards. Mr. Burke advised that the license card and certificate will be emailed to each of the newly licensed optician following the Board meeting.

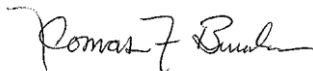
Cases, Investigative Conference, Settlement Offers [Closed session pursuant to M.G.L. c. 112 §65C]: Investigative Matters and Settlement Offers- [Closed Session Pursuant to M.G.L. c. 112, § 65C]:

None

Adjournment:

- **At 10:31 a.m. Mr. Ellis moved to adjourn the meeting. 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".**

Respectfully Submitted,



Thomas F. Burke
Executive Director

Documents used in the open meeting:

- Agenda for DO Board Meeting of June 7, 2023
- Draft Public Meeting Minutes from April 5, 2023
- Draft Public Meeting Minutes from May 3, 2023
- Applications for C. Dubois, R. Dumornay, C. Louis, and T. Perry (protected personal data redacted)
- CEPA Agreement and Memo
- Penn Foster Optician School Online course exam preparation and training curriculum