

Board of Registration of Dispensing Opticians

Public Session Minutes

Date: May 1, 2024 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
Lauren McShane, Chief Investigator
Thomas F. Burke, Executive Director
Margaret McKenna, Board Staff
Christian Carl, Board Staff Intern

Housekeeping:

- Board Chair William Carleton called the meeting to order at 10:07 am and established a quorum via calling attendance: Jesse Ellis, Deborah Black, Alicja Prachanronarong, Mark Davini, and William Carleton. All members participated remotely via Cisco Webex.
- Mr. Burke advised members of the public to mute their audio and video feeds during the public meeting unless they are addressing Board members. Individuals may utilize the Webex “raised hand” function if they wish to address the Board.

Board Minutes:

- Public Meeting Minutes from April 3, 2024: **Mr. Ellis moved to accept the minutes and Dr. Davini seconded. The motion to accept the April 3, 2024 minutes 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:** No report.

Apprentice Extension Request:

Robert Lutters – Board member Deborah Black recused herself from this discussion and left the meeting. Mr. Lutters met with the Board to discuss his request for an apprentice extension so that he may fulfill apprenticeship requirements. The executive director provided additional documentation related to his apprenticeship. **After discussion, Dr. Davini moved to grant Mr. Lutters a six-month extension of his optician apprenticeship on the condition that he document training hours received by an out-of-state licensed supervisor OR provide documentation of lab training hours under the supervision of a Massachusetts licensed dispensing optician so that he may complete the apprenticeship and receive his completion certificate. Mr. Ellis seconded. Motion passed by a roll call vote: Ms. Black: “Abstain”, Mr. Ellis: “Yes”,**

Dr. Davini: “Yes”, Mr. Carleton: “No”, Ms. Prachanronarong: “Abstain”. The motion passed by a majority of those members present.

Ms. Black rejoined the meeting at 10:45 a.m.

Application Review:

- At 10:47 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:

Amanda Rinaldi –Board member Alicja Prachanronarong recused herself from this discussion and left the meeting. **After review of Ms. Rinaldi’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: “Abstain”.**

Ms. Prachanronarong rejoined the meeting at 10:52 a.m.

Tanya Loureiro Valente - **After review of Ms. Valente’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”.**

Wisam Chaban - **After review of Mr. Chaban’s application, Mr. Ellis moved to approve him 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”.**

Eduardo Jose Henriquez Flores - **After review of Mr. Flores’ application, Mr. Ellis moved to approve him 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:

- **Dispensing optician apprenticeship policy – review**

In further review of the draft dispensing optician policy, the Board instructed staff to strike the words “classroom hours” where it occurs in the policy and replace with “technical instruction.” The Board discussed the role of management for apprentice opticians, general requirements for supervision, and how to process public comments. Board counsel advised that the public should submit comments to board staff.

- **Review of subject matter areas in 235 CMR 4.04**

Board counsel presented a draft interpretation of 235 CMR 4.04(6) *Lens Hardening, including drop ball testing*. According to the interpretation, the Board would maintain the need for on-the-job training and technical instruction in each of the subject matter areas

consistent with standards of professional practice as long as they do not place an undue burden on apprentices and their sponsors. The Board agreed that on-the-job training in glass lens manufacturing and hardening is difficult for apprentice opticians to obtain. The Board stressed the need, however, for technical instruction in this area so that apprentice opticians may gain the necessary education in this subject matter area. Board counsel asked board members to send comments on this topic by email so that she may present a revised document at a subsequent meeting.

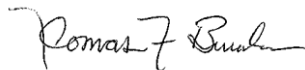
Open session for topics not reasonably anticipated 48 hours in advance meeting:

The executive director invited members of the public to submit comments to board staff prior to board meetings.

Adjournment:

At 11:00 a.m., Mr. Ellis moved to adjourn the meeting. Dr. Davini seconded. Motion passed by a roll call vote: Ms. Black: “Yes”, Mr. Ellis: “Present”, Dr. Davini: “Yes”, Mr. Carleton: “Yes”, Ms. Prachanronarong: “Yes”.

Respectfully Submitted,



Thomas F. Burke
Executive Director

Documents used in the open meeting:

- Meeting agenda for May 1, 2024
- Draft public meeting minutes from April 3, 2024
- Apprentice Extension Request for R. Lutters
- Application for A. Rinaldi, T. L. Valente, W. Chaban, and E. J. Henriquez Flores (protected personal data redacted)
- Draft Dispensing Optician Apprentice Policy
- 235 CMR 4.00 Apprenticeship Requirements and Procedures
- Draft interpretation of 235 CMR 4.04 (6)