



MAURA HEALEY
GOVERNOR

KIM DRISCOLL
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

YVONNE HAO
SECRETARY, EXECUTIVE OFFICE
OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Division of Occupational Licensure
Board of Registration of Cosmetology and Barbering
1000 Washington Street, Suite 710
Boston, Massachusetts 02118

LAYLA R. D'EMILIA
UNDERSECRETARY, CONSUMER
AFFAIRS AND BUSINESS
REGULATION

SARAH R. WILKINSON
COMMISSIONER, DIVISION OF
OCCUPATIONAL LICENSURE

MINUTES OF THE January 11, 2024
PUBLIC BOARD MEETING

TIME: 9:30 a.m.

PLACE: Conference Call / Virtual Meeting

PRESENT: Joy Talbot (Chair), Erinn Breedy, Heather Cohen, Nicole Corliss, Cassia Gilroy, Marian Saluto, Iris Stowe

ABSENT: Cate Tool (Vice-Chair)

STAFF: Richard Lawless, Executive Director
Jamie Dalton, Board Counsel
Andrew Lutynski, Chief of Investigations

The Meeting was called to order at **9:35 a.m.** by the Chair. All board members and staff appeared telephonically or by videoconference.

The Chair informed Board members and attendees that the public meeting was being recorded.

Anthony Clemente from the Massachusetts Association of Cosmetology Schools informed the Chair that he would be recording the meeting.

Housekeeping and Conference Call Protocol:

The Chair reviewed conference call and open meeting protocol with meeting attendees.

Minutes of the December 14, 2023 Public Meeting

After discussion, a MOTION was made by Ms. Cohen seconded by Ms. Gilroy to approve the public minutes of the December 14, 2023 meeting as drafted.

The Chair called for a Roll call vote:

Ms. Breedy (Yes), Ms. Cohen (Yes), Ms. Corliss (Yes), Ms. Gilroy (Yes), Ms. Saluto (Yes), Ms. Stowe (Yes), and Ms. Talbot (Yes).



The Motion passed 7-0.

Discussion

Proposed Barber School – Monarch School of Barbering

Suzanne Hicks was in attendance to discuss their proposed Barber School.

After discussion, a MOTION was made by Ms. Cohen, seconded by Ms. Corliss, to delegate final review of the school documents to Board staff, and upon receipt of revised documentation incorporating the Board's recommended changes, and upon meeting all other Board requirements including a final inspection, to approve the school.

The Chair called for a Roll call vote:

Ms. Breedy (Yes), Ms. Cohen (Yes), Ms. Corliss (Yes), Ms. Gilroy (Yes), Ms. Saluto (Yes), Ms. Stowe (Yes), and Ms. Talbot (Yes).

The Motion passed 7-0.

Proposed Electrology School – Flavia Leal Institute

Paula Fallon was in attendance to discuss the proposed Electrology School.

After discussion, a MOTION was made by Ms. Gilroy, seconded by Ms. Saluto, to delegate final review of the school documents to Board staff, and upon receipt of revised documentation incorporating the Board's recommended changes, and upon meeting all other Board requirements including a final inspection, to approve the school.

The Chair called for a Roll call vote:

Ms. Breedy (Yes), Ms. Cohen (Yes), Ms. Corliss (Yes), Ms. Gilroy (Yes), Ms. Saluto (Yes), Ms. Stowe (Yes), and Ms. Talbot (Yes).

The Motion passed 7-0.

Proposed Barber School – New England Barber Academy

Bela Basile and Evan Nyman were in attendance to discuss their proposed Barber School.

After discussion, a MOTION was made by Ms. Cohen, seconded by Ms. Corliss, to delegate final review of the school documents to Board staff, and upon receipt of revised documentation incorporating the Board's recommended changes, and upon meeting all other Board requirements including a final inspection, to approve the school.

The Chair called for a Roll call vote:

Ms. Breedy (Yes), Ms. Cohen (Yes), Ms. Corliss (Yes), Ms. Gilroy (Yes), Ms. Saluto (Yes), Ms. Stowe (Yes), and Ms. Talbot (Yes).

The Motion passed 7-0.

Interpreters for Exams

Mr. Lawless reported that he is continuing to gather information on how the Board's exam vendor PSI handles interpreter services for test takers. He also reported on the guidelines that the California Board uses for interpreter services. The Board discussed potential guidelines for allowing interpreters, and asked Mr. Lawless to continue gathering information from PSI on how other clients are utilizing these services. No formal action was taken.

PSI Exams

Mr. Lawless shared the examination data provided by PSI, and reported that he would be meeting with PSI staff in the next few days to review bell curve data to see where most test takers scored on each exam. The Board discussed other actions it could take to help test takers, and expressed dissatisfaction with the Barber and Cosmetology exam pass rates. Mr. Lawless also reported that Ms. Talbot and Ms. Cohen would be attending an in-person PSI exam review panel later this month.

The Chair allowed public comment on this topic:

Janice Dorian said that PSI is not testing candidates on the curriculum used by schools.

Anthony Clemente said the Board is obligated to help the industry, and said that he has still not received accurate exam reports for his students. He asked that the Board re-contract with Pearson Vue. Mr. Lawless said that Pearson Vue chose not to bid on any contracts with the Board after two rounds of procurement, so it is very unlikely that this would be an option.

Frank Zona asked if the exam pass rates were largely a language issue, and also suggested that the Board should have a pool of interpreters available for exams.

Temporary Space for Elizabeth Grady Students

Kathy DeNicola from Elizabeth Grady School of Esthetics was present. The Board discussed the school's recent eviction from its Medford campus and how to address displaced students. The Board reviewed a proposal to allow a cohort of students with approximately 30 hours left in their program to finish their program utilizing space at Catherine Hinds Institute.

After discussion, a MOTION was made by Ms. Cohen, seconded by Ms. Gilroy, to allow the group of students with approximately 30 hours left to complete their education utilizing space at Catherine Hinds Institute.

The Chair called for a Roll call vote:

Ms. Breedy (Yes), Ms. Cohen (Yes), Ms. Corliss (Yes), Ms. Gilroy (Yes), Ms. Saluto (Yes), Ms. Stowe (Yes), and Ms. Talbot (Yes).

The Motion passed 7-0.

After additional discussion, a MOTION was made by Ms. Cohen, seconded by Ms. Breedy, to require a letter from Ms. DeNicola by January 25, 2024, updating the Board on the status of the school's premises, including any changes to the eviction, progress on securing a new premises including documentation of lease agreements and/or premises information, and an update on the progress of the students finishing their hours at Catherine Hinds Institute, with as much documentation and detail as possible.

The Chair called for a Roll call vote:

Ms. Breedy (Yes), Ms. Cohen (Yes), Ms. Corliss (Yes), Ms. Gilroy (Yes), Ms. Saluto (Yes), Ms. Stowe (Yes), and Ms. Talbot (Yes).

The Motion passed 7-0.

The Board also tentatively scheduled an additional public meeting for January 30, 2024, and noted that based on the information provided in or absent from Elizabeth Grady's School's update, the Board might have to deem the school closed at that time due to lack of an approved premises.

Public Comment:

A meeting attendee asked about the status of the Board's proposed eyelash extension policy. Mr. Lawless said that the policy is under review by the agency's legal department, and that if approved, the Board would provide notice on its website.

Melanie Almeida, an Elizabeth Grady student, asked about how students will be notified about the school closure, what students who are not part of the group finishing hours at Catherine Hinds should do, and how they can obtain a refund. Mr. Lawless said that the Board would be notifying students of the school closure, students can transfer their earned hours to another school, and that they can contact Elizabeth Grady to request a refund in accordance with the Attorney General's statute and their enrollment agreements.

Mayra, an Elizabeth Grady student, asked how students can get their belongings from the locked Medford campus. Atty. Dalton responded that students should check with the school's landlord on being able to access their items in the building, and said the school was locked due to a Court order, and that the Board cannot override the court on this decision.

Rachel, an Elizabeth Grady student, asked if students completing their hours at Catherine Hinds would have valid school hours if Elizabeth Grady loses accreditation. Atty. Dalton responded that accreditation is not a Board requirement, and that their hours of school while the school was licensed would count towards the Board's requirements. She also said that accreditation is independent of the Board, and the school's accreditation status may change due to recent events.

Executive Session CLOSED per M.G.L. c. 30A, § 21(a)(1), Individual Character Rather Than Competence

A MOTION was made by Ms. Gilroy seconded by Ms. Saluto, to adjourn the public meeting at **12:25 p.m.**, and to enter into **Executive Session, pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws chapter 30A, Section § 21(a)(1)** to discuss individuals' character rather than competence; and then to move into **Closed Investigative Conference, closed session pursuant to G.L. c. 112, § 65C**, to consider open cases, conduct investigative conferences, and consider settlement offers; and the Open Meeting would not resume.

The Chair called for a Roll call vote:

Ms. Breedy (Yes), Ms. Cohen (Yes), Ms. Corliss (Yes), Ms. Gilroy (Yes), Ms. Saluto (Yes), Ms. Stowe (Yes), and Ms. Talbot (Yes).

The Motion passed 7-0.

Closed Investigative Conference, closed session pursuant to G.L. c. 112, § 65C

During the closed Investigative Conference, the Board voted to take the following actions:

Settlements

2023-000403-IT-ENF Guidance Given to Prosecutor

Review of Cases

2023-000836-IT-ENF	Keep open with investigation continuing
2024-000016-IT-ENF	Keep open with investigation continuing
2023-000686-IT-ENF	Dismissed
2023-000666-IT-ENF	Referred for Prosecution
2023-000662-IT-ENF	Dismissed
2023-000617-IT-ENF	Referred for Prosecution
2023-000598-IT-ENF	Referred for Prosecution
2023-000544-IT-ENF	Dismissed
2023-000791-IT-ENF	Dismissed with an Advisory
2023-000760-IT-ENF	Referred for Prosecution
2023-000866-IT-ENF	Keep open with investigation continuing

Adjournment

A MOTION was made by Ms. Cohen, seconded by Ms. Gilroy, to adjourn the meeting at 2:28 p.m.

The Chair called for a Roll call vote:

Ms. Breedy (Yes), Ms. Cohen (Yes), Ms. Corliss (Yes), Ms. Gilroy (Yes), Ms. Saluto (Yes), Ms. Stowe (Yes), and Ms. Talbot (Yes).

The Motion passed 7-0.

The above Minutes were approved at the open meeting held on February 8, 2024.



Richard Lawless, Executive Director

Documents Used During the Meeting:

Agenda

Draft Minutes of December 14, 2023 Open Meeting

Documentation from Monarch School of Barbering

Documentation from Flavia Leal Institute of Electrology

Documentation from New England Barber Academy

Documentation from Elizabeth Grady School of Esthetics and Catherine Hinds Institute

PSI Exam Data

