

Board of Registration in Optometry

General Session Minutes

Meeting Held by Phone/Video Conference

DATE: October 20, 2025 TIME: 12:30 pm

A public meeting of the Massachusetts Board of Registration in Optometry (“the Board”) was held via Webex.

Board Members Present by Phone/Video:

Everett Sabree, OD
Rhonda Willinger, OD
Michael Hawley
Jeanette Sewell, OD

DPH Staff Present by Phone/Video:

Meghan Bresnahan, Board Counsel
Samuel Leadholm, Board Counsel
Thomas F. Burke, Executive Director
Margaret McKenna, Board Staff
Katherine Wu, Board Intern

Board Members Not Present by Phone/Video:

Julie Hiura, OD

Administrative Items:

Meeting called to order at 12:35 p.m. by Dr. Willinger.

- Roll Call vote for attendance

Board secretary Dr. Willinger established a quorum by conducting a roll call of board members present: Jeanette Sewell, Michael Hawley, and Rhonda Willinger. All members participated by video via Webex.

Dr. Sabree joined the meeting at 12:37 p.m.

Board Business:

- Review of General Session Agenda: October 20, 2025

Mr. Burke requested that the executive director report topic be tabled from the agenda.. **Dr. Sewell moved to accept the amended October 20, 2025 general session agenda. Dr. Willinger seconded. The motion passed by roll call vote: Dr. Willinger – “yes”; Dr. Sabree – “yes”; Dr. Sewell – “yes”; Michael Hawley– “yes”; Dr. Hiura “not present”.**

- Review of General Session Minutes: August 20, 2025

Dr. Willinger moved to accept the general session minutes for August 20, 2025 as written. Dr. Sewell seconded. The motion passed by roll call vote: Dr. Willinger – “yes”;

Dr. Sabree – “yes”; Dr. Sewell – “yes”; Michael Hawley– “yes”; Dr. Hiura “not present”.

- Executive Director Report
Tabled.
- Board counsel report – update on staffing

Board Counsel, Meghan Bresnahan, introduced Samuel Leadholm, who will serve as incoming board counsel for future meetings. The Board welcomed Mr. Leadholm and thanked Ms. Bresnahan for her work as board counsel.

- Board meeting dates 2026 – VOTE

Michael Hawley moved to accept the 2026 board meeting dates as presented. Dr. Willinger seconded. The motion passed by roll call vote: Dr. Willinger – “yes”; Dr. Sabree – “yes”; Dr. Sewell – “yes”; Michael Hawley– “yes”; Dr. Hiura “not present”.

- Board Elections – VOTE

- Board chair

Michael Hawley moved to elect Dr. Sabree as Board Chair. Dr. Sewell seconded. Dr. Sabree accepted the nomination. The motion passed by roll call vote: Dr. Willinger – “yes”; Dr. Sabree – “yes”; Dr. Sewell – “yes”; Michael Hawley– “yes”; Dr. Hiura “not present”.

- Board secretary

Dr. Sewell moved to elect Dr. Willinger as Board Secretary. Michael Hawley seconded. Dr. Willinger accepted the nomination. The motion passed by roll call vote: Dr. Willinger – “yes”; Dr. Sabree – “yes”; Dr. Sewell – “yes”; Michael Hawley– “yes”; Dr. Hiura “not present”.

Discussion:

- Massachusetts Society of Optometrists – expanded scope of practice course for continuing education – VOTE

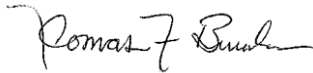
The Board briefly discussed whether to approve continuing education hours for Massachusetts optometrists who successfully complete the required glaucoma management course administered by the Massachusetts Society of Optometrists.

Following discussion, Dr. Sewell voted to accept six hours of asynchronous continuing education credit for Massachusetts optometrists who successfully complete the expanded scope MSO glaucoma and orals certification course. Dr. Willinger seconded. The motion passed by roll call vote: Dr. Willinger – “yes”; Dr. Sabree – “yes”; Dr. Sewell – “yes”; Michael Hawley– “yes”; Dr. Hiura “not present”.

Transfer to Executive Session:

At 12:49 p.m., Mr. Hawley moved to enter Executive Session as authorized pursuant to M.G.L. c. 30A, § 21(a)(1) for the purpose of discussing the reputation, character, physical condition, or mental health, rather than professional competence, of an individual, or to discuss the discipline or dismissal of, or complaints or charges brought against, a public officer, employee, staff member or individual. Specifically, evaluate the Good Moral Character as required for registration for a pending applicant. Dr. Willinger seconded. The motion passed by roll call vote: Dr. Willinger – “yes”; Dr. Sabree – “yes”; Dr. Sewell – “yes”; Michael Hawley– “yes”; Dr. Hiura “not present”.

Respectfully submitted,



Thomas F. Burke, Executive Director

Documents used in the public session meeting:

- General session agenda for October 20, 2025 meeting
- General session minutes for August 20, 2025 meeting
- Proposed board meeting dates for 2026
- Query from the executive director of the Massachusetts Society of Optometrists (MSO) regarding continuing education hours