

Board of Registration in Optometry

General Session Minutes

Meeting Held by Phone/Video Conference

DATE: November 19, 2025 TIME: 10:00 a.m.

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

Julie Hiura, OD

DPH Staff Present by Phone/Video:

Samuel Leadholm, Board Counsel

Thomas Burke, Executive Director

Margaret McKenna, Board Staff

Katherine Wu, Board Intern

Board Members Not Present by Phone/Video:

None

Administrative Items:

Meeting called to order at 10:05 a.m. by Dr. Sabree.

- Roll Call vote for attendance

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

Board Business:

- Review of General Session Agenda: November 19, 2025

Dr. Willinger moved to accept the November 19, 2025 general session agenda as written. Dr. Sewell seconded. The motion passed by roll call vote: Dr. Willinger – “yes”; Dr. Sabree – “yes”; Dr. Sewell – “yes”; Mr. Hawley – “yes”; Dr. Hiura “yes”.

- Review of General Session Minutes: October 20, 2025

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

Discussion:

- Massachusetts Society of Optometrists course proposal for optometrists to fulfill prescriber training requirement – VOTE

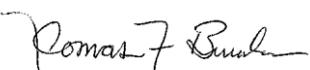
Following review of the course proposal, Dr. Willinger moved to accept the course for Massachusetts optometrists to fulfill the prescriber training requirement pursuant to M.G.L. c. 94C, s. 18(e) as required for licensure renewal. Dr. Sewell seconded. The motion passed by roll call vote: Dr. Willinger – “yes”; Dr. Sabree – “yes”; Dr. Sewell – “yes”; Mr. Hawley – “yes”; Dr. Hiura “yes”.

Following the preceding motion, Mr. Hawley moved to grant retroactive approval of the course offered by the Massachusetts Society of Optometrists on November 16, 2025 provided the course was offered as presented to the Board. Dr. Willinger seconded. The motion passed by roll call vote: Dr. Willinger – “yes”; Dr. Sabree – “yes”; Dr. Sewell – “yes”; Mr. Hawley – “yes”; Dr. Hiura “yes”.

Transfer to Executive Session:

At 10:18 a.m. Dr. Willinger 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 and then enter closed session pursuant to M.G.L. c. 112 §65C and not return to general session and adjourn. Dr. Hiura seconded. The motion passed by roll call vote: Dr. Willinger – “yes”; Dr. Sabree – “yes”; Dr. Sewell – “yes”; Mr. Hawley – “yes”; Dr. Hiura “yes”.

Respectfully submitted,



Thomas F. Burke, Executive Director

Documents used in the public session meeting:

- General session agenda for November 19, 2025 meeting
- General session minutes for October 20, 2025 meeting
- A course proposal offered by the Massachusetts Society of Optometrists (MSO) for optometrists to fulfill mandatory prescriber training.