

Board of Registration in Optometry

General Session Minutes

Meeting Held by Phone/Video Conference

DATE: August 20, 2025 TIME: 10:00am

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
Julie Hiura, OD
Jeanette Sewell, OD

DPH Staff Present by Phone/Video:

Meghan Bresnahan, Board Counsel
Thomas F. Burke, Executive Director
Margaret McKenna, Board Staff

Board Members Not Present by Phone/Video:

Michael Hawley

Meeting called to order:

Meeting called to order at 10:02 AM by Dr. Sabree.

- Roll Call Vote for Attendance

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

Board Business:

- Review of General Session Agenda: August 20, 2025

Dr. Hiura moved to accept the general session agenda for August 20, 2025. Dr. Willinger seconded. The motion passed on a roll call vote: Dr. Willinger – “yes”; Dr. Sabree – “yes”; Dr. Sewell – “yes”; Dr. Hiura – “yes”; Michael Hawley “not present”.

- Review of General Session Minutes: June 18, 2025

Dr. Sewell moved to accept the general session minutes for June 18, 2025 as written. Dr. Hiura seconded. The motion passed on a roll call vote: Dr. Willinger – “yes”; Dr. Sabree – “yes”; Dr. Sewell – “yes”; Dr. Hiura – “yes”; Michael Hawley “not present”.

- Executive Director Report

Mr. Burke alerted board members to the phasing out of optometric technician training programs administered by the Accreditation Council on Optometric Education (ACOE) as well as changes to ACOE's policy and procedure manual. He reminded the Board that that Dr. Jim Campbell is the Association of Regulatory Boards of Optometry (ARBO) Board Liaison to the Massachusetts Board of Optometry for the next year.

Correspondence:

- Notification of Adopted Changes to the Accreditation Council on Optometric Education (ACOE) Policy and Procedure (P&P) Manual

Read and filed.

- ARBO Member Opportunity with NBEO

Read and filed.

- Accreditation Council on Optometric Education (ACOE) to phase out ACOE Accreditation of Optometric Technician Programs.

Read and filed.

Discussion:

- Reactivation application – A. Gire

The Board reviewed a reactivation application for A. Gire to determine if approved continuing education courses completed during licensure in another state may be credited to the applicant seeking to resume licensure in Massachusetts.

After discussion, Dr. Sewell moved to accept the applicant's continuing education courses education credits completed in another state and grant the request to proceed with reactivation. Dr. Hiura seconded. The motion passed on a roll call vote: Dr. Willinger – "yes"; Dr. Sabree – "yes"; Dr. Sewell – "yes"; Dr. Hiura – "yes"; Michael Hawley "not present".

- Massachusetts Society of Optometrists glaucoma continuing education course proposal: The End of Myopia Starts at the Beginning – Dr. Justin Kwan

After review, Dr. Sewell moved to approve the proposed glaucoma continuing education course for a period of one year and that subsequent course offerings be submitted for board review. Dr. Hiura seconded. The motion passed on a roll call vote:

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

- Massachusetts Society of Optometrists glaucoma course proposal

The Board briefly discussed the Massachusetts Society of Optometrists (MSO) glaucoma course proposal for expanded scope of practice for optometrists in Massachusetts.

Following discussion, Dr. Hiura moved to approve the MSO 2025-2027 expanded scope of practice certification course. Dr. Willinger seconded. The motion passed on a roll call vote: Dr. Willinger – “yes”; Dr. Sabree – “yes”; Dr. Sewell – “yes”; Dr. Hiura – “yes”; Michael Hawley “not present”.

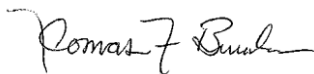
Adjournment:

At 10:27 a.m., Dr. Dewell moved to adjourn the public session meeting. Dr. Hiura seconded. The motion passed on a roll call vote: Dr. Willinger – “yes”; Dr. Sabree – “yes”; Dr. Sewell – “yes”; Dr. Hiura – “yes”; Michael Hawley “not present”.

65C Meeting Session:

At 10:27 a.m., Dr. Hiura moved to enter into closed session to conduct investigatory conferences pursuant to G.L. c. 112, §65C. Dr. Sewell seconded. The motion passed by roll call vote: Dr. Willinger – “yes”; Dr. Sabree – “yes”; Dr. Sewell – “yes”; Dr. Hiura – “yes”; Mr. Hawley – “not present”.

Respectfully submitted,



Thomas F. Burke, Executive Director

Documents used in the public session meeting:

- Agenda for August 20, 2025 board meeting
- General session minutes for June 18, 2025 board meeting
- Notification of Adopted Changes to the Accreditation Council on Optometric Education (ACOE) Policy and Procedure (P&P) Manual
- ARBO Member Opportunity with NBEO
- Accreditation Council on Optometric Education (ACOE) to phase out ACOE Accreditation of Optometric Technician Programs.
- Reactivation application – A. Gire

- Massachusetts Society of Optometrists glaucoma continuing education course proposal:
The End of Myopia Starts at the Beginning – Dr. Justin Kwan
- Massachusetts Society of Optometrists glaucoma course proposal