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REGULATION

SARAH R. WILKINSON
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OCCUPATIONAL LICENSURE

Board of Public Accountancy
Public Meeting Minutes
May 16, 2024

Board Members Present:

Richard H. Grueter, CPA, *Chair*
Lunetta Kwan, CPA, *Secretary*
Angela Parziale, CPA, MST, *Member*

Staff Members Present:

Kerry Cassidy, *Executive Director*
Jennifer Fraga, *Program Coordinator*
Lynn Read, *Board Counsel*

Board Members Not Present:

James Redmond, CPA, *Member*

All Board Members and staff appeared by video conference.

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 10:03 a.m. by Jennifer Fraga.

BOARD BUSINESS:

Public Meeting Minutes of March 21, 2024. After a brief discussion, a MOTION was made by Ms. Kwan to approve the Public Meeting Minutes of March 21, 2024, pending one typographical error, seconded by Ms. Parziale. The Motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

Executive Session Meeting Minutes of March 21 18, 2024. After a brief discussion, a MOTION was made by Ms. Parziale to approve the Executive Session Meeting Minutes of March 21, 2024, seconded by Ms. Kwan. The Motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

BOARD COUNSEL REPORT: Status of Regulations 252 CMR 2.00

Board Counsel Lynn Read reported that in the coming weeks the recently approved revised version of the regulations that were voted on March 21, 2024 will be submitted for review by the Executive Office of Economic Development.

DISCUSSION:



Audit for 2024 Renewals: Andrew Lutynski, Chief of Inspections for the Agency, addressed the Board regarding the upcoming audit for CPA renewal licenses. Mr. Lutynski stated that the audit process will include random audits of renewals for compliance with the continuing education requirements. The audit will begin during the upcoming renewal period of June 2024.

New Beneficial Ownership Information (BOI) Reporting Requirements

The Board and Zachary Donah of the Mass Society of CPAs President and CEO discussed this topic and its effects on the industry at the March 21, 2024, Board Meeting. There were no updates today, and this item will remain on the agenda as it evolves over the coming months.

Application Review

Education evaluation from NASBA (AB). NASBA determined Candidate Ashley Bui's education evaluation to be deficient by 8 semester hours possibly due to duplicate courses taken by Ms. Bui. The Board reviewed the documentation provided and tasked Board Staff to ask NASBA for additional information to include the full course titles and a course syllabus to make that determination. The Board will review at the next meeting if documentation is received in a timely manner.

Education evaluation from NASBA (JA). NASBA determined Candidate John Annon's education evaluation to be deficient by 0.5 semester hours based on the course description provided by the school. NASBA requested an additional review by the Board. The Board reviewed the provided documentation, a MOTION was made by Ms. Parziale to round up the 0.5 deficiency to 1.0, seconded by Ms. Kwan. The Motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

Education evaluation from NASBA (2023-398-CA-FR-APP). NASBA determined Candidate Jing Zhang's education evaluation to be deficient by 0.1 semester hours based on a transfer of grades due to quarter hours. NASBA is requesting an approval to round up to 30 semester hours. The Board reviewed the documentation, a MOTION was made by Ms. Kwan to round up to 30 semester hours from the 29.9 as evaluated, seconded by Ms. Kwan. The Motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

Open Session for Topics Not Reasonably Anticipated by the Chair 48 Hours in Advance of Meeting: None

Adjourn Public Meeting, Enter Executive Session (Closed) under G.L. c. 30A, s. 21(a)(7) to comply with G.L. c. 66, s. 10, G.L. c. 4, s. 7, para. 26(c) and G.L. c. 214, s. 1B (medical record information), and then Investigative Conference (Closed under G.L. c. 112, s. 65C).

At 10:55 a.m., a MOTION was made by Ms. Kwan, seconded by Ms. Parziale, to: (1) exit the public meeting; (2) enter a closed executive session under G.L. c. 30A, s. 21(a)(7) to comply with G.L. c. 66, s. 10, G.L. c. 4, s. 7, para. 26(c) and G.L. c. 214, s. 1B to review sensitive medical information in CPA Examination extension requests and applications; (3) then enter closed Investigative Conference under G.L. c. 112 s. 65C; and not return to the public meeting except to adjourn. The Motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

See separate minutes of Executive Session.

Investigative Conference CLOSED under G. L. c. 112, § 65C

During the investigative conference, the Board took the following actions:

Settlements:

2023-000060-IT-ENF Dismissed

Cases:

2023-000441-IT-ENF Dismissed

2024-000234-IT-ENF Referred to Prosecutions

2023-000619-IT-ENF No Change from Action Previously Taken

PCAOB:

Voluntary Notice Firm Mr. Grueter recused, no discussion was held

Firm Read and filed

PCAOB Inspections Read and Filed

SD Firm To invite to next Investigative Conference

AICPA:

Read & filed

ADJOURNMENT

At 1:33 p.m., a MOTION was made by Ms. Parziale, seconded by Ms. Kwan to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

The above minutes were approved at the public meeting held on August 22, 2024.


Kerry Cassidy, Executive Director

List of Documents Used by the Board at Open Meeting:

Agenda for May 16, 2024

Draft Public Minutes of March 21, 2024

Draft Executive Session March 21, 2024

Agency CPE Audit Forms

Ashley Bui's education evaluation

John Annon's education evaluation

Jing Zhang's education evaluation