

Board of Registration for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology
Meeting Held by Video Conference and Phone
DATE: June 1, 2021 TIME: 9:30 a.m.

Public Session Minutes

A public meeting of the Massachusetts Board of Registration of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology (“the Board”) was held via Videoconference and Conference Call due to the Executive Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, § 20.

Board Members Present by video or phone:

Nicole Laffan
Sarah Young-Hong
Donna Noonan
Gabrielle Simone

Members of the Public:

None

Board Members Not Present:

Kristin Bresnahan

Staff Present by video or phone:

Thomas Burke, Executive Director
Jennifer Romeo-Porcaro, Board Counsel

Meeting called to order at 9:36 am.

Board Business:

- Approve Public Session Minutes
 - Minutes of 4/6/21 meeting
The Board reviewed the draft of the public session minutes of the April board meeting.
Dr. Laffan moved to approve the minutes. Dr. Simone seconded. The motion passed on a roll call vote: Dr. Laffan – “Yes”; Ms. Young-Hong – “Yes”; Ms. Noonan – “Yes” and Dr. Simone – “Yes.”
 - Minutes of 12/1/20 meeting
The Board reviewed the draft of the public session minutes of the December 2020 board meeting.
Dr. Laffan moved to approve the minutes as amended. Dr. Simone seconded. The motion passed on a roll call vote: Dr. Laffan – “Yes”; Ms. Young-Hong – “Yes”; Ms. Noonan – “Yes” and Dr. Simone – “Yes.”
- Approve Executive Session Minutes
 - Minutes of 4/6/21 meeting
The Board reviewed the draft of the executive session minutes of the April board meeting.
Dr. Laffan moved to approve the minutes as amended. Ms. Young-Hong seconded. The motion passed on a roll call vote: Dr. Laffan – “Yes”; Ms. Young-Hong – “Yes”; Ms. Noonan – “Yes” and Dr. Simone – “Yes.”
 - Minutes of 12/1/20 meeting
The Board reviewed the draft of the executive session minutes of the December 2020 board meeting.

Dr. Laffan moved to approve the minutes as amended. Ms. Noonan seconded. The motion passed on a roll call vote: Dr. Laffan – “Yes”; Ms. Young-Hong – “Yes”; Ms. Noonan – “Yes” and Dr. Simone – “Yes.”

- Report from Associate Executive Director, Thomas Burke
 - Mr. Burke reported that he has been appointed as Executive Director of the Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology Board.

Correspondence

- LD
 - After discussion, the Board instructed Mr. Burke to provide a response regarding cerumen removal. Dr. Laffan will provide guidance to Mr. Burke. **Ms. Young-Hong moved and Dr. Simone seconded. The motion passed on a roll call vote: Dr. Laffan – “Yes”; Ms. Young-Hong – “Yes”; Ms. Noonan – “Yes” and Dr. Simone – “Yes.”**

Discussion

- Legislation to move Board to Department of Public Health
 - Attorney Romero-Porcaro announced that the Governor has filed pending legislation that will transfer the Board of Speech-Language Pathology & Audiology to the Department of Public Health. The move is anticipated to occur within the next eighteen months. In response to questions, Board counsel stated that the move reflects a desire to align the Board with areas of expertise.
- Board meetings going forward to meet in Boston
 - Mr. Burke reported that, at present, subsequent Board meetings will be held in-person following the end of the State of Emergency.
- Probation Termination – E. Smith
 - The Board met with Erin Smith who requested probation termination. Mr. Burke confirmed that Ms. Smith met the requirements of her consent agreement. **Dr. Laffan moved to approve Ms. Smith’s probation termination and Ms. Young-Hong seconded. The motion passed on a roll call vote: Dr. Laffan – “Yes”; Ms. Young-Hong – “Yes”; Ms. Noonan – “Yes” and Dr. Simone – “Yes.”**
- License Renewal, Continuing Education, and Telepractice During the State of emergency for Coronavirus (COVID-19)
 - Ms. Romeo-Porcaro indicated that this policy will expire as to its terms.
- 2nd Updated Temporary Telepractice Policy
 - Ms. Romeo-Porcaro reported that although the Board is waiting for final approval, the State of Emergency is scheduled to end on June 15, 2021. After brief discussion, the Board agreed to review the 2019 permanent policy at the August 4, 2021 meeting.
- Draft Audiogram Policy
 - Ms. Romeo-Porcaro noted that federal legislation is pending before the Board of Hearing Instrument Specialists that would affect this Board’s further review of the

policy. She recommended that the Board refrain from review until the legislation has been passed. No vote was taken.

- Academy of Doctors of Audiology
 - The matter was tabled.

Executive Session:

At 10:37 a.m., Dr. Laffan moved to exit open session and enter executive session under G. L. c. 30A, § 21(a)(1) and (3), to comply with the provisions of the public record law, G. L. c. 30A, § 21(a)(7), ¶ 26(a) and to preserve the confidentiality of information pursuant to G. L. c. 6, § 172, and then and enter into closed session to conduct investigatory conferences, pursuant to G.L. c. 112, §65C, not return to the public meeting. Ms. Young-Hong seconded the motion. **The motion passed on a roll call vote: Dr. Laffan – “Yes”; Ms. Young-Hong – “Yes”; Ms. Noonan – “Yes” and Dr. Simone – “Yes.”**

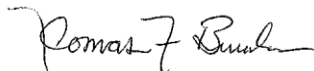
Closed Session: Investigatory Conferences, pursuant to G.L. c. 112, §65C.

During the closed session, the Board took the following actions:

- 2020-000195-IT-ENF – Tabled.

At 11:08 am, Dr. Laffan moved to adjourn the meeting. Dr. Simone seconded. The motion passed on a roll call vote: Dr. Laffan – “Yes”; Ms. Young-Hong – “Yes”; Ms. Noonan – “Yes” and Dr. Simone – “Yes.”

Respectfully Submitted,



Thomas F. Burke
Executive Director

Documents Used in the Open Meeting:

- Agenda
- Minutes of 12/1/2020 and 4/6/2021 board meetings
- Probation Termination – E. Smith
- AAA Scope of Practice
- FM compliance monitoring
- 2nd Updated Temporary Telepractice Policy
- Policy No. 2019-001