

**Board of Registration for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology**  
**Meeting Held by Video Conference and Phone**  
**DATE: October 2, 2023 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 pursuant to section 40 of chapter 2 of the acts of 2023, signed into law on March 29, 2023.**

**Board Members Present by video or phone:**

Nicole Laffan  
Sarah Young-Hong  
Kristin Bresnahan  
Donna Noonan

**Staff Present by video or phone:**

Thomas Burke, Executive Director  
Sheila York, Board Counsel  
Monique Brown, Board Staff  
Margaret McKenna, Board Staff

**Board Members Not Present:**

Gabrielle Simone

**Housekeeping**

- Meeting Called to Order at 9:40 am. Board chair called meeting to order.
- Roll Call Vote for Attendance  
Board chair, Nicole Laffan, established a quorum via calling attendance: Nicole Laffan, Kristin Bresnahan, Sarah Young-Hong, and Donna Noonan. All members present participated remotely via Cisco Webex.

Mr. Burke advised members of the public to disable the audio and video features unless they are addressing the Board. They were encouraged to utilize the hand function to address the Board.

**Board Business**

- Approve Public Session Minutes
  - Minutes of 8/28/23 meeting  
The Board reviewed the draft of the public session minutes of the August 28, 2023 Board meeting. **Ms. Young-Hong moved to accept the minutes. Ms. Noonan seconded. The motion passed on a roll call vote: Dr. Laffan – “Yes”; Ms. Young-Hong – “Yes”; Dr. Bresnahan – “Yes”; Dr. Simone – “Not Present”; Ms. Noonan – “Yes.”**
- Report from Executive Director, Thomas Burke  
No report.
- Report from Board Counsel  
No report.
- Board Elections

**Ms. Noonan made a motion to nominate Dr. Laffan as the Board Chair and Dr. Bresnahan seconded the motion. The motion passed on a roll call vote: Dr. Laffan – “Yes”; Ms. Young-Hong – “Yes”; Dr. Bresnahan – “Yes”; Dr. Simone – “Not Present”; Ms. Noonan – “Yes.”**

**Ms. Noonan made a motion to nominate Dr. Bresnahan as the Board Secretary and Dr. Laffan seconded the motion. The motion passed on a roll call vote: Dr. Laffan – “Yes”; Ms. Young-Hong – “Yes”; Dr. Bresnahan – “Yes”; Dr. Simone – “Not Present”; Ms. Noonan – “Yes.”**

- **Prosecutorial Discretion & Alford Plea policies presentation**

- i. Policy re: Standard Consent Agreement Terms – VOTE

The Board reviewed a draft policy that creates standard language about violations for consent agreements.

**After brief discussion, Dr. Laffan moved to approve the policy. Dr. Bresnahan seconded. The motion passed on a roll call vote: Dr. Laffan – “Yes”; Ms. Young-Hong – “Yes”; Dr. Bresnahan – “Yes”; Dr. Simone – “Not Present”; Ms. Noonan – “Yes.”**

- ii. Policy on Delegation of Authority re: Drafting Orders to Show Cause and Consent Agreements to board Counsel and the Prosecution Unit – VOTE

The Board reviewed a proposed policy that allows a prosecutor (1) to negotiate with respondents in adjudicatory matters within a range of discipline provided by the Board; and (2), in consultation with the executive director and board counsel, to add violations to orders to show cause for cases that are not included in the Board’s referral to the Office of Prosecutions.

**After brief discussion, Dr. Laffan moved to approve the policy. Ms. Young-Hong seconded. The motion passed on a roll call vote: Dr. Laffan – “Yes”; Ms. Young-Hong – “Yes”; Dr. Bresnahan – “Yes”; Dr. Simone – “Not Present”; Ms. Noonan – “Yes.”**

## **Correspondence**

- speech language pathology assistant continuing education requirements

In review of the correspondence, the Board discussed the merits of requiring continuing education for speech-language pathology assistants (SLPA) and audiology assistants (AA) in Massachusetts. Ms. Young-Hong noted that ASHA recently proposed a pathway for SLPA’s and AA’s to receive certification through completion of assessment modules. Ms. York reported that the Board has statutory authority to require continuing education for SLPA’s and AA’s, which would require a change to the regulations. The Board agreed that there should be review of other state requirements to guide the Board in future discussions. Read and filed.

## **Board Discussion**

- amendments to 260 CMR 1.01 *standards, complaint and grievance procedures*

The Board reviewed 260 CMR 1.00 to adopt language defining a Speech-Language Provisional Licensee and other typographical changes as presented by Ms. York. After

review of the draft regulations, the Board requested that the words “duly licensed” be added to the definition of a speech-language pathologist provisional licensee. Ms. York noted that the Board could vote on the proposed amendments today and make further changes during the public hearing process.

**After discussion, Dr. Laffan moved to approve the draft amendments to 260 CMR 1.00 on the condition of final review by Board chair. Ms. Young-Hong seconded. The motion passed on a roll call vote: Dr. Laffan – “Yes”; Ms. Young-Hong – “Yes”; Dr. Bresnahan – “Yes”; Dr. Simone – “Not Present”; Ms. Noonan – “Yes.”**

- Policy on Summary Suspensions Conducted by Boards of Registration Formerly Under the Supervision of the Division of Occupational Licensure – VOTE

Ms. York presented a proposed policy for implementing and executing summary suspensions with the goal of protecting public health and safety. In the case of documented evidence that a licensee’s practice poses an immediate risk to public health, safety and welfare, the policy grants the Executive Director authority to contact the Board chair who may approve the issuance of an immediate suspension of a licensee’s practice when there is not a board meeting scheduled within forty-eight hours. The policy also provides the licensee with a right to a hearing within seven days, or soon thereafter, of the issuance of the summary suspension and sets forth the procedures to be followed after the hearing.

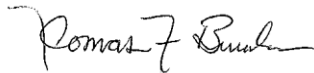
**Ms. Noonan moved to approve the policy. Ms. Young-Hong seconded. The motion passed on a roll call vote: Dr. Laffan – “Yes”; Ms. Young-Hong – “Yes”; Dr. Bresnahan – “Yes”; Dr. Simone – “Not Present”; Ms. Noonan – “Yes.”**

**Open session for topics not reasonably anticipated 48 hours in advance of meeting: None**

**Settlement Offers, Cases – Investigative Conference [Closed session pursuant to G.L. c. 112, §65C]:**

**At 10:58 a.m., Dr. Laffan moved to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Young-Hong seconded the motion. The motion passed on a roll call vote: Dr. Laffan – “Yes”; Ms. Young-Hong – “Yes”; Dr. Bresnahan – “Yes”; Dr. Simone – “Not Present”; Ms. Noonan – “Yes.”**

Respectfully Submitted,



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Thomas F. Burke  
Executive Director

Documents used in the open meeting:

- Agenda for 10/2/23 board meeting
- Public session minutes of 8/28/2023 board meeting
- Correspondence

- Prosecutorial Discretion & Alford Plea policies
- 260 CMR 1.00, *Standards, Complaints and Grievance Procedures*