

Board of Registration for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology
Meeting Held by Video Conference and Phone
DATE: April 1, 2024 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
Gabrielle Simone
Donna Noonan

Staff Present by video or phone:

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

Board Members Not Present:

Housekeeping

- Board chair called meeting to order at 9:33 am.
- Roll Call Vote for Attendance
Board chair, Nicole Laffan, established a quorum via calling attendance: Nicole Laffan, Kristin Bresnahan, Sarah Young-Hong, and Gabrielle Simone. 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. Those in attendance may utilize the hand function to address the Board.

Board Business

- **Approve Public Session Minutes**
 - Minutes of 2/5/24 meeting
The Board reviewed the draft of the public session minutes of the February 5, 2024 Board meeting. **Following discussion, Dr. Laffan moved to accept the minutes for the February 5, 2024 meeting. Ms. Young-Hong seconded. The motion passed on a roll call vote: Dr. Laffan – “Yes”; Ms. Young-Hong – “Yes”; Dr. Bresnahan – “Yes”; Dr. Simone – “Yes”; Ms. Noonan – “Not Present.”**
- **Report from Executive Director, Thomas Burke**
No report.
- **Report from Board Counsel**
Board Counsel updated the board on the status of the proposed amendments to regulations for speech-language pathologist provisional licenses. She noted that her legal review is complete. After the public hearing, the Board will review any comments received and determine if revisions should be made and vote on the wording of the final amended regulation. If there are no revisions, the Board will submit the final regulation to the Secretary of the Commonwealth’s office for promulgation and the regulations will become effective once published in the State Register by the Secretary’s office. The

Board agreed to consider tentative dates in May for a public hearing. Counsel or the executive director will notify the Board in writing if a date is chosen.

Ms. Bresnahan left the meeting at 9:44 a.m.

Board Discussion

- **Update on electronic application for the speech-language pathologist provisional license**

The executive director notified the Board that internal software for provisional licensure application is in development. He will authorize a test environment with software developers to ensure the application process is complete. The Board clarified for Mr. Burke that NPI numbers for licensees do not change based on license status. Provisionally licensed SLPs will maintain their NPI number following the clinical fellowship experience. The Board agreed that individuals who complete the clinical fellowship on a part-time basis should follow the standards set forth by the American Speech-Language and Hearing Association (ASHA).

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 9:49 a.m. Dr. Laffan made a motion, seconded by Ms. Young-hong to adjourn the public meeting and enter into closed session to conduct investigatory conferences pursuant to G.L. c. 112, §65C, and at the conclusion of the closed session, not return to the public meeting. The motion passed on a roll call vote: Dr. Laffan – “Yes”; Ms. Young-Hong – “Yes”; Dr. Bresnahan – “Not Present”; Dr. Simone – “Yes”; Ms. Noonan – “Not Present.”

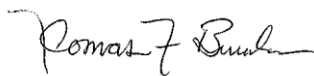
During the closed session, the Board took the following action:

- CASE-2023-0478/ INV8242 – Dismissed with advisory letter.

Ms. Noonan joined the meeting at 10:02 a.m.

At 10:07 a.m., Dr. Laffan moved to adjourn the meeting. Dr. Simone seconded the motion. The motion passed on a roll call vote: Dr. Laffan – “Yes”; Ms. Young-Hong – “Yes”; Dr. Bresnahan – “Not Present”; Dr. Simone – “Yes”; Ms. Noonan – “Yes.”

Respectfully Submitted,



Thomas F. Burke
Executive Director

Documents used in the open meeting:

- Agenda for April 1, 2024 board meeting
- Public session minutes for 02/05/24 board meeting