

Board of Registration for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology
Meeting Held by Video Conference and Phone
DATE: April 6, 2026 TIME: 9:30 a.m.

General Session Minutes

A public meeting of the Massachusetts Board of Registration of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology (“the Board”) was held via WebEx.

Board Members Present by video or phone:

Nicole Laffan, Board Chair
Gabrielle Simone
Sarah Young-Hong

Staff Present by video or phone:

Samuel Leadholm, Board Counsel
Thomas F. Burke, Executive Director
Margaret McKenna, Board Staff
Monique Brown, Board Staff

Board Members Not Present by video or phone:

Administrative Tasks

- Board chair Nicole Laffan called the meeting to order at 9:44 a.m.
- Roll Call vote for attendance

Dr. Laffan established a quorum via calling attendance: Dr. Simone, Ms. Young-Hong.
All members present participated remotely via Cisco Webex.

Board Business

- Review general session agenda: April 6, 2026 – VOTE

Dr. Laffan moved to accept the general session agenda as written. Ms. Young-Hong seconded. The motion passed on a roll call vote: Dr. Laffan – “Yes”; Ms. Young-Hong – “Yes”; Dr. Simone – “Yes”.

- Review general session minutes: February 2, 2026 – VOTE

Dr. Laffan moved to accept the February 2, 2026 general session minutes as written. Ms. Young-Hong seconded. The motion passed on a roll call vote: Dr. Laffan – “Yes”; Ms. Young-Hong – “Yes”; Dr. Simone – “Yes”.

- Department of Public Health recognition

The Board welcomed the former board member Kristin Bresnahan to the general session meeting. Dr. Laffan then read the citation bestowed on Dr. Bresnahan for her six years of service to the Board and the residents of the Commonwealth. Dr. Bresnahan expressed gratitude for the recognition and thanked board members and staff for their work and support during her tenure on the board. Dr. Laffan and board members thanked Dr. Bresnahan for her dedication and commitment to protecting public health and safety.

- Board Election

- Board Secretary

Nicole Laffan moved to nominate and elect Sarah Young-Hong as board secretary. Dr. Simone seconded. The motion passed on a roll call vote: Dr. Laffan – “Yes”; Ms. Young-Hong – “Yes”; Dr. Simone – “Yes”.

Discussion

- Individuals who begin clinical fellowship prior to submitting their applications

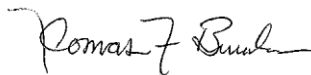
The Board discussed whether individuals who apply for provisional licensure after their Clinical Fellowship experience start should be credited for clinical training gained outside of licensed practice. The Board generally agreed that there should be a grace period and advised board staff to contact the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) and the Massachusetts Speech-Language Hearing Association (MSHA) for guidance and report back to the Board at a subsequent meeting.

Adjournment

At 10:43 a.m., Dr. Laffan moved to enter Executive Session pursuant to G.L. c. 30A, s. 21(a)(1) to discuss the character rather than professional competence of an applicant and G.L. c. 30A, s. 21(a)(7) to maintain confidentiality of highly personal data to comply with G.L. c. 4, s. 7 para. 26(c) and G.L. c. 214, s. 1B and to adjourn the meeting following closed session and not return to general session.

Ms. Young-Hong seconded. The motion passed on a roll call vote: Dr. Laffan – “Yes”; Ms. Young-Hong – “Yes”; Dr. Simone – “Yes”.

Respectfully Submitted,



Thomas F. Burke
Executive Director

Documents used in the general session meeting:

- General session agenda for April 6, 2026
- General session minutes for February 2, 2026
- Citation granted by Commissioner Robert Goldstein to former board member Kristin Bresnahan, Au.D. in recognition of her tenure on the Board of Registration of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology.