

Board of Registration of Dispensing Opticians  
1000 Washington St. Room 1C  
Date: June 6, 2018 Time: 10:00 a.m.

Public Meeting Minutes

**Board Members Present:**

William Carleton  
Gary Peters  
Lawrence Clayman  
Marty Bregman

**Staff Present:**

Michael Hawley, Exec. Director  
Thomas Burke, Associate Exec. Director  
James O'Connor, Board Counsel

**Members of the Public Present:**

Daiane Amaral  
Adam Estapa  
Lauriane Biggs  
Alex Russakovsky

Dorina Armata  
Olivia Bartlett  
James Russo  
Lorraine O'Connor

**10:03AM: Meeting called To Order:**

- Meeting was called to order at 10:03 a.m. by Mr. Carleton.
- Mr. Carleton reviewed exit procedures in the case of an emergency.

**Review Meeting Minutes:**

- Minutes of May 2 2018 Meeting: **Mr. Clayman moved to accept the minutes as amended. Mr. Peters seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**

**Board Business:**

- Report from Executive Director, Michael Hawley
  - Mr. Hawley reported that licensing is proceeding with few problems. Nothing else to report
- Practical Exam Results
  - Mr. Hawley indicated that, for the next meeting staff will be prepared to report the breakdown of practical exam results for first time test takers versus repeat exam takers.
- Report from Board Counsel, James O'Connor
  - Nothing to report

**Apprentice Extension Request:**

- **Dorina Armata** – Ms. Armata appeared before the board to request an extension of her apprenticeship. Ms. Armata has not passed the ABO and still has not taken the NCLE. Ms. Armata cited family obligations as the source of her inability to complete the two exams.

**Mr. Clayman moved to extend Ms. Armata’s apprenticeship for one year with the requirement that she obtain a new sponsor and take each examination every time it is available to her. Mr. Bregman seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**

- **Laurianne Biggs** – Ms. Biggs appeared before the board to request an extension of her apprenticeship. Ms. Biggs has passed the ABO but still has not passed the NCLE. She provided to the Board evidence that she took the NCLE twice before. Ms. Biggs cited medical reasons for her lack of success in passing the NCLE. Her Sponsor, Alex Russakovsky also indicated that he felt the NCLE exam was unfair due to “ambiguous” questions. **Mr. Clayman moved to extend Ms. Biggs’ apprenticeship for one year with the requirement that she take the NCLE every time it is available to her. Mr. Peters seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**
- **Neila Saoudi** – Ms. Saoudi did not appear. Her petition was not discussed.
- **Daiane Amaral** – Ms. Amaral appeared before the board to request an extension of her apprenticeship. Ms. Amaral has passed the ABO but still has not passed the NCLE. She provided to the Board evidence that she took the NCLE twice before. Ms. Amaral cited family responsibilities as reasons for her lack of success in passing the NCLE. **Mr. Clayman moved to extend Ms. Biggs’ apprenticeship for one year with the requirement that she take the NCLE every time it is available to her. Mr. Peters seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**

#### **Discussion:**

#### **Open session for topics not reasonably anticipated 48 hours in advance of the meeting:**

Adam Estapa appeared before the board to request that the Board allow him to take a computerized examination instead of the Massachusetts practical exam as he has visual difficulties that make it difficult for him to pass the practical and those difficulties would be relieved by a computerized exam. Board counsel and the executive director explained that the practical exam is required by the Board’s regulation and the board does not have the discretion to substitute a different exam. However, Mr. Estapa may request reasonable accommodations to improve his chances of success on the exam and he was advised by Board staff to request specific accommodations and board staff will respond to any inquiries from the exam vendor.

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

**At 11:13 a.m., Mr. Clayman moved to enter into Investigative Session to discuss pending cases [Closed Session pursuant to M.G.L. c. 112 §65C], seconded by Mr. Peters. Motion passed unanimously.**

**Mr. Carleton recused from the discussion of DO 2017-001239-it-enf and left the meeting**

At the end of the investigative session, the open meeting resumed.

During the investigative conference the board voted to take the following actions:

- 2017-001239-IT-ENF – Dismissed

**11:53 p.m. Adjournment:**

Mr. Peters moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Bregman seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Hawley". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

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Michael Hawley  
Executive Director

**Documents used in the open meeting:**

- Agenda for DO Board Meeting of June 6, 2018
- Minutes from the May 2, 2018 Board meeting
- Apprenticeship extension request of Dorina Armata
- Apprenticeship extension request of Lauriane Biggs
- Apprenticeship extension request of Neia Saudi
- Apprenticeship extension request of Daiane Amaral