

Board of Registration of Dispensing Opticians
1000 Washington St. Room 1C
Date: June 5, 2019 Time: 10:00 a.m.

Public Meeting Minutes

Board Members Present:

Gary Peters
David Fogg
Deanna Kurlowecz
Marty Bregman

Staff Present:

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

Members of the Public Present:

Yasmine Owen
Heather Platt
Blair Wong
Sammy Nabulsi
Cathy Ross
Allen Ponichtera
Adam Williams
James Russo
James Morris

10:03AM: Meeting called To Order:

- Meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m. by Mr. Peters.
- Mr. Burke reviewed exit procedures in the case of an emergency.

Review Meeting Minutes:

- Minutes of May 1, 2019 Meeting: **Mr. Fogg moved to accept the public minutes. Ms. Kurlowecz seconded. The motion passed with a majority of the Board present. Mr. Bregman abstained.**

Board Business:

- Report from Executive Director, Michael Hawley
 - Mr. Hawley notified the Board of the arrival of the new Commissioner, Diane Symonds; the new Chief Operating Officer, Sean Powers; and new Deputy Commissioner of Boards who all recently joined the Division of Professional Licensure. Mr. Hawley acknowledged that Mr. Jim Morris from ABO will meet with the Board following the closed session. After a brief discussion, the Board instructed Board staff to direct apprentices who receive extensions to submit proof to the Board that they have registered and taken the exam. Board staff will notify the Division of Apprentice Standards if an apprentice fails to register and take the exam.

Discussion:

- DO Consumer Fact Sheet – The Board continued discussion of revisions to the fact sheet for consumers and the general public. The Board agreed to review at future meetings.
- Two individuals inquired whether the Board would consider schooling education as part of their professional training. The Board responded that educational programs are acceptable as long as they are COA accredited. The Board does not routinely accept degrees from non-COA schools, however it is the Board’s understanding that there are COA schools that provide online training, and the Board suggested that they learn more about these programs.
- The Board noted that the Opticians Associates of Massachusetts summer meeting will occur on July 21, 2019.
- Professor Blair Wong announced to the Board that the Benjamin Franklin Institute will be moving from its present location and a new facility is scheduled to open in 2021.

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

At 10:51 a.m. Mr. Fogg moved to enter into Investigative Session to discuss pending cases [Closed Session pursuant to M.G.L. c. 112 §65C]. The motion was seconded by Ms. Kurlowecz. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Bregman arrived for the Board meeting at 10:30 a.m.

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

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

- DO-2018-000268-IT-ENF – Dismissed with Advisory.
- DO-2019-000368-IT-ENF – Tabled.
- DO-2019-000369-IT-ENF – Tabled.

At 12:14 p.m. Mr. Fogg moved to exit closed session. The motion was seconded by Mr. Peters. The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion (continued):

- Mr. Jim Morris, visiting from the ABO, notified the Board that the Massachusetts Practical exam is currently scheduled to be held on September 13 and 14 of this calendar year. He noted that ABO has developed an online practical exam that has been adopted by many states. He reported that ABO hopes to transition to a virtual practical exam for all states in the near future.

Adjournment:

At 12: 55 p.m. Mr. Fogg moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Bregman seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,



Thomas F. Burke
Associate Executive Director

Documents used in the open meeting:

- Agenda for DO Board Meeting of June 5, 2019
- Dispensing Optician Consumer Fact Sheet
- Minutes from previous meeting(s) where applicable