

**South Carolina Board of Examiners in Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology
Board Meeting Thursday, January 16, 2025 10:00 A.M.
110 Centerview Drive, Pee Dee Room, Columbia, SC 29210**

Board Members Present

Gwendolyn Wilson, Ed.D. CCC-A, Chairperson
Beth F. Montgomery, CCC-SLP, Vice Chair
Jason Wigand, Au.D., CCC-A
Sarah Davis Emory, CCC-SLP

Board Members Not Present

Elizabeth Bunge, Public Member

Staff Present

Mack Williams, Board Executive
Tara Nixon, Advice Counsel
Jonathan Owens, Program Coordinator
LeAnna McMenamin, Esq, Office of Disciplinary Counsel
April Howe, Office of Investigation & Enforcement

Public notice of this meeting was properly posted at 110 Centerview Drive Columbia, SC 29210 Board of Examiners in Speech Language Pathology and Audiology office, lobby of the Kingstree Building and provided to all requesting persons, organizations and news media in compliance with Section 30-4-80 of the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act. A quorum was present at all times.

Call to Order

Dr. Wilson, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m.

Approval of Agenda

The agenda was presented for review and approval.

Motion: In open session, Ms. Emory made a motion to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded and approved by Ms. Montgomery.

Approval or Disapproval of Absent Members

Motion: In open session, Ms. Emory made a motion to approve Ms. Bunge's absence. The motion was seconded and approved by Ms. Montgomery.

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Meeting Minutes

Motion: In open session, Ms. Emory made a motion to approve the October 24, 2024 meeting minutes. The motion was seconded and approved by Ms. Montgomery.

Administrative Reports

Office of Investigations Report: Ms. Howe, Office of Investigations & Enforcement presented the OIE statistical report and training report. The Board accepted the reports as information.

Ms. Howe presented the IRC report to the Board. Ms. Howe presented Case #'s 2023-12, 2024-2, 2024-5, and 2024-6, to the Board with a recommendation for dismissal.

Motion: In open session, Ms. Emory made a motion to accept the IRC recommendation of approval for Case # 2023-12, 2024-2, 2024-5, and 2024-6. The motion was seconded and approved by Dr. Wigand.

Office of Disciplinary Counsel (ODC) Report: Ms. McMenamin presented the ODC report. The Board accepted the report as information.

Finance Report: Mr. Williams, Board Executive, presented the finance report to the Board. The Board accepted the report as information.

Ethics Commission: Mr. Williams, Board Executive, reminded the Board to file with the State Ethics Commission prior to the deadline.

Legislative Update: Ms. Nixon updated the Board on HB 3021. The goal is to reduce regulatory requirements by twenty-five percent.

Application Hearings:

Olivia Medders-SPA: Ms. Medders made a personal appearance before the Board and was not represented by counsel. The purpose of this hearing was to determine whether Ms. Medders should be granted a license as a speech language pathology assistant. The issue was that she does not have a bachelor's degree in Speech Language Pathology from a regionally accredited institution.

Motion: In open session, Dr. Wigand made a motion to go into executive session. The motion was seconded and approved by Ms. Emory.

(10:25 am – 11:01 am) – No votes were taken during executive session.

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Motion: In open session, Ms. Emory made a motion to come out of executive session. The motion was seconded and approved by Ms. Montgomery.

Motion: In open session, Ms. Montgomery made a motion to grant the speech-language pathology assistant license based on Ms. Medders's education is equivalent to a bachelor's degree in speech-language pathology from a regionally accredited program. The motion was seconded by Dr. Wigand.

Kathryn Kang-SLP: Ms. Kang made a personal appearance before the Board and was not represented by counsel. The purpose of this hearing was to determine whether Ms. Kang should be granted a license as a speech language pathologist. This issue was Ms. Kang does not have a current license and has been out of practice since 1994.

Motion: In open session, Ms. Montgomery made a motion to go into executive session. The motion was seconded and approved by Dr. Wigand.

(11:13 am – 11:22 am) – No votes were taken during executive session.

Motion: In open session, Ms. Montgomery made a motion to come out of executive session. The motion was seconded and approved by Dr. Wigand.

Motion: In open session, Ms. Montgomery made a motion to grant Ms. Kang a license as a speech-language pathologist. The motion was seconded by Dr. Wigand.

Marisa Biro-SPIN: Ms. Biro made a personal appearance before the Board and was not represented by counsel. The purpose of this hearing was to determine whether Ms. Biro should be granted a license as a speech language pathologist intern. The Board closed the hearing to protect personal health information.

Motion: In closed session, Ms. Montgomery made a motion to grant the license to practice as a speech language pathologist intern. The motion was seconded by Ms. Emory.

CE Requests for Approval/Disapproval:

Motion: In open session, Ms. Emory made a motion to approve courses “b”, “c”, “d”, “i”, “q”, “r”, and “u”. The motion was seconded by Ms. Montgomery. The remaining courses were not approved due to not being in scope of practice.

2025 NCSB (BOD)-Request Travel Approval:

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Motion: In open session, Ms. Emory made a motion to approve Ms. Montgomery and Dr. Wigand to attend the 2025 NCSB BOD winter meeting and that travel expenses will be financed by the Board. The motion was seconded by Ms. Montgomery.

Approval of IRC Members:

Motion: In open session, Ms. Dr. Wigand made a motion to go into executive session to get legal advice on the IRC report. The motion was seconded and approved by Ms. Montgomery.

(12:01 pm – 12:30 pm) – No votes were taken during executive session.

Motion: In open session, Dr. Wigand made a motion to come out of executive session. The motion was seconded and approved by Ms. Montgomery.

Motion: In open session, Ms. Montgomery made a motion to increase the number of IRC members from three (3) to five (5) and also contact the existing members and new members if they would still like to serve. The motion was seconded and approved by Ms. Montgomery.

Motion: In open session, Ms. Emory made a motion to amend the previously approved IRC report. The motion was seconded and approved by Ms. Emory.

Ms. Howe discussed the IRC process with the Board. Ms. McMenamin discussed the ODC process with the Board.

2025-2027 Renewal Update: Mr. Williams stated that the license renewal period will start soon and will be available through March 31, 2025. The month of April is the late renewal period.

CE Broker:

Mr. Williams stated that all licensees are required to report their continuing education hours to CE Broker.

Legal Update: Ms. Nixon provided the Board with the new FDA hearing aid final rule and the SC Hearing Aid Act. Ms. Nixon updated the Board on the SCDE proposed regulation Document 5318 and she will provide the link to review.

2025 Election of Board Officers:

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Motion: In open session, Ms. Emory made a motion to nominate Dr. Wilson as Chair and Ms. Montgomery as Vice Chair. The motion was seconded and approved by Dr. Wigand.

ASLP Compact (Update):

Mr. Williams indicated that the ASLP Compact is still waiting for the database system. Also, we are still working on the process to receive permission to do the criminal background checks for the licensees. Dr. Wilson stated that the ASLP Compact anticipate accepting applications starting June 2025.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: In open session, Ms. Montgomery motioned to adjourn. The motion was seconded and approved by Ms. Emory. (The meeting adjourned at 1:02 pm)