

MINUTES
South Carolina Board of Dentistry
Board Meeting
9:00 a.m., October 24, 2024

Public notice of this meeting was properly posted at the S.C. Board of Dentistry office, Synergy Business Park, Kingstree Building, and on the board website 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.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

William D. Stewart, DMD, President
Thomas A. McDonald, DMD, MD, Vice-President
Sherie W. Barbare, RDH, Secretary
Murtuza A. Ansari, D.M.D.
Carolyn L. Brown, D.M.D
J. Brent Copeland, D.M.D,
Julia K., Mikell, D.D.S.
K. Britt Reagin, D.M.D.

SCLLR STAFF PRESENT:

Bob Horner, Esq., Office of Advice Counsel
Prentis Shealy, Esq., Office of Disciplinary Counsel
Casey Smith, Esq., Office of Disciplinary Counsel
Maggie Murdock, Program Director
Amy Holleman, Board Executive
Norma McAllister, Program Coordinator
Ashley Bailey, Lead Investigator, Office of Investigations and Enforcement
Lolei Bristow, Investigator, Office of Investigations and Enforcement
Jennifer A. Hollis, Investigator, Office of Investigations and Enforcement
Pete Siepert, Investigator, Office of Investigations and Enforcement
Josh Shannon, IT Services Specialist

PRESENT:

Amy E. Natoli
Dr. Mark Edwards, CRDTS Director of Dental Examinations
Richael “Sheli” Cobler, CRDTS Exective Director
Dr. Paul R. Bigus
Irene L. Thomas
Dr. Raymond E. Louque, Jr.
Dr. James G. Trantham IV,
Dr. Eric John Swensen
Kimberly Cobb
Tina Behles, Court Reporter, Capital City Reporting, Inc.
Dr. Charles Bumgardner

CALL TO ORDER: Dr. Stewart, President called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Dr. Stewart called for a motion to approve the agenda.

Motion: To approve the agenda
Ansari/Marchi/Approved

PRESIDENT’S REMARKS

Dr. Stewart stated the Board’s mission is to promote the health, safety, and economic well-being of the public through regulation, and licensing of dentist, dentist hygienist, and dental technicians. The Board also investigates complaints; conducts application and disciplinary hearings in accordance with statute and regulations of the South Carolina State Board of Dentistry.

The Board currently has one vacant seat, for a public member and one at-large dentist expired seat. Interested individuals may submit a cover letter and résumé to the South Carolina Office of Boards and Commissions according to the SC Code of law 40-15-20(A). The terms of members are for six years or until their successor are appointed and qualified.

INTRODUCTION OF BOARD MEMBERS

Members of the Board introduced themselves.

APPROVAL OF EXCUSED ABSENCES

Dr. Stewart acknowledged Dr. Harold Nelson Eddy’s absence and asked that those in favor of his excused absence state “yes”. All present board members stated “yes” for approval of Dr. Eddy’s excused absent.

APPROVAL OF BOARD MEETING MINUTES

The Board reviewed the minutes.

Motion: To approve the minutes for June 7, 2024
Reagin/Copeland/Approved

PUBIC COMMENTS

Dr. Charles Bumgardner thanked Dr. Stewart for his service to the South Carolina State Board of Dentistry and commended him on a job well done presiding as the current President.

STAFF REPORTS

- a. Office of Investigations and Enforcement Statistical Report - Ashley Bailey
Ms. Bailey reported for the period of June 7, 2024 to October 3, 2024 that the agency received seventy-nine (79) complaints; has eighty-three (83) active investigations, and closed twenty-three (23) cases.

Dr. Stewart called for a motion to move into a closed session.

Motion: To move into closed session
Copeland/Brown/Approved

- b. Investigative Review Committee Report – Ashley Bailey, Esquire
Ms. Bailey reported that the IRC Committee recommended thirty-one (31) cases for dismissal, three (3) letters of caution and to issue three (3) formal complaints.

Motion: To accept the 31 cases for dismissals with stated corrections.
Brown/Ansari/Approved

Motion: To issue three (3) Letters of Caution
Brown/Reagin/Approved

Motion: To issue three (3) Formal Complaints
Ansari/Copeland/Approved

Dr. Stewart called for a motion to return to open session.

Motion: To return to open session
Marchi/McDonald/Approved

The Board recessed for five minutes.

- c. Office of Disciplinary Counsel (ODC) Report – Casey Smith, Esquire
Ms. Smith reported there are currently twenty-nine (29) open cases. Of the open cases, eleven (11) pending hearings and agreements; one (1) closed since June 3, 2024; and four (4) closed since January 1, 2024.
- d. Board Executive Report – Amy Holleman
Ms. Holleman provided an update regarding active South Carolina licenses: 4046 dentists, of which 838 hold specialty licenses as well, and 4680 dental hygienists, of which 2504 also hold an infiltration anesthesia certificate. Ms. Holleman informed the Board that the Board of Dentistry’s licensees are currently in renewal.

Ms. Holleman provided a staffing update.

The Board asked Ms. Holleman to provide a report regarding the continuing education audits at the next scheduled Board meeting, and they asked that a CE Broker representative attend the next Board meeting to clarify their functions

OLD BUSINESS

Taskforce to Study Dental Hygiene Workforce Issues

Ms. Barbare read the conclusion statement of the report. The Board made comments regarding the report and inquired about the distribution of the report, Mr. Horner stated that he will consult with LLR’s communication division regarding sharing the report with the Governor’s office. Dr. Stewart asked that Ms. Barbare and Ms. Marchi, with the Board Executive’s assistance, create an elbast to all South Carolina licensed dental hygienist with the report.

Proposed Revision to Temporary License for Live Patient CE

Mr. Horner, proposed that the Board update its Temporary License for Live Patient CE to include that the hosting entity and instructors be in good standing without a formal complaint.

Motion: To amend the Temporary License for Live Patient CE to include that the hosting entity and instructors be in good standing without a formal complaint and for the updated language to be included in the proposed regulations.
McDonald/Mikell/Approved

CDCA-WREB-CITA Steering Committee Member Appointment

Dr. Brown agreed to serve as a member of the CDCA-WREB-CITA steering committee.

Motion: To appoint Dr. Carolyn Brown serve as a member of the CDCA-WREB-CITA steering committee.

Annual Meeting Reports

SRTA – Southern Regional Testing Agency, Inc.

Dr. Ansari reported that SRTA and CRDTS have decided to merge as one entity.

CRDTS – Central Regional Dental Testing Service

Dr. Copeland stated that the merger of the entities was discussed.

AADB – American Association of Dental Boards

Dr. Brown provided a written report to the Board and stated that the meeting was productive and informative. She encourages all board members to attend in the future. Dr. Mikell concurred that the meeting was productive and informative.

AADA – American Association of Dental Administrators

Ms. Maggie Murdock present the report to the Board.

CDCA-WREB-CITA – Commission on Dental Competency Assessments – Western Regional Examining Board – Council of Interstate Testing Agencies

Mr. Murdough and Dr. Brown gave statements. Dr. Brown stated that she attended a focus group meeting on behalf of the President, which shared a main concern about the workforce shortage.

NEW BUSINESS

CRDTS Dental Exam Update

Dr. Mark Edwards and Ms. Michael Cobler presented about the SRTA-CRDTS’ merger with the anticipated effective date, January 1, 2025.

Nitrous Oxide Policy

Ms. Holleman asked that the Board consider updating its policy/procedure for Nitrous Oxide monitoring to state “You must have successfully completed a course in nitrous oxide monitoring within three years preceding the application or be certified in another state to perform nitrous oxide monitoring with no lapse in active practice for more than three (3) years”.

Motion: Accept the amendment to the Nitrous Oxide Policy as presented
McDonald/Brown/Approved

Legislative Contact

Dr. Mikell agreed to continue service as the Board’s legislative contact.

Motion: Moved that Dr. Julia Mikell continues to serve as the legislative contact.
McDonald/Copeland/Approved

Delegation – NPDB Report Reviews

Dr Brown moved that the current policy remains enforced that the past president would review the NPDB report, even if the past president is not a current board member.

Motion: The past board president, even if not a current Board member would review the NPDB reports.
Brown/Copeland/Approved

The Board recessed for ten (10) minutes

American Association of Dental Boards Compact Presentation

Ms. Kimber Cobb, Interim Executive Director of AADB presented the Interstate Dental and Dental Hygiene licensure (IDDLIC) compact to the Board.

Travel Request – 68th Annual Southern Conference of Dental Deans & Examiners – January 24-26, Gainesville, FL

Motion: To approve all Board members, the Board Executive and a member of legal counsel
Ansari/McDonald/Approved

Travel Request – AADB (American Association of Dental Boards) 2025 Mid-Year Meeting, Rosemont, IL

Motion: To approve all Board members, the Board Executive and a member of legal counsel
Reagin/McDonald/Approved

Expert Reviewers

Motion: To approve Dr. Riddhi Patel and Dr. Daniel C. Leach as Oral Maxillofacial expert reviewers
McDonald/Brown/Approved

APPLICATION HEARINGS

These proceedings were recorded by a certified court reporter in order to produce a verbatim transcript should one be necessary.

a. Dentist

Paul R. Bigus, DDS

Dr. Bigus, sworn in by the court reporter, appeared before the Board for an application hearing without legal counsel representation. Dr. Bigus addressed, and answered questions from the Board.

Raymond E. Louque, Jr., DDS

Dr. Louque, sworn in by the court reporter, appeared before the Board for an application hearing without legal counsel representation. Dr. Louque addressed, and answered questions from the Board.

James G. Trantham IV, DMD, PA

Dr. Trantham, sworn in by the court reporter, appeared before the Board for an application hearing without legal counsel representation. Dr. Trantham addressed, and answered questions from the Board.

Eric John Swensen, DDS

Dr. Swensen, sworn in by the court reporter, appeared before the Board for an application hearing without legal counsel representation. Dr. Swensen addressed, and answered questions from the Board.

Dr. Stewart called for a motion to move into a closed session.

Motion: To move into closed session
Brown/Copeland/Approved

DISCIPLINARY HEARINGS

Memorandum of Agreements (MOA)

Case No.: 2023-102

Casey Smith, Disciplinary Counsel, representing the State, presented the Memorandum of Agreement. The Respondent appeared before the Board without legal representation.

The Respondent addressed the Board and answered questions regarding this matter and gave a closing statement. The State did not give a closing statement.

Executive Session:

Motion: To receive legal advice for this matter during the Executive Session
Ansari/Brown/Approved

Return to Public Session

Motion: To come out of Executive Session
Ansari/Reagin/Approved

Dr. Stewart, President, noted for the record, there were no votes taken during Executive Session and called for a disposition in this matter.

Dr. Stewart called for a motion to return to open session.

Motion: To return to open session
McDonald/Ansari/Approved

Dr. Carolyn Brown left the meeting

Paul R. Bigus, DDS

Motion: To approve application
McDonald/Reagin/Approved

Raymond E. Louque, Jr., DDS

Motion: To approve application
Ansari/Copeland/Approved

James G. Trantham IV, DMD, PA

Motion: To approve licensure by credential
Reagin/Ansari/Approved

Eric John Swensen, DDS

Motion: To approve application with the stipulation that the applicant complete a two (2) hour course in ethics as a part of his first continuing education cycle.
Copeland/McDonald/Approved

Case No.: 2023-102

Motion: To accept MOA and issue a non-disciplinary Letter of Caution
Barbare/Marchi/Approved

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Dr. Stewart called for nominations for Board officers.

Dr. Ansari nominated Dr. Thomas A. McDonald for President – nomination closed with a motion on said name

Motion: Ansari/Copeland/approved

Dr. Copeland nominated Dr. K. Britt Reagin for Vice-President – nomination closed with a motion on said name

Motion: Copeland/Mikell/approved

Dr. Ansari nominated Sherie W. Barbare for Secretary – nomination closed with a motion on said name

Motion: Ansari/McDonald/approved

ADJOURNMENT

Dr. Stewart, after ensuring there being no further business to discuss, adjourned the October 25, 2024 meeting for the South Carolina Board of Dentistry at 1:12 p.m.

NEXT MEETING

The next scheduled Board meeting for the South Carolina Board of Dentistry is January 31, 2025.