

**South Carolina Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation
Board of Examiners in Opticianry
Board Meeting Minutes
May 27, 2021 at 9:00 am**

Public notice of this meeting was properly posted at the S.C. Board of Examiners in Opticianry 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. In accordance with the Governor's directives regarding social distancing, the meeting will be held via live stream. Members of the public may contact the Board office at contact.optometry@llr.sc.gov for live stream access information.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Keith Hayes, Chairman
Grant Brown, Vice Chairman
Daniel B. Gosnell
Emily Mikell
James Rhodes

SCLLR STAFF PRESENT:

Mary League, Esq., Office of Advice Counsel
Meredith Buttler, Administrator
Shelby Sutusky, Esq., Office of Disciplinary Counsel

PRESENT:

Tina Behles, Court Reporter
Leslie Hilton
Victoria Burnett
Mignon Borchert

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Hayes called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion: To approve the agenda.
Brown/Mikell/approved.

APPROVAL OF ABSENT BOARD MEMBER

Motion: To approve Mr. Inabinetts absence.
Gosnell/Rhodes/approved.

APPROVAL OF BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Motion: To approve February 4, 2021 Board Meeting minutes.
Gosnell/Rhodes/approved.

CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

Mr. Hayes thanked Mr. Gosnell for his years of service to the Board and community.

STAFF REPORTS

Administrator Report

Ms. Buttler reported to date the Board has 484 active opticians in-state and 102 active opticians out-state, 249 active contact lens dispensing opticians in-state and 48 active contact lens dispensing opticians out-state, and 125 active registered apprentices.

The Board's current balance as of April 30, 2021 is -\$267,787.59.

Ms. Buttler reported Board renewals are slated to open July 1, 2021. A verification of email is being sent out shortly. For those who validate their emails, an electronic renewal notice will be sent. For all who do not respond, a paper renewal notice will be sent to the reported mailing address.

On March 23, 2021, ABO/NCLE announced discounted exam prices in response to the national health crisis. The new rates went into effect April 1, 2021.

OIE Report

On behalf of Mr. Sander, Ms. Buttler reported for the period from January 1, 2021 to March 31, 2021, three complaints were received, two cases opened, zero cases closed, and two active investigations.

IRC Report

On behalf of Mr. Sanders, Ms. Buttler reported the IRC Committee did not meet as there were no cases for review.

ODC Report

Ms. Sutusky introduced herself to the Board and reported that there are no cases pending at this time. Ms. Sutusky will be taking over the Board from Ms. Brown.

APPLICATION HEARING

a) Victoria Burnett

Ms. Burnett appeared before the Board for a reinstatement application hearing. She was not represented by counsel and was sworn in by the court reporter. Applications hearing are recorded by a certified court reporter in the event a verbatim transcript is necessary.

MOTION: To move into executive session for legal advice.
Gosnell/Rhodes/approved.

MOTION: To return to public session.
Brown/Gosnell/approved.

Mr. Hayes noted for the record that no votes or actions were taken while in executive session.

MOTION: To approve reinstatement of Ms. Burnett's apprenticeship program, approving the hours retrospective through 2018 and 2019. Ms. Burnett will need an additional five months to complete the two year requirement and is approved for an extension request without coming back before the Board if it is filed with the Board.
Brown/Gosnell/approved.

b) Leslie Hilton

Ms. Hilton appeared before the Board for a re-examination application hearing. She was not represented by counsel and was sworn in by the court reporter. Applications hearing are recorded by a certified court reporter in the event a verbatim transcript is necessary.

MOTION: To move into executive session for legal advice.
Rhodes/Mikell/approved.

MOTION: To return to public session.
Brown/Gosnell/approved.

Mr. Hayes noted for the record that no votes or actions were taken while in executive session.

MOTION: To approve Ms. Hilton's application for reexamination of the ABO Virtual Practical Examination following the completion of four (4) hours of ABO technical CE courses, to be approved by the Board office.
Mikell/Gosnell/approved.

c) Mignon Borchert

Ms. Borchert appeared before the Board for an application hearing. She was not represented by counsel and was sworn in by the court reporter. Applications hearing are recorded by a certified court reporter in the event a verbatim transcript is necessary.

MOTION: To move into executive session for legal advice.
Mikell/Gosnell/approved.

MOTION: To return to public session.
Rhodes/Mikell/approved.

Mr. Hayes noted for the record that no votes or actions were taken while in executive session.

MOTION: To deny the request to take the optician licensing exam and be eligible for optician licensure without obtaining work experience as a Board-approved Registered Apprentice or completing Board-approved Apprentice formal education.
Brown/Gosnell/approved.

The Board encouraged Ms. Borchert to continue her pursuit in the field of opticianry, following completion of a two-year ophthalmic dispensing program accredited by the Commission on Opticianry Accreditation or completion of a registered apprenticeship.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next South Carolina Board of Examiners in Opticianry Meeting will be held August 5, 2021.

Adjournment

MOTION To adjourn
Brown/Hayes/approved.

The Board meeting was adjourned at 11:25 a.m.