

SOUTH CAROLINA BOARD OF EXAMINERS IN OPTICIANRY
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
February 22, 2024 at 9:00 AM

Public Notice of this meeting was properly posted at the Opticianry Board Office, Synergy Business Park, Kingstree Building, and provided to all requesting persons, organizations, and news media in compliance with the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act, Section 30-4-80. Members of the public who wish to attend may do so by video. The video link is posted on the agenda.

Call to Order

Mr. Keith Hayes, Chairperson called the meeting of the SC Board of Examiners in Opticianry to order at 9:01 a.m.

1. Approval of Agenda

Ms. Emily Mikell made a motion to approve the agenda. Mr. William Brown seconded the motion and it carried.

2. Board Mission and Member Statistics

Mr. Keith Hayes, Chairperson gave the Board's mission.

At this time there is one vacant seat; the Public Member. There are three expired seats; the public member seat and two optician seats.

Interested individuals wishing to serve as a public member may submit a cover letter and resume to the SC Office of Boards and Commissions. Per SC Code of Laws 40-38-10(B), terms of the members are for four years and until their successors are appointed and qualified.

3. Introduction of Board Members

Board members participating in the meeting were:

- ❖ Keith Hayes
- ❖ James Rhodes
- ❖ Daniel Gosnell
- ❖ Grant Brown
- ❖ J. Hollis Inabinet
- ❖ Emily Mikell

LLR staff present included: Mary League, Esq., Advice Counsel, Patrice Deas, Board Executive, Jacquelyn White, Program Coordinator, Natasha Mitchell, OIE, Shelby Sutusky, Esq., ODC, Dowan Sulton, DOT.

Others in attendance: Robin Reibold, Court Reporter, Lydia Bonacker, Sherri Bycura, Robin Bonacker, Wesley Scott and Jayne Sommers.

4. Approval of Excused Absences

There weren't any absences

5. Approval of Board Meeting Minutes

a. Board Meeting – August 3, 2023

Mr. William Brown made a motion to approve the agenda. Mr. Daniel Gosnell seconded the motion and it carried.

b. Board Meeting – August 25, 2023

Mr. J. Hollis Inabinet made a motion to approve the agenda. Mr. William Brown seconded the motion and it carried.

c. Board Meeting – November 15, 2023

Mr. J. Hollis Inabinet made a motion to approve the agenda. Ms. Emily Mikell seconded the motion and it carried.

6. Administrative Report

a. **OIE Report** – For Information – Ervin Bond – This report was given by Ms. Natasha Mitchell. January 1, 2023, through December 31, 2023. They have received a total of 3 complaints; 1 active investigation and 3 closed.

b. **IRC Report** – For Information – Ervin Bond – Ms. Natasha Mitchell didn't have any cases to report.

c. **ODC Report** – For Information – Shelby Sutusky, Esq. – Ms. Sutusky, Esq. reported there are 0 cases open, 0 pending hearings and agreements, there were 0 cases closed since November 13, 2023, and 0 cases closed since January 1, 2024.

7. Board Executive Report – Patrice Deas

a. Ms. Patrice Deas reported the cash balance for the Opticianry Board is \$248,894.43, as of December 31, 2023.

b. The total number of licensees are as follow: 528 active optician licensees, 251 active contact lens dispensing licensees, 58 inactive optician licensees, 26 inactive contact lens dispensing licensees, and 118 registered apprentices.

c. Ms. Deas reported to the Board, the Statement of Economic Interest must be completed and electronically file with the SC Ethics Commission no later than March 30, 2024. Board members will be receiving notification within the next couple of weeks.

8. New Business

A. Application Hearing

Application hearings are recorded by a certified court reporter in the event a verbatim transcript is necessary.

i. Reinstatement Application – Sherri Bycura

Ms. Sherri Bycura appeared before the Board for a reinstatement application. She was not represented by counsel and was sworn in by the court reporter.

Mr. J. Hollis Inabinet made a motion to go into executive session for legal advice. Mr. James Rhodes seconded the motion and it carried.

Mr. James Rhodes made a motion to return from executive session. Mr. William Brown seconded the motion and it carried. No motions were made or votes taken during the executive session.

Ms. Emily Mikell made a motion to reinstate Ms. Bycura's license with proof of 16 continuing education hours. Mr. J. Hollis Inabinet seconded the motion and it carried.

ii. Initial Application – Lydia Bonacker

Ms. Lydia Bonacker appeared before the Board for an initial application. She was not represented by counsel and was sworn in by the court reporter.

Mr. William Brown made a motion to go into executive session for legal advice. Ms. Emily Mikell seconded the motion and it carried.

Mr. William Brown made a motion to return from executive session. Mr. Daniel Gosnell seconded the motion and it carried. No motions were made or votes taken during the executive session.

Mr. J. Hollis Inabinet made a motion allow the applicant to sit for the ABO practical exam. Mr. William Brown seconded the motion and it carried.

Mr. William Brown made a motion to go into executive session to receive legal advice regarding continuing education. Ms. Emily Mikell seconded the motion and it carried.

Mr. James Rhodes made a motion to return from executive session. Mr. William Brown seconded the motion and it carried. No motions were made or votes taken during the executive session.

B. License Cards

Mr. William Grant made a motion to use the new license cards for newly licensees with the option to purchase a large card stock wall certificate price to be determine. Ms. Emily Mikell seconded the motion and it was not carried.

Mr. J. Hollis Inabinet made a motion to have Board staff explore the ability to offer an alternative certificate for displaying purposes and report to the next Board meeting on the liability and process. Mr. James Rhodes seconded the motion and it carried.

Mr. J. Hollis Inabinet made a motion for the Board staff to explore if an apprentice verification is available online and report to the next Board meeting. Mr. William Brown seconded the motion and it carried.

C. Eblast to all Sponsors & Apprentices

Ms. Patrice Deas reported the system is being updated to track evaluations. IT is working to have the information sent directly to the apprentices' files. An Eblast will be sent when it is available.

9. Old Business

a. 2023 Elections

The Board election is in process.

10. Board Election

Mr. J. Hollis Inabinet made a motion to nominate Mr. Keith Hayes as Chairperson of the Board. Ms. Emily Mikell seconded the motion and it carried.

Mr. J. Hollis Inabinet made a motion to nominate Mr. William Grant as Vice Chairperson of the Board. Ms. Emily Mikell seconded the motion and it carried.

11. Public Comments

No public comments.

12. Adjournment

Mr. William Brown made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:47 am. Mr. James Rhodes seconded the motion and it carried.