

SOUTH CAROLINA BOARD OF EXAMINERS IN OPTICIANRY
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
May 23, 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.

Called to Order

Mr. Keith Hayes, Chairperson called the meeting of the SC Board of Examiners in Opticianry to order at 9:10 a.m.

1. Approval of Agenda

Mr. Grant Brown made a motion to approve the agenda. Mr. Hollis Inabinet 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 public seat, one seat that has been reappointed, and one seat will be filled once they're qualified. 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 Law 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
- ❖ Grant Brown
- ❖ Emily Mikell
- ❖ Hollis Inabinet
- ❖ Daniel Gosnell
- ❖ James Rhodes

LLR staff present included: Mary League, Esq., Advice Counsel; Patrice Deas, Board Executive; Jacquelyn White, Program Coordinator; Ervin Bonds, Lead Investigator; OIE, Billie Chambers, DOT.

Others in attendance: Jeni Nottle, Court Reporter; Melba West, and Jayne M. Sommers.

4. Approval of Excused Absences

No absences.

5. Approval of Board Meeting Minutes

- a. February 22, 2024

Mr. Daniel Gosnell made a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. James Rhodes seconded the motion and it carried.

6. Approval Board Date Change

- a. May 7, 2024 to May 23, 2024

Mr. Grant Brown made a motion to approve the date change. Mr. James Rhodes seconded the motion and it carried.

7. Administrative Report

- a. **OIE Report** – For Information Only – Ervin Bond – Mr. Bond reported from January 1, 2024 through April 23, 2024, they have received a total of 4 complaints; 1 active investigation and 1 closed.
- b. **IRC Report** – For Information Only - Ervin Bond – Mr. Bond reported there weren't any cases to report.
- c. **ODC Report** – For Information Only – Shelby Sutusky, Esq. – This report was given by Ms. Patrice Deas. There are 0 cases open, 0 pending hearings and agreements, there were 0 cases closed since January 23, 2024, and 0 closed since January 1, 2024.

8. Board Executive Report – Patrice Deas

- a. Ms. Patrice Deas reported the cash balance for the Opticianry Board is \$243, 785.44.
- b. The total number of licensees are as follow: 540 active optician licensees, 205 contact lens dispensing licensees, 58 inactive optician licensees, 26 inactive contact lens dispensing licensees, and 108 registered apprentices.

9. 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** – Melba West

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

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

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

Mr. Hollis made a motion to reinstate Ms. West's license with the necessary fees paid. Mr. James Rhodes seconded the motion and it carried.

The Board wanted to know if all fees were received and Ms. Patrice Deas clarified that all fees have been paid.

B. Continuing Education Law Class

Mr. Grant Brown made a motion to remove this item from the agenda. Mr. James Rhodes seconded the motion and it carried.

10. Old Business

a. Election

Mr. Hollis Inabinet made a motion to go into executive session for legal advice. Mr. Grant Brown seconded the motion and it carried. Ms. Patrice Deas was asked to stay.

Mr. Grant Brown made a motion to return from executive session. Mr. James Rhodes seconded the motion and it carried.

b. License Cards & Certificates - New Opticians/Apprentices

Ms. Emily Mikell made a motion that new licensees continue to receive the wall certificates. Mr. James Rhodes seconded the motion and it carried.

Mr. Grant Brown made a motion to discontinue issuing pocket cards to licensees. Mr. Hollis Inabinet seconded the motion and it carried.

Mr. Grant Brown made a motion to discontinue issuing pocket cards to registered apprentices. Mr. James Rhodes seconded the motion and it carried.

Mr. Hollis Inabinet made a motion to use "unlicensed apprentice" in the license type field on the website. Mr. Grant Brown seconded the motion and it carried.

11. Public Comments

No public comments.

12. Adjournment

Mr. Grant Brown made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:26 a.m. Mr. James Rhodes seconded the motion and it carried.