

SOUTH CAROLINA BOARD OF EXAMINERS IN OPTOMETRY
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
January 24, 2024 at 3:00 PM

1. Meeting Called to Order

- A. Public Notice of this meeting was properly posted at the Optometry 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.

2. Introduction of Board Members

Dr. Wayne Cannon, President called the meeting of the SC Board of Examiners in Optometry to order at 3:00 p.m. Other board members participating in the meeting were:

- Dr. Michelle Cooper, Vice President
- Dr. Brad Majors
- Dr. Melissa Wood
- Dr. Michael Campbell
- Mr. Charles Hill
- Mr. Jesse Price

LLR staff present included: Marcie Greene, Esq., Advice Counsel, Patrice S. Deas, Board Executive, Theresa Brown, Program Director, Jacquelyn White, Program Coordinator I, Ervin Bond, OIE, Shelby Sutusky, Esq., ODC, Josh Shannon, DOT.

Others in attendance: Robin Reibold, Court Reporter, Dr. Thomas Lees, Jacqueline Rivers, SCOPA.

3. Approval of Excused Absences

There weren't any absences.

4. Approval of Agenda

Dr. Michelle Cooper made a motion to approve the agenda. Dr. Michael Campbell seconded the motion and it carried.

5. Approval of Meeting Minutes

- a. Board Meeting – November 29, 2023
Dr. Michelle Cooper made a motion to approve the minutes for the November 29, 2023, Board meeting. Dr. Michael Campbell seconded the motion and it carried.

6. Administrative Reports

- A. **OIE Report** – For Information – Ervin Bond – This report was for information purposes only and was given by Mr. Ervin Bond. Year to date through January 24, 2024, they have received a total of 25 cases, 8 active investigations and 23 closed cases.
- B. **IRC Report** – For Approval – Ervin Bond – There is 1 case that is being submitted for approval. The committee recommended 1 case for dismissal.

Dr. Michael Campbell made a motion to approve the dismissal. Dr. Michelle Cooper seconded the motion and it carried.

- C. **ODC Report** – For information – Shelby Sutusky, Esq. – This report was for information purposes only and was given by Ms. Shelby Sutusky, Esq. There are 2 open cases, 0 pending hearing and agreements, 2 pending closure, 0 closed, 0 appeals, 0 closed since November 20, 2023, and 0 closed since January 1, 2024.

7. Board Executive Report

- A. Ms. Patrice Deas reported the cash balance for the Optometry Board is \$314,633.16 as of December 30, 2023.
- B. The total number of licensees are as follow; 1,031 active licensees, 2 pending applications, 1 exam eligible applicant, 4 inactive licensees, 2 mobile units and 2 reinstated licensees.
- C. Ms. Deas provided the Board members with a listing of the newly licensed optometrists from August 30, 2023 to November 17, 2023 and November 18, 2023 to January 19, 2024.
- D. 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. You will be receiving your notification within the next couple of weeks.

8. Application Hearings

- a. Dr. Thomas Lees, OD
Dr. Thomas Lees appeared before the Board for an application hearing. He was not represented by counsel and was sworn in by the court reporter. Application hearings are recorded by a certified court reporter in the event a verbatim transcript is necessary.

Dr. Brad Majors made a motion to go into executive session for legal advice. Mr. Charles Hill seconded the motion and it carried.

Dr. Michael Campbell made a motion to return from executive session. Dr. Michelle Cooper seconded the motion and it carried. No motions were made or votes taken during the executive session.

Dr. Michelle Cooper made a motion to approve the application as an endorsement. Dr. Melissa Wood seconded the motion and it carried.

b. Dr. McGregor

Dr. Brad Majors made a motion to defer this application hearing for Dr. McGregor until the next meeting on May 15, 2024. Mr. Jessie Price seconded the motion and it carried.

9. New Business

A. Board Liaison

Dr. Wayne Cannon made a proposal to the Board to have appointed Liaisons

- Dr. Michelle Cooper – Licensure
- Dr. Michael Campbell – Legislative
- Dr. Brad Majors – Continuing Education
- Dr. Melissa Woods – Elections
- Mr. Jesse Price – Financial
- Mr. Charles Hill - Communication

Dr. Michelle Cooper made a motion to accept the appointed liaisons. Dr. Michael Campbell seconded the motion and it carried.

B. CE Broker

CE Broker must be used by all Boards that requires continuing education hours for renewals. It is mandated that all licensees use CE Broker.

C. SCOPA Annual Meeting

A licensee may receive one (1) continuing education hour per year if they attend the SCOPA Annual meeting.

Dr. Brad Majors made a motion for licensees to receive one (1) continuing education hour for general optometry hour per year if they attend the SCOPA annual meeting. Dr. Michelle Cooper seconded the motion and it carried.

D. Executive Session for legal advice regarding investigation procedures

Mr. Jessie Price made a motion to go into executive session for legal advice to discuss investigation procedures. Dr. Michelle Cooper seconded the motion and it carried.

Dr. Michelle Cooper made a motion to return from executive session. Dr. Brad Majors seconded the motion and it carried. No motions was made or votes taken during executive session.

E. Consideration for Exam Site Visits

Dr. Brad Majors made a motion that 3 members be approved to visit the exam site and be reimbursed. Mr. Jesse Price seconded the motion and it carried.

The date of the visit will be announced at a later date.

10. Election of Officers

Dr. Brad Majors made a motion to nominate Dr. Wayne Cannon as President of the Board. Dr. Michael Campbell seconded the motion and it carried.

Dr. Melissa Wood made a motion to nominate Dr. Michelle Cooper as Vice President of the Board. Dr. Brad Majors seconded the motion and it carried.

11. Discussion

A. Telemedicine

Will be discussed at the May 15, 2024, Board meeting. Dr. Wayne Cannon will provide more information on telemedicine for the Board to review.

12. Public Comments

Mrs. Jacqueline Rivers asked for clarification of the complaint process.

13. Adjournment

Dr. Michelle Cooper made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 4:29 p.m. Mr. Jesse Price seconded the motion and it carried.