

**SOUTH CAROLINA BOARD OF EXAMINERS IN OPTOMETRY  
BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

November 19, 2025 at 3:00 PM

110 Centerview Drive, Kingstree Building, Midlands Room  
Columbia, South Carolina 29210

**1. Call 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.

Dr. Wayne Cannon called the meeting to order at 3:00 pm.

**2. Introduction of Board Members**

Board members participating in the meeting were:

Dr. Wayne Cannon, President

Dr. Brad Majors

Dr. Michael Campbell

Mr. Jessie Price

Ms. Kathy Gilbert

LLR staff present included Ely Grote, Esq., Advice Counsel; Tina Brown, Esq., ODC; Kate Landess, Esq., ODC; Jennifer Stillwell, Assistant Deputy Director, OIE; Yarikza Alexander, Lead Investigator; Patrice Deas, Board Executive; Tajuana Hall, Program Coordinator I; Meka Smalls, DOTS.

Robin Reibold served as Court Reporter for the meeting.

**3. Approval of Excused Absences**

Dr. Michael Campbell made a motion to approve the absence of Dr. Melissa Wood. Mr. Jesse Price seconded the motion and it carried.

Dr. Michael Campbell made a motion to approve the absence of Dr. Steven Wearden. Mr. Jesse Price seconded the motion and it carried.

**4. Approval of Agenda**

Dr. Brad Majors made a motion to approve the agenda. Dr. Michael Campbell seconded the motion and it carried.

**5. Approval of Meeting Minutes**

- a. August 6, 2025

Dr. Michael Campbell made a motion to approve the minutes with corrections for the August 6, 2025, meeting. Dr. Brad Majors seconded the motion and it carried.

## **6. Administrative Reports**

**A. OIE Report – For Information Only** – Yarikza Alexander, Lead Investigator  
Since Jan 1, 2025 – October 23, 2025, OIE has had 14 complaints, 3 active investigations, and 23 closed cases.

**B. IRC Report – For Approval** – Yarikza Alexander, Lead Investigator  
There was 1 case recommended for dismissal.

Mr. Jesse Price made a motion to approve the recommendation for dismissal.  
Dr. Michael Campbell seconded the motion and it carried.

**C. ODC Report – For Information Only** – Tina Brown, Esq.  
There is 1 case pending. Tina Brown introduced the members of the Board to the new ODC attorney, Ms. Kate Landess.

## **7. Board Executive Report – Patrice Deas**

### **A. Finance Report**

Patrice Deas reported as of October 31, 2025, the cash balance is \$401,126.25.

### **B. Total Number of Licensees**

Patrice Deas reported there are 1,051 active licensees; 6 pending applications; and 2 mobile units.

### **C. List of Newly Licensed Optometrist**

Patrice Deas informed the Board that the names and license numbers of the newly licensed optometrists from August 5, 2025, through November 18, 2025, were provided in their Board materials. There was a total of 16 new licenses issued.

## **8. Application Hearing**

### **A. Initial Application – Stephen Thompson**

Dr. Stephen Thompson appeared before the Board, virtually, for an application hearing. He was not represented by counsel, and sworn in by the court reporter.

Dr. Stephen Thompson presented his case to the Board and asked that he be considered for licensure by endorsement.

Mr. Jesse Price made a motion to go into executive session for legal advice. Dr. Michael Campbell seconded the motion and it carried.

Mr. Jesse Price made a motion to come out of executive session. Ms. Kathy Gilbert seconded the motion and it carried.

Dr. Brad Majors made a motion to approve Dr. Stephen Thompson for licensure contingent upon passing the Jurisprudence exam. Dr. Michael Campbell seconded the motion and it carried.

## **9. Board Member Training**

Jennifer Stillwell presented training to the Board members on the Investigative process, explaining the roles and responsibilities of OIE. Tina Brown, ODC, presented training on the disciplinary process. Ely Grote, Advice Counsel, also provided training to the Board members, including an overview of the role of OAC, Board responsibilities, and relevant laws.

## **10. Old Business**

### **A. Window Tint**

Ely Grote provided a recap regarding the matter and noted that Bill H.3151 has been introduced to the General Assembly.

Dr. Michael Campbell made a motion to go into executive session for legal advice. Mr. Jesse Price seconded the motion and it carried.

Dr. Brad Majors made a motion to come out of executive session. Dr. Michael Campbell seconded the motion and it carried.

Dr. Brad Majors made a motion to table the window tint memorandum discussions/matter until a decision by the legislature on the current bill has been made. Dr. Michael Campbell seconded the motion and it carried.

## **11. Approval to Travel**

### **a. ARBO Conference- June 13-14, 2026- Phoenix, Arizona**

Mr. Jesse Price made a motion to approve 2 Board members and the Board Executive to attend the ARBO Conference in Phoenix Arizona, June 13-14, 2026. Dr. Brad Majors seconded the motion and it carried.

### **b. SCOPA Annual Meeting- August 20-22, 2026 - Hilton Head Island**

Mr. Jesse Price made a motion to approve the President and Vice President to attend the SCOPA Annual Meeting in Hilton Head Island, in August of 2026. Ms. Kathy Gilbert seconded the motion and it carried.

## **12. Discussion**

### **A. Certificates of Vision Examination**

It was noted that SC Code Sec. 56-1-220(A) pertains to the requirement by the DMV for vision screenings for individuals to get or renew a license. It was noted that the validity of the certificates has changed from 12 months from date of exam to 36 months from date of exam.

## **13. Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

**14. Adjournment**

Dr. Michael Campbell made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 4:40 pm. Mr. Jesse Price seconded the motion and it carried.