

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF OPTOMETRY
April 26, 2018

ROLL CALL

The meeting of the Board of Optometry was called to order at 2:01 p.m. by Dr. Jeffrey Pape, Chairman, at Staybridge Suites, 2727 Fletcher Avenue, Board Room, Lincoln, NE. The agenda was sent to the Board members and other interested parties prior to the meeting. The following members answered the roll call:

Jeffrey Pape, O.D., Chairperson
Robert Vandervort, O.D., Vice-Chairperson
Michael J. O'Hara, JD, PhD, Secretary
Theodore Vorhies, O.D.

A quorum was present and the meeting convened. Also present were: Kathie Lueke, Program Manager; Vonda Apking, Health Licensing Coordinator; Mark Meyerson, Investigator; and Ami Huff, Assistant Attorney General.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

O'Hara moved, seconded by Vorhies, to adopt the agenda with the Chairman having the ability to rearrange as necessary. Voting aye: O'Hara, Pape, Vandervort, Vorhies. Voting nay: none. Motion carried.

DESIGNATION OF THE METHOD BY WHICH THIS BODY WILL GIVE PUBLIC NOTICE OF ITS MEETINGS – OPEN SESSION

Vandervort moved, seconded by O'Hara, that public meeting notices for the Board of Optometry will be posted at the Department, posted on the Department's website, and e-mailed to the "interested parties" list. Voting aye: O'Hara, Pape, Vandervort, Vorhies. Voting nay: none. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

November 16, 2017

Pape suggested that on page 2, that 2017 be added after the title "ELECTION OF OFFICERS". O'Hara moved, seconded by Vorhies, to approve the November 16, 2017, minutes as amended. Voting aye: O'Hara, Pape, Vandervort, Vorhies. Voting nay: none. Motion carried.

INVESTIGATIONAL REPORTS – CLOSED SESSION

O'Hara moved, seconded by Vandervort, to go into closed session at 2:05 p.m. for the purpose of review and discussion of investigative reports, and other confidential information, and for the prevention of needless injury to the reputation of the individuals. Voting aye: O'Hara, Pape, Vandervort, Vorhies. Voting nay: none. Motion carried.

O'Hara moved, seconded by Vandervort to return to open session at 3:15 p.m. Voting aye: O'Hara, Pape, Vandervort, Vorhies. Voting nay: none. Motion carried.

OPTOMETRIST APPLICATION(S) – OPEN SESSION

Vorhies moved, seconded by O'Hara, to table the application of Wade Abbey for additional information. Voting aye: O'Hara, Pape, Vandervort, Vorhies. Voting nay: none. Motion carried.

ASSOCIATION OF REGULATORY BOARDS OF OPTOMETRY (ARBO) – ANNUAL MEETING – JUNE 17-19, 2018 IN DENVER, CO

O'Hara and either Pape or Vandervort will be attending the ARBO Annual meeting. Staff will submit out-of-state travel authorizations.

CATEGORIZING CONTINUING EDUCATION

Staff explained how requests for continuing education approval are processed. If staff has any questions about the courses identified on the requests, staff forwards the requests to Vorhies to be reviewed.

DISCUSSION OF TELEMEDICINE

Pape mentioned LB 235 which established the Consumer Protection in Eye Care Act in 2016.

CATEGORIZING CONTINUING EDUCATION

Dave McBride, Executive Director of the Nebraska Optometric Association (NOA), questioned how non-clinical courses are determined to be acceptable and what increments of hours are acceptable. The Board explained the process of approving continuing education and that continuing education courses that are not Council on Optometric Practitioner Education (COPE) approved would be reviewed on a case by case basis. Vandervort moved, seconded by O'Hara, that the Nebraska Board of Optometry would approve continuing education courses in time increments consistent with COPE guidelines. Voting aye: O'Hara, Pape, Vandervort, Vorhies. Voting nay: none. Motion carried.

DISCUSSION OF TELEMEDICINE – CONT'D

The Board questioned how telemedicine affects the practice of optometry in Nebraska. Staff mentioned that Department legal could address any specific questions at the next meeting. Vandervort will supply staff with different scenarios that the Board wishes to have Department Legal address. Pape offered to send additional information regarding Tele-health to the Department.

PULSE LIGHT THERAPY FOR BLEPHARITIS

The Board discussed this therapy. After researching, it was determined that this is not considered a laser. Vandervort moved, seconded by Vorhies, that it is the Board's opinion that Intense Pulse Light Therapy is within the scope of practice of optometry when used for treatment of ocular conditions defined in Neb. Rev. Stat. §38-2605.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS - 2018

Vandervort moved, seconded by O'Hara, to keep the Officer slate the same. Pape as Chairperson, Vandervort as Vice-Chairperson, and O'Hara as Secretary. Voting aye: O'Hara, Pape, Vandervort, Vorhies. Voting nay: none. Abstain: none. Absent: none. Motion carried.

Vandervort will review investigations. Vorhies will review continuing education.

ADJOURNMENT

Vorhies moved, seconded by O'Hara, to adjourn the meeting at 4:22 p.m. Voting aye: O'Hara, Pape, Vandervort, Vorhies. Voting nay: none. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

(Signature on file with the Department)

Michael J. O'Hara, JD, PhD, Secretary
Board of Optometry