

MINUTES OF THE CONFERENCE CALL MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF OPTOMETRY
March 17, 2023

ROLL CALL

The meeting of the Board of Optometry was called to order at 2:00 p.m. by Dr. Robert Vandervort, Chairman, at Hampton Inn, 7343 Husker Circle, Husker 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:

Robert Vandervort, O.D., Chairperson
Creston Myers, O.D., Secretary (via WebEx)
Jeremiah Baumfalk, O.D.

Absent - Linda Heiden, Vice-Chairperson

A quorum was present and the meeting convened. Also present were: Jesse Cushman, Program Manager (via WebEx); and Vonda Apking, Health Licensing Coordinator; and T.J. O'Neill, Assistant Attorney General; Jeff Newman, Investigator; Danielle Sund, Department Attorney (via WebEx); and Suzanna Glover-Ettrich, Department Attorney (via WebEx).

Dr. Vandervort announced that there is a copy of all the public documents being reviewed at this meeting available in the meeting room pursuant to the Open Meetings Act.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Baumfalk moved, seconded by Myers, to adopt the agenda with the Chairman having the ability to rearrange as necessary. Voting aye: Baumfalk, Myers, Vandervort. Voting nay: none. Absent: Heiden. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

August 26, 2022

Page 1: No changes.
Page 2: No changes.

Myers moved, seconded by Vandervort, to approve the August 26, 2022, minutes as presented. Voting aye: Baumfalk, Myers, Vandervort. Voting nay: none. Absent: Heiden. Motion carried.

INVESTIGATIONAL REPORTS, DISCIPLINARY REPORTS, APPLICATION REVIEW – CLOSED SESSION

Myers moved, seconded by Baumfalk, to go into closed session at 2:03 p.m. for the purpose of review and discussion of investigative reports, licensure applications, and other confidential information, and for the prevention of needless injury to the reputation of the individuals. Voting aye: Baumfalk, Myers, Vandervort. Voting nay: none. Absent: Heiden. Motion carried.

The Board returned to open session at 2:36 p.m.

APPLICATION REVIEW

Nothing to review at this time.

RATIFY EMAIL BALLOTS SINCE THE LAST MEETING

Staff read the following into the record:

- The Board issued a therapeutic certification (#1596) for Christine Brisson, OD on 11/15/2022.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

The Board reviewed the legislative bill 216. Vandervort moved, seconded by Baumfalk, to send a letter of support for LB 216. Voting aye: Baumfalk, Myers, Vandervort. Voting nay: none. Absent: Heiden. Motion carried.

Baumfalk moved, seconded by Myers, to recommend that Dr. Vandervort draft the letter of support. Voting aye: Baumfalk, Myers, Vandervort. Voting nay: none. Absent: Heiden. Motion carried.

REGULATIONS UPDATE

Cushman explained that there are language changes for reciprocity and those changes are being incorporated into the current regulations. The regulations will be brought back to the Board for review when available.

ASSOCIATION OF REGULATORY BOARDS OF OPTOMETRY (ARBO) ANNUAL MEETING

Baumfalk will attend virtually. Vandervort moved, seconded by Myers, to designate Baumfalk as the Board's voting delegate. Voting aye: Baumfalk, Myers, Vandervort. Voting nay: none. Absent: Heiden. Motion carried.

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

Vandervort moved, seconded by Baumfalk, 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: Baumfalk, Myers, Vandervort. Voting nay: none. Absent: Heiden. Motion carried.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Baumfalk moved, seconded by Myers, to keep the Officer slate the same. The current slate is as follows: Vandervort as Chairperson, Heiden as Vice-Chairperson, and Myers as Secretary. Voting aye: Baumfalk, Myers, Vandervort. Voting nay: none. Absent: Heiden. Motion carried.

Vandervort will continue to review investigations.

The next meeting is scheduled for September 8, 2023.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 2:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

(Signature on file with the Department)

Creston Myers, O.D., Secretary
Board of Optometry