



Mississippi State Board of Optometry
Special Called Teleconference Meeting
February 4, 2025
5 Old River Place, Jackson, MS 39202

MINUTES

In accordance with MCA § 25-41-11

Dr. Parrish opened the meeting with prayer.

I. Call to Order

The Mississippi State Board of Optometry special called meeting was called to order by Board President, Kimberly Ragan, O.D., at 6:05 p.m. on Tuesday, February 4, 2025.

II. Roll Call

The following Members were present via teleconference:

Lori Blackmer, O.D.

Anna Middleton, O.D.

Hilary Parrish, O.D.

Kimberly Ragan, O.D.

Board representatives present at public location:

Cynthia Brown, Administrative Assistant

Leyser Hayes, Board Counsel – Special Assistant Attorney General

Yvonne Laird, J-Bar and Associates, Inc.

III. Approval of the Agenda

Dr. Middleton moved, with a second by Dr. Parrish to accept the Agenda as distributed.

IV. Hearing / Executive Session / Report of Counsel

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Dr. Parrish moved to go into closed session to determine whether an Executive Session is needed. The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

Dr. Blackmer moved, seconded by Dr. Parrish, that the Board had reason under Miss. Code Ann. §25-41-7 (4)(b) and (d), as amended, to go into Executive Session namely to investigate proceedings regarding allegations of misconduct or violations of law with respect to prospective litigation or issuance of an appealable order when an open meeting would have a detrimental effect on the litigating position of the Board. The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

Dr. Middleton moved, with a second by Dr. Blackmer to come out of Executive Session. The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION

Actions taken during Executive Session

Dr. Ragan announced the following actions taken during Executive Session:

- A. 09-02-21
Letter released. Remanded.
- B. 04-03-23
Final payment of \$750.00 received by February 4, 2025, with a postmark prior to the deadline. The licensee will be offered an opportunity to move to retired status. Case closed.
- C. 02-03-24
Pursuant to Counsel, this case is still under investigation.
- D. 08-07-24
Dr. Blackmer moved, with a second by Dr. Middleton to advise licensee that no disciplinary action will be taken against her license. The vote was unanimous. Motion carried. The Executive Director will prepare a letter for Dr. Parrish's review reminding licensee of the independence provisions, assist her with review of her lease agreement, and require the submission of her office floor plans. Closed.
- E. 2025-1055-01
Dr. Parrish moved, with a second by Dr. Middleton to take no action as there had been no violation of regulation or law. The vote was unanimous. Motion carried. Closed.
- F. 2025-460-02
Dr. Blackmer moved, with a second by Dr. Parrish to take no action as there had been no violation of regulation or law. The vote was unanimous. Motion carried. Closed.

V. Approval of the Minutes

- A. Dr. Blackmer moved, with a second by Dr. Parrish to approve the Minutes of the January 10, 2025, be accepted, as distributed. The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

- B. Dr. Blackmer moved, with a second by Dr. Parrish to approve the Minutes of the January 11, 2025, be approved, as distributed. The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

VI. Old Business

- A. Annual Report to the Governor
Authorized in prior meeting. Distributed for informational purposes. No further action required.
- B. Personal Property Decision
Cynthia Brown advised that she had not received written or verbal requests to retrieve personal property; therefore, in accordance with the Minutes of November 12, 2024, the property will be considered abandoned and will be at the Board's disposal. No further action required.

VII. New Business

- A. Jurisprudence Examination and Study Guide
Upon request by the Executive Director, Dr. Middleton, Chairman of the Examination Committee will review study guide and examination questions for release to the website. Dr. Blackmer moved, with a second by Dr. Parrish to approve Dr. Middleton's review and release. The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.
After legal review by counsel, Dr. Parrish moved, with a second by Dr. Blackmer, to initiate the use of the notification / authority to sit / response deadline information checklist to all applying applicants in an effort to keep the applicant up to date on the requirements for a completed application. The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.
- B. Continuing Education Requirement for PEP Certified Optometrist
The Board determined that until new rules have been approved through the Occupational Licensing Review Board and the Administrative Procedures Act, there is no change in the rule for 2025 continuing education requirements.
- C. Data Sharing Agreement
Dr. Blackmer moved with a second by Dr. Parrish to authorize Dr. Ragan to execute the Data Sharing Agreement between MSBO and the MS Division of Medicaid. The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.
- D. Senior Vision Services Aria Health Partners
After review by counsel, Dr. Parrish moved to release the drafted letters to A.N. and L.J. regarding the requirement for additional information relative to the independent operation of their optometry practice in Mississippi prior to sitting for the jurisprudence examination (A.N.) and the non-issuance of the license (L.J.). A second was provided by Dr. Blackmer. The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

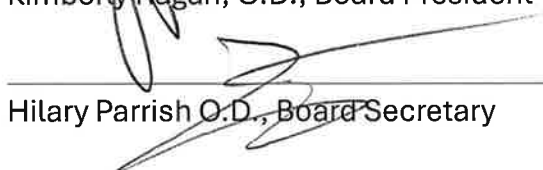
- E. State Auditor's Office Performance Review
Dr. Middleton moved, with a second by Dr. Blackmer to authorize Yvonne Laird, Executive Director, to sign this document on behalf of MSBO, and begin dissemination of requested information to the State Auditor's Office. The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.
- F. Newsletter
Dr. Middleton moved, with a second by Dr. Parrish to approve the release of the newsletter without change. The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.
- G. Rules and Regulations
The motion was made by Dr. Blackmer to approve the final draft of the rules and regulations. A second was provided by Dr. Middleton. The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

VIII. Adjournment

Dr. Blackmer moved, with a second by Dr. Middleton to adjourn the meeting at 7:26 p.m. The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

APPROVED:



Kimberly Ragan, O.D., Board President

Hilary Parrish O.D., Board Secretary

Distributed for Board President & Secretary's Review: Wednesday, February 5, 2025

Distributed to Board Members: Monday, February 13, 2025