Mississippi State Board of Optometry
Regular Scheduled Meeting
July 12, 2025, as revised July 24, 2025
5 Old River Place, Suite 105, Jackson, MS 39202

MINUTES
In accordance with MCA § 25-41-11

I. Call to Order
The Mississippi State Board of Optometry regular scheduled meeting was called to order by Board President, Kimberly Ragan, O.D., at 12:21 p.m. on Saturday, July 12, 2025.

II. Recognition of New Board Appointee
Dr. Ragan introduced and welcomed recently appointed Board member Dax Eckard, O.D., Third Supreme Court District.

III. Roll Call
Cynthia Brown called the roll indicating the following members present:

Lori Blackmer, O.D. | Dax Eckard, O.D.
Anna Middleton, O.D. | Hilary Parrish, O.D.
Kimberly Ragan, O.D.

A quorum was present for voting purposes.

Board representatives present at public location:
Cynthia Brown, Administrative Assistant
Leyser Hayes, Special Assistant Attorney General/Counsel for the Board
Yvonne Laird, Executive Director

IV. Election of Officers
Dr. Blackmer moved, with a second by Dr. Parrish to elect Dr. Kimberly Ragan as President. Dr. Parrish moved that the nomination for President be closed. Dr. Middleton provided a second. The vote was as follows:

Aye - Lori Blackmer, O.D. | Aye - Dax Eckard, O.D.
Aye - Anna Middleton, O.D. | Aye - Hilary Parrish, O.D.
Recused - Kimberly Ragan, O.D.

Dr. Middleton moved, with a second by Dr. Blackmer to elect Dr. Hilary Parrish as Secretary. Dr. Eckard moved that the nomination for Secretary be closed. Dr. Blackmer provided a second. The vote was as follows:

Aye - Lori Blackmer, O.D.
Aye - Dax Eckard, O.D.
Aye - Anna Middleton, O.D.
Recused - Hilary Parrish, O.D.
Aye - Kimberly Ragan, O.D.

Committee Assignments were made as follows:
Rules and Regulations – Dr. Blackmer
Examination – Dr. Middleton
Legislation – Dr. Eckard

V. Approval of the Agenda
At the request of counsel, Dr. Middleton moved, with a second by Dr. Blackmer to accept the agenda with one addition – XII. New Business. G. Board Orientation. The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

VI. Hearing / Executive Session / Report of Counsel [MCA § 25-41-7(4)(b)(d)

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

Dr. Blackmer moved, seconded by Dr. Eckard, 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 investigative 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. Parrish to come out of Executive Session. The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION

Executive Director Yvonne Laird announced actions taken during Executive Session, as follows:

A. 02-03-24
Counsel advised that a meeting was held with the Mississippi State Board of Nursing regarding this matter as they have jurisdiction over this individual. No further action required by the Board at this time. Counsel will keep the Board informed regarding the outcome of the MSBN investigation.

VII. Approval of the Minutes
Dr. Blackmer moved, with a second by Dr. Parrish that the Minutes of April 4, 2025 and June 3, 2025 be approved, as revised. The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

VIII. Secretary's Report

A. Financial Report

The financial report for FY2025, period ending May 31, 2025 (11-month period), reflects the following:

FY2025 Budget	$257,659.00
Revenue	$159,823.68
Expenditures	$180,689.36
Balance in Clearing Account	$388,315.43

Dr. Middleton moved, with a second by Dr. Blackmer that the financial report be accepted, pending audit. The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

Dr. Ragan called for a short recess at 1:00 p.m.

Dr. Ragan recalled the meeting back to order at 1:25 p.m.

IX. Executive Director's Report

Cynthia Brown presented the website analysis for the period June 1 through June 30, 2025, which reflected 663 views to the MSBO website consisting of 198 new viewers and a total of 247 total users. No board action required.

X. President's Report

A. Approval of New Applicants

Dr. Parrish moved, with a second by Dr. Eckard, to approve licensure for the following who had met all requirements for licensure:

Scott Christopher Martin
Vi Thao Nguyen
Joseph Scott Schlesinger
Annie Bea Govan

Dr. Parrish moved, with a second by Dr. Eckard, to approve PEP certification pending completion of all certification requirements.

Keely Ann Cox
Brannon Joseph Herring
Madison Renee Wilson
Bailey Rae Kargo
Kaitlin Brooke Medlin
Aimee Brianne Robinson
Kristen Ana Trainer

XI. Old Business

A. FAQs

Dr. Middleton moved, with a second by Dr. Parrish to release the FAQs to the website, as reviewed by counsel and revised. The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

B. Board Member Per Diem Timesheet

Document was released for use by Board members to record additional per diem time as provided in MCA §73-19-13 -- *Each member of the state board of optometry shall be entitled to receive per diem as authorized under Section 25-3-69 in additional to all actual, necessary expenses incurred in the discharge of official duties….*

C. Online Licensing Tool Programming
Release of RFQ for Licensing Database
Dr. Blackmer moved, with a second by Dr. Parrish to approve the release of the RFQ for a licensing database. The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

D. OEBC (Optometry Examining Board of Canada) as Alternate to NBEO for Kentucky Licensure
After review of the Kentucky decision, Dr. Blackmer moved, with a second by Dr. Parrish to take no action. The Mississippi Board will continue to require for Mississippi licensure the NBEO examination for licensure. The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

XII. New Business

A. Pathways Toward Licensure
Dr. Middleton moved, with a second by Dr. Eckard to release to the website the reference guide detailing the pathways toward licensure for new applicants. The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

B. FY27 Budget Recommendations
Dr. Blackmer moved, with a second by Dr. Parrish to recommend to the LBO FY2027 funding of $259,022. The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

C. Five-Year Strategic Plan
Dr. Parrish moved, with a second by Dr. Eckard to authorize the release of the 5-Year Strategic Plan for FY2027 through FY2031, as presented. The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

D. Preceptors
Dr. Blackmer moved, with a second by Dr. Middleton to approve new preceptor applications for the following:

Bethany Harrington, O.D. - Poplarville
Gregory Loose, O.D. – Wiggins
Michael Weeden, O.D. – Corinth
Hilary Parrish, O.D. – Vicksburg (pending application)
Dax Eckard, O.D. – Tupelo (pending application)

The vote was as follows:

Aye - Lori Blackmer, O.D.
Aye - Anna Middleton, O.D.
Aye - Kimberly Ragan, O.D.
Recused - Dax Eckard, O.D.
Recused - Hilary Parrish, O.D.

The new preceptors will be added to the list of current preceptors [Lori Blackmer, Steve Edwards, Nicole Monroe, David Parker, and Steven Reed] who have been previously approved to serve as preceptors to MS licensed optometrist pursuant to MCA 73-19-1 et seq. [HB1302, 2021 LS] r*equiring those who wish to become certified in advanced procedures must participate in eight (8) additional hours of working under a preceptor who is either an ophthalmologist or licensed credentialed optometrist. The preceptor must be licensed to perform the ophthalmic YAG laser posterior capsulotomy procedures and the training shall occur within the state in which the preceptor is licensed to perform such procedures.* The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

E. Newsletter
Cynthia Brown presented the draft of the upcoming newsletter scheduled for release mid-August 2025. Additional subject recommendations include the following:
Notification and link to proposed rules
Frequently Asked Questions and link
Request for additional preceptors

F. Dr. Parrish moved, with a second by Dr. Middleton to approve the MOA request for the MOA "Pathway to Progress" Fall Conference. The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.
Dr. Blackmer moved, with a second by Dr. Eckard to approve COPE 94512-PH 2-hour, Category Pharmacology – Pain Management in Optometric Practice in the Era of an Opioid Epidemic by Blair Lonsberry, OD, as meeting the required judicious prescribing / drug diversion course. The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

G. Board Member Orientation
Counsel will prepare the Board orientation packet and establish a time and date for TEAMS for Dr. Eckard as well as any other board members who is interested in attending. No motion required.

XIII. Approval of Expenses:
Dr. Blackmer moved, with a second by Dr. Middleton to approve the expenses of the Board for the period April 9, 2025, through June 30, 2025, as previously cleared for payment by Dr. Ragan and Dr. Parrish. The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

XIV. Adjournment
Dr. Blackmer moved, with a second by Dr. Middleton to adjourn the meeting at 2:47 p.m. The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE MISSISSIPPI STATE BOARD OF OPTOMETRY WILL BE HELD AT 5 OLD RIVER PLACE, SUITE 105, JACKSON, ON THURSDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2025, BEGINNING AT 3:00 P.M.

APPROVED: ______________________________
Kimberly Ragan, O.D., Board President

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Hilary Parrish, O.D., Board Secretary

Distributed for Board President & Secretary's Review: Monday, July 14, 2025

Distributed to Board Members: July 17, 2025

PUBLIC NOTICE

Mississippi
State Board of Optometry

Regular Scheduled
Board Meeting

Saturday
July 12, 2025
12:00 PM

5 Old River Place, Suite 105
Jackson, Mississippi

Posted pursuant to *Miss. Code Ann.* §25-41-5