



Mississippi State Board of Optometry
Regular Scheduled Meeting
January 10, 2026
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 12:00 PM on Saturday, January 10, 2026, immediately following the testing of applicants for the MSBO jurisprudence and PEP certification examination.

II. 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
Yvonne Laird, Executive Director
Pamela Ratliff, Deputy Director – Boards and Commissions/
Counsel for the Board

Members of the Public Present:

P.J. Lindsey – J-Bar and Associates, Inc.
Sara Hartzog, Special Assistant Attorney General

III. Approval of the Agenda

Dr. Middleton moved, with a second by Dr. Blackmer to approve the agenda as presented on January 10, 2026. The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

IV. Financial Status Report

The financial report for FY2026 year-to-date ending November 30, 2025, reflects the following:

FY2026 Budget	\$256,272.00
Revenue	\$ 54,691.30
Expenditures	\$ 58,976.86
Balance in Clearing Account	\$316,730.87

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

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

Dr. Middleton 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 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. Blackmer 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. 2025-637-08

Dr. Blackmer moved, with a second by Dr. Middleton to table the dismissal recommendation of Board investigator, Dr. Eckard. The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

B. 2025-927/644-09

Upon recommendation by the Board Investigator, Dr. Ragan, Dr. Blackmer moved, with a second by Dr. Parrish, that both the complainant and the respondents be notified that no violations of law or rules had occurred and that this matter would be closed. The vote was, as follows:

Aye – Lori Blackmer	Aye – Anna Middleton
Recused – Dax Eckard	Aye – Hilary Parrish
Aye – Kimberly Ragan	

- VI. Approval of the Minutes
 - A. Dr. Parrish moved, with a second by Dr. Blackmer to approve the Regular Scheduled Board Meeting Minutes of October 2, 2025. The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.
 - B. Dr. Blackmer moved, with a second by Dr. Eckard to approve the Special Called Meeting Minutes of November 13, 2025, with one amendment. The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

- VII. Officers and Committee Reports
 - A. President's Report
 - No official report by the President.
 - B. Committee Reports
 - 1. Rules and Regulations
 - a. Final Rules
 - MSBO is waiting on the OLRC resolution. Upon receipt final rules will be recorded with the SOS and placed on the website.
 - b. Proposed Emergency Rules
 - Dr. Middleton moved, with a second by Dr. Blackmer, to file 2026 proposed rules after July 1, 2026. The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.
 - 2. Continuing Education
 - Dr. Blackmer moved, with a second by Dr. Middleton to approve the SECO 2026 Laser & Surgical Certification Programs as presented. The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.
 - The 2026 Continuing Education Requirements will be posted, as modified by the Board. CPR/AED (2 hours) and Drug Diversion (2 hours) may be used in the year obtained or split to meet CE requirements for renewal.
 - 3. LBO Appropriations Committee Meetings
 - For informational purposes only. No vote required.

- VIII. Executive Director's Report
 - A. Website Analysis
 - Cynthia Brown presented the website analysis for the following:
 - 1. October 1 through October 31, 2025: 882 views to the MSBO website consisting of 398 new viewers and a total of 443 total users;
 - 2. November 1 through November 30, 2025: 987 views to the MSBO website consisting of 495 new viewers and a total of 571 total users;
 - 3. December 1 through December 31, 2025, which reflected 1,217 views to the MSBO website consisting of 658 new viewers and a total of 735 total users.
 - No board action required.

- B. Annual Renewal Status Report
Cynthia Brown advised the following:
Active Licensees: 433
Failed to Renew: 5
Retired Status: 16
 - C. Continuing Education
Cynthia Brown advised that all continuing education courses for renewing optometrists have been audited and recorded. Only one (1) licensee has failed to provide proof of the required twenty (20) CE hours. One additional follow-up will be provided prior to Board determination for action.
 - D. YAG Procedures Outcomes Report
Cynthia Brown advised that YAG Procedures Outcomes Reports had been submitted by 189 of the 199 PEP certified optometrists by the deadline of January 7, 2026. Those who failed to report have been invoiced \$100.00 fee for failure to report.
After review of the singular negative outcome reported of the 5,354 total reported procedures performed, Dr. Parrish moved, with a second by Dr. Blackmer that this procedure did not meet the level qualifying a negative outcome. The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.
 - E. An Efficiency Analysis of MS Small Boards and Commissions (Shad White – State Auditor)
Yvonne Laird presented the analysis and report issued by the State Auditor Shad White. No action required.
 - F. Bond Renewal / LMS1943518
Bond renewal for Yvonne Laird, Executive Director has been received for the period February 1, 2026, through February 1, 2027. No action required.
- IX. President's Report
- A. Approval of New Applicants
Upon passage of the MSBO jurisprudence examination and meeting all licensing requirements, Dr. Parrish moved, with a second by Dr. Middleton to issue licenses to three (3) applicants. The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.
Upon passage of the PEP certification examination Dr. Middleton moved, with a second by Dr. Eckard to issue PEP certification to one (1) applicant. The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.
- X. Old Business
- Dr. Blackmer moved, with a second by Dr. Parrish to deny the Application for Exemption – Hardship Waiver Request to licensee # 649. The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

XI. New Business

A. Newsletter

In order to provide a periodically sent newsletter that informs MSBO licensees of the latest news, tips or updates relating to the Board's activities, the Board determined to release the MSBO newsletter twice annually, when information is relevant, informative and useful.

XII. Approval of Expenses

After review, Dr. Parrish moved with a second by Dr. Blackmer to authorize MSBO expenses as previously reviewed by Dr. Ragan, President and Dr. Parrish, Secretary. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

XIII. There being no further business to come before the Board, Dr. Blackmer moved, with a second by Dr. Parrish to adjourn the meeting at 1:31 PM. The vote carried by unanimous vote.

Signatures:



Kimberly Johnson Ragan, President



Hilary Parrish, Secretary

Approved in the MSBO Meeting on April 11, 2026

Distributed for Board President & Secretary's Review: Sunday, January 11, 2026

Distributed to Board Members: Tuesday, January 13, 2026

**THE NEXT MEETING OF THE MISSISSIPPI STATE BOARD OF OPTOMETRY
WILL BE HELD AT 5 OLD RIVER PLACE, SUITE 105, JACKSON, MS, ON
SATURDAY, APRIL 11, 2026, AT 9:00 A.M.**



PUBLIC NOTICE

Mississippi State Board of Optometry

Regular Scheduled Board Meeting

**Saturday
April 11, 2026
9:00 AM**

**5 Old River Place, Suite 105
Jackson, Mississippi**

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