



Mississippi State Board of Optometry
Special Called Teleconference Meeting
February 17, 2026 | 6:30 PM
5 Old River Place, Jackson, MS 39202

MINUTES

AS AMENDED, APRIL 11, 2026

In accordance with MCA § 25-41-11

- I. Call to Order
The Mississippi State Board of Optometry special called teleconference meeting was called to order by Board President, Kimberly Ragan, O.D. at 6:00 PM on Thursday, February 17, 2026.
- II. Roll Call
Cynthia Brown called the roll indicating the following members present via teleconference:
 - 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, Special Assistant Attorney General/Counsel for the Board
- III. Approval of the Agenda
Dr. Parrish moved, with a second by Dr. Middleton to approve the agenda with the following addition: VII. Triple Light Therapy. The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.
- IV. 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. Blackmer, 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

Yvonne Laird, Executive Director, reported in Open Meeting action taken during Executive Session, as follows:

A. 2025-637-08

Upon recommendation by the Board Investigator, Dr. Eckard, Dr. Parrish moved, with a second by Dr. Blackmer to dismiss this case as no violations of law or rules were found. The vote was, as follows:

Aye – Dr. Blackmer	Recused – Dr. Eckard
Aye – Dr. Middleton	Aye – Dr. Parrish
Aye – Dr. Ragan	

Motion carried.

V. YAG Licensure by Endorsement
Tabled until the April 11, 2026, meeting.

VI. Direct Selective Laser Trabeculoplasty (DSLT)
Dr. Eckard moved, with a second by Dr. Blackmer to call for a vote regarding whether or not DSLT is an intraocular surgical procedure as set forth in Miss. Code Ann. § 73-19-1(3). The vote was, as follows:

Dr. Blackmer – not intraocular
Dr. Eckard – not intraocular
Dr. Middleton – intraocular
Dr. Parrish – not intraocular
Dr. Ragan – intraocular

The Board moved, with a vote of three (3) to two (2) that DSLT is not an intraocular surgical procedure as contemplated in Miss. Code Ann. § 73-19-1 (3) and, therefore, is not otherwise excluded from the practice of optometry.

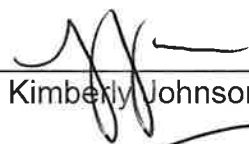
The motion was made by Dr. Middleton with a second by Dr. Parrish that in accordance with Rule 1.1.(h) [current] and Rule 1.1.A.8 [effective February 28, 2026] only those PEP (Primary Eye Care Procedures Optometrist) certified can perform laser procedures. The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

Dr. Eckard asked to discuss Triple Light Therapy at this time. It was recommended that Dr. Eckard provide additional information relative to this advanced technology treatment for review prior to the release of the April 11, 2026, meeting agenda. Yvonne Laird will also provide information related to Tennessee law as it relates to laser therapies.

VII. Dr. Eckard moved, with a second by Dr. Blackmer that the meeting be adjourned at 7:35 PM. 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, MS, ON SATURDAY, APRIL 11, 2026, AT 9:00 AM.

APPROVED:



Kimberly Johnson Ragan, O.D., Board President



Hilary Parrish, O.D., Board Secretary

Distributed for Board President & Legal Review: Wednesday, February 18, 2026

Distributed to Board Members: March 2, 2026



PUBLIC NOTICE

Mississippi State Board of Optometry

Regular Scheduled Board Meeting

**Tuesday
February 17, 2026
6:30 PM**

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

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