

LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF OPTOMETRY EXAMINERS
1101 Medical Center Blvd. Marrero, LA 70072
MINUTES
April 2, 2024

I. Roll Call/Call to Order/Confirmation of posting of notice and agenda

The roll was called at 8:00am with present: Drs. Gerdes, Avallone, LaPoint, Richardson, and Sehon. Not present: Mr. Lopez (arrived at 8:08am). Also present were Executive Director Anna Cahill, Public Guests/OAL Members and Board counsel Mr. AJ Herbert.
Declaring a quorum was present, Dr. Gerdes called the meeting to order.

II. Adoption of Agenda

Motion to adopt agenda (Sehon/LaPoint) - approved/adopted without objection. Passed unanimously.

III. Approval of Minutes

Dr. Gerdes motioned for the approval of the minutes from the December 12, 2023, January 19, 2024 and March 8, 2024 meetings. Dr. Sehon seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion (Sehon/Avallone) – No objections. Passed unanimously. (Entered 8:20 am)
Dr. Gerdes abstained from discussion in executive session and left the room.

IV. Litigation

- A. By OAL v Heitmeier, et al No C-729018 19th JDC State of Louisiana**
- B. By LSBOE v OAL et al No. C-729434 19th JDC State of Louisiana**
- C. Mediation between LSBOE and OAL**
 - a. Reconsideration of OAL offer**

EXECUTIVE SESSION – (Exited 9:25 pm)

VI. Report on Items Discussed in Executive Session

Mr. Hebert reported on action items discussed in executive session. Dr. Sehon motioned that the Board reject the OAL settlement offer from April 1, 2024. Dr. LaPoint seconded the motion, Dr. Gerdes abstained from the vote and it unanimously passed.
Mr. Lopez motioned to have a designated committee comprised of Dr. Sehon, Dr. LaPoint and Dr. Richardson to act on any offers/counteroffers received from OAL. Dr. LaPoint seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

VII. Ballots for District One

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Dr. Sehon motioned for discussion of letters received by Dr. Sehon, Dr. Richardson and Mr. Lopez be added to the agenda. A vote was taken and it was unanimously approved.

Dr. Sehon notified the Board that he, Dr. Richardson and Mr. Lopez received letters stating the governor's office would not be submitting them for confirmation. Their terms will end on June 3, 2024. Dr. Sehon notified the Board that ballots will need to be sent out for his seat on the Board.

VIII. Public Comment

Dr. Rob Janot, OD made a public comment regarding the upcoming litigation between LSBOE and OAL.

Dr. Mark Roy, OD made a public comment regarding the 2+ years of work put in by both the LSBOE and OAL. He urged the Board that settling was in both parties best interest.

IX. Next Meeting

Board members agreed that the next meeting/hearing will be scheduled for May 6, 2024 at West Jefferson Hospital for 8:00am.

Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 9:39am.

Keith Sehon

Keith Sehon, O.D.
O.D.

Secretary LSBOE



Gerald "Jerry" Gerdes,

President LSBOE

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