

Minutes of Board Meeting
North Dakota Board of Optometry
State Capitol- Sakakawea Room
October 13, 2023

Members Present: Drs. Alan King, Taya Patzman, Brian Beattie, and legal counsel Matt Menge.

Members Present via Zoom: Dr. Dori Carlson, Dr. Melissa McCulley, Dr. Tamara Mathison, and Ms. Michelle Dever.

Absent: Ms. Sandi Frenzel

The meeting was called to order at 11:43 am, CST by President Beattie.

Dr. Carlson moved to approve the agenda. Dr. Mathison seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Mathison moved to approve the minutes of the August 18, 2023, meeting. Dr. Patzman seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Dr. King presented the Board with a Financial Report. Dr. Carlson moved to accept the Financial Report. Dr. Patzman seconded the motion, and the report was approved unanimously.

Dr. King presented the Board with the Executive Director Report. As of today, the Board has issued 12 licenses, and another OD will receive a license on November 1, 2023. The Board received three consumer complaints in 2023. Two of them were resolved by all parties, with no further action needed. The third complaint is ongoing and should be resolved shortly.

There were no final edits required by the Board regarding the Telehealth Eye Examination bill that the Board will present to the Legislature at the next legislative session. The Board will present the final bill to the NDOA and all North Dakota optometrists for comment prior to submitting the Bill.

Dr. Carlson has completed the review of the rules, policies, and guidelines. The changes to the policies were approved at the last meeting and have been uploaded to the website.

Dr. Carlson gave the Board recommendations on some of the questions on the license renewal form. Dr. King will make those changes prior to sending out the renewal notices. This year, due to the changeover in Executive Directors, renewals will be sent out the middle of November, and require optometrists to pay renewal fees by December 20, 2023. This will give the Board some time to make final changes in the changeover, such as the Board mailing address, filing fees, etc.

A discussion took place on the status of reviewing test questions for the State jurisprudence examination for new license applicants conducted by the NBEO on behalf of the Board. The committee is still in the process of reviewing the test and will make recommendations to the Board at the next meeting.

Dr. King reported that he and Dr. Patzman will meet with Odney next month to discuss changes in the website and update areas that are not current.

The Board is interested in changing things to provide licensed optometrists with a method of paying renewal fees online. Dr. King said he had already been in contact with several sources to make this happen, but there are some roadblocks to get through. Dr. Patzman and Dr. King will continue to pursue this and hopefully it can be implemented at the end of 2024.

The Board received a letter from Dr. Gregory Dye's attorney regarding the disposal of some of his records. It was moved by Dr. McCulley and seconded by Dr. Carlson that The North Dakota State Board of Optometry place Dr. Greg Dye on probation. This probation will be until December 31, 2023 or until Dr. Dye proves to the board that he has completed a continuing education course on HIPAA compliance. The motion passed by roll call vote passed by roll call vote.

The Board asked Dr. King if he and Dr. Patzman had worked out a succession plan. Dr. King reported that they have already started the process and there will be a smooth transition on January 1, 2024.

The next Board scheduled the 2024 meetings for April 19 and October 11, at 11:00 central time at the State Capitol building.

The meeting adjourned at 11:58 am, CST.

Respectfully submitted,

Alan J. King, O.D.

Executive Director