

GEORGIA STATE BOARD OF OPTOMETRY
Board Meeting Minutes of February 14, 2024 * 10:00 a.m.
Conference Call/Webex

The Georgia State Board of Optometry met via teleconference/Webex on Wednesday, February 14, 2024.

Board Members Present:

Robert “Bob” McCullough, O.D., President
 Paul Ajamian, O.D., Vice-President
 Jeffrey Hackleman, O.D.
 Jeanne Perrine, O.D.
 B. Thassanee Gutter-Parker – Consumer Member

Board Members Absent:

Ellen Fitzgerald, O.D.

Administrative Staff Present:

Brig Zimmerman, Executive Director
 Amanda Allen, Licensing Supervisor
 Linsey Joiner, Board Support Specialist
 Sarah Collet, Licensing Analyst
 Deshauna Thornton, Licensing Analyst

Attorney General’s Office

Bryon Thernes, AAG

Dr. Bob McCullough, President, established a quorum was present and called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

Agenda: Approved with no additional late items

Meeting Minutes:

- November 8, 2023 CC Board Meeting
- January 3, 2024 C.C. Board Meeting

Recommendation:

- Approve as presented
- Approve as presented

Dr. Hackleman moved, Dr. Perrine seconded, and the Board voted to approve the November 8, 2023 Conference Call Board meeting minutes as amended. None opposed, motion carried.

Dr. Hackleman moved, Dr. Perrine seconded, and the Board voted to approve the January 3, 2024 Conference Call Board meeting minutes as amended. None opposed, motion carried.

Correspondence:

- COPE – DEA CE Hours 2023 – *Board Information Only*
- NBEA 2024 Changes and Announcements – *Board Information Only*

Petitions for Rule Waiver/Variance: *Petitions will be presented during an additional scheduled Board meeting.*

Application Ratify List: Licenses issued between: 11/8/2023 - 2/13/2024

license No	Licensee
OPT003543	Irina Silva
OPT003544	Harika Karunakota
OPT003545	Timothy Ti-En Szu
OPT003546	Sherene Theresa Vazhappilly
OPT003547	Vincent Michael DeNinis
OPT003548	Trenton James Gaasch
OPT003549	Christopher Lee White
TOTAL:	7

Dr. Hackleman moved, Dr. Ajamian seconded, and the Board voted to approve the application ratify list as presented. None opposed, motion carried.

Dr. Perrine moved, Dr. Ajamian seconded, and the Board voted to enter Executive Session in accordance with O.C.G.A. §43-1-19(h)(2) and 43-1-2(k) to review Applications, review the executive session minutes, receive the Cognizant (Complaints) and Assistant Attorney General reports. Voting in favor of the motion were those present who included McCullough, Hackleman, Ajamian, Perrine, and Gutter-Parker.

At the conclusion of Executive Session on Wednesday, February 14, 2024, Dr. McCullough declared the meeting back into “open” pursuant to the Open and Public Meeting Act O.C.G.A. § 50-14-1 et seq. No votes were obtained during the closed session.

Applications: None presented

Cognizant Report:

- ❖ **Recommend Closure:** OPT240010, OPT240011
- ❖ **Recommend Referral to AG Office:** OPT210012/230015 (Companion Cases), OPT230017, and OPT240001
- ❖ **Pending in AG’s Office:** OPT220010/220012 (Companion Cases – P. Ajamian Recused)
- ❖ **Pending Receipt of Additional Information:** OPT240008, and OPT240009

Dr. Ajamian moved, Dr. Perrine seconded, and the Board voted to refer OPT210012 & OPT230015 (Companion Cases) to the AG’s office for a Public Board Order as presented. None opposed, motion carried.

Dr. Ajamian moved, Dr. Perrine seconded, and the Board voted to refer OPT230017 to the AG’s office for a Private Board Order as presented. None opposed, motion carried.

Dr. Ajamian moved, Dr. Perrine seconded, and the Board voted to refer OPT240001 to the AG’s office for a Private Board Order as presented. None opposed, motion carried.

Dr. Ajamian moved, Dr. Perrine seconded, and the Board voted to approve the recommendations of the Cognizant report on complaints as presented. None opposed, motion carried.

Attorney General’s Report:

Bryon Thernes, Assistant Attorney General provided a written status report which included information on any cases referred for action, requests for advice and /or requests for authority for proposed rules.

- Mr. Thernes announced during today's meeting that he will be resigning from the Assistant Attorney General’s office effective Thursday, February 29, 2024, and this will be the last meeting attended for the Georgia Board of Optometry. The Board would like to express immense gratitude and appreciation for Mr. Thernes' profound assistance to the Board over his years of service with the Board.

Dr. Hackleman moved, Dr. Perrine seconded, and the Board voted to approve the Assistant Attorney General’s report as presented. None opposed, motion carried.

2022-2023 Final Renewal Issues:

- A.H.
- C.K.
- J.P.
- P.P.
- C.S.

Recommendation:

Approve as discussed
Approve-Pending receipt of additional information
Approve renewal
Tabled; Pending receipt of additional information
Tabled for review during next meeting

Dr. Perrine moved, Dr. Hackleman seconded, and the Board voted to approve the recommendation of the 2022-2023 Final Renewal Issues as presented. None opposed, motion carried.

Executive Session Minutes:

- November 8, 2023 CC Board Meeting
- December 20, 2023 CC Inv. Int Cmte Meeting

Recommendation:

- Approve as presented
- Approve as amended

Dr. Hackleman moved, Dr. Perrine seconded, and the Board voted to approve the November 8, 2023 Executive Session Board Meeting Conference Call meeting minutes as presented. None opposed, motion carried.

Dr. Hackleman moved, Dr. Perrine seconded, and the Board voted to approve the December 20, 2023 Executive Session Investigative Interview committee meeting minutes as amended. None opposed, motion carried.

Board Rules Discussion: – (Open Session)

- 430-5-.01 Treatment Plans – *Tabled for further review.*
- 430-5-.02 Contents of Prescriptions for Contact Lenses. AG’s memo reviewed.

Board Announcements:

- The Board will schedule an additional conference call meeting to continue review of Board rules, rule petitions and renewal issues. Executive Director Zimmerman will send out available meeting dates to the board members and once a meeting date has been determined, it will be posted on the Board's website for public attendance.
- The Board requested the posted May 22, 2024 meeting date be changed back to the original meeting date of Wednesday, May 15, 2024.

There being no further business for discussion, the Board meeting adjourned at 12:45 p.m.

Minutes recorded by:

Linsey Joiner, Board Support Specialist

Minutes reviewed and edited by:

Amanda Allen, Licensing Supervisor

DR. ROBERT MCCULLOUGH

BRIG ZIMMERMAN

President

Executive Director HC1

Minutes reviewed and approved **May 15, 2024**

State of Georgia
County of Bibb

**Affidavit Supporting Closing
Of Public Meeting**

The Georgia Open Meetings Act, O.C.G.A. 50-14-1 et seq., requires that all meetings of an entity covered by the statute must be open to the public unless there is some specific statutory exception which permits the closing of the meeting. If such a meeting is to be closed, the law requires that the presiding person execute a sworn affidavit stating that the subject matter of the meeting or the closed portion thereof was devoted to matters within the statutory exceptions and identifying those specific exceptions relied upon. O.C.G.A. Sec. 50-14-4(b). A copy of this affidavit must be filed with the minutes of the meeting in question:

Comes now, **Dr. Robert McCullough**, the presiding officer identified below and, before an official duly authorized to administer oaths, makes this affidavit in satisfaction of the statutory requirements outlined above.

1. I am the presiding officer of the **Georgia Board of Optometry**.
2. I am over the age of 18 and in all other aspects competent to make this sworn statement. I acknowledge that I am giving this statement under oath and penalty of perjury and that I have read the contents of this affidavit prior to signing it.
3. On **February 14, 2024** this entity, which is subject to the Open Meetings Act, met. A majority of the quorum of the members present voted to close the meeting or a portion thereof for the following indicated reason(s). I hereby certify that during the closed portion of the meeting, only those subjects indicated below were discussed. I also certify that I have reviewed the exceptions provided under the Open Meetings Act that may permit the closing of a meeting and that, to the best of my knowledge, the reasons I have described in detail below meet the requirements for closing this public meeting.
4. The legal authority for the closure of this meeting was §§§ 43-1-2(k), 43-1-19(h), and 50-14-2 (1).
5. The subject(s) discussed and the underlying facts supporting the closing of this meeting are:

Receive and review disciplinary/complaint files and reports; review applications; meet with applicants; receive the Attorney General's Report; and review Executive Session minutes.

Further the affiant sayeth not.

Robert McCullough
(Presiding Officer)

Sworn and subscribed before me,

This 14th day of FEBRUARY 2024

Deborah A Horton
Notary Public

