

**GEORGIA STATE BOARD OF OPTOMETRY**  
**Board Meeting Minutes of November 8, 2023 \* 10:00 a.m.**  
**Conference Call/Webex**

The Georgia State Board of Optometry met via teleconference/Webex on Wednesday, November 8, 2023 at 237 Coliseum Drive, Macon, Georgia. The Board's Executive Director hosted the meeting remotely.

**Board Members Present:**

Robert "Bob" McCullough, O.D., President  
Paul Ajamian, O.D., Vice-President  
Jeffrey Hackleman, O.D.  
Jeanne Perrine, O.D.  
Ellen Fitzgerald, O.D.

**Board Members Absent:**

B. Thassanee Gutter-Parker – Consumer Member

**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 one additional late item:

- Board Rule 430-5-.02 Contents of Prescriptions for Contact Lenses and Spectacles – R. McCullough

**Meeting Minutes:**

- August 23, 2023 C.C. Board Meeting

**Recommendation:**

Approve as amended

**Dr. Hackleman moved, Dr. Perrine seconded, and the Board voted to approve the August 23, 2023 Conference Call Board meeting minutes as amended. None opposed, motion carried.**

**Correspondence:**

- S. Williams – Ethics CE & Telehealth – *Yes, if you practice in GA the required one (1) hour of jurisprudence CE must be obtained in person, per Board Rule 430-2-.04.*
- NBEQ – Part III PEPS Announcement – *Board Information Only*

**Dr. Ajamian moved, Dr. Perrine seconded, and the Board voted to approve the recommendations and respond as directed to the correspondence as presented. None opposed, motion carried.**

**Petitions for Rule Waiver/Variance:**

- B. Amin – Rule 430-2-.04
- B. Pendley – Rule 430-2-.04

**Recommendation:**

Grant

Grant

**Dr. Fitzgerald motioned, Dr. Hackleman seconded, and the Board voted to grant the petition for B. Admin and allow the remaining 12 out of the required 36 CE hours to be obtained online as presented. None opposed, motion carried.**

**Dr. Fitzgerald motioned, Dr. Hackleman seconded, and the Board voted to grant the petition for B. Pendley and allow all 36 renewal CE hours to be obtained online for this renewal cycle only as presented. None opposed, motion carried.**

**Application Ratify List:** Licenses issued between: 8/23/2023 - 11/7/2023

license No	Licensee
OPT003536	Alison Margaret Pott
OPT003537	Chan Yoon Kim
OPT003538	Michael Lee Baker
OPT003539	Mark Gonzales Cutler
OPT003540	Nisha Indu Prakash
OPT003541	Sarah Song Lee
OPT003542	Ariel Jordan Taylor
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>7</b>

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

**Dr. Perrine moved, Dr. Hackleman 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 Fitzgerald.**

**At the conclusion of Executive Session on Wednesday, November 8, 2023, 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:** OPT230007, OPT230018, OPT230019, OPT240002, OPT240003, OPT240004, OPT240005
- ❖ **Pending Peer Review:** OPT210012 & OPT230015 (Companion Cases) – Follow-up
- ❖ **Pending with AG Office:** OPT220010 & 220012 (Companion Cases – P. Ajamian Recused)
- ❖ **Schedule for Investigative Interview:** OPT230017
- ❖ **Refer to Investigations:** OPT240001

**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.

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

**Executive Session Minutes:**

- August 23, 2023 CC Board Meeting

**Recommendation:**

Accept as amended

**Dr. Hackleman moved, Dr. Perrine seconded, and the Board voted to approve the August 23, 2023 Executive Session Board Meeting Conference Call meeting minutes as amended. None opposed, motion carried.**

**Board Rules Discussion:** – (Open Session)

- 430-5-.01 Treatment Plans – *Table for further review*
- 430-5-.02 Contents of Prescriptions for Contact Lenses

**Dr. Ajamian moved, Dr. Fitzgerald seconded, and the Board voted to rescind the original referral and memo of statutory authority of Board Rule 430-5-.02 Contents of Prescriptions for Contact Lenses from the AG’s Office as presented. None opposed, motion carried.**

**Dr. Ajamian moved, Dr. Fitzgerald seconded, and the Board voted to approve proposed rule amendments to Board Rules 430-5-.02 Contents of Prescriptions for Contact Lenses and re-refer back to the AG’s office for review and new memo of statutory authority, posting the rule upon receipt for the minimum thirty days for public view with a public rule hearing to be scheduled for the next available date following the public posting. None opposed, motion carried.**

**2024 Board Meeting Dates - GA Board of Optometry:**

*(Meetings begin at 10:00 a.m. via Webex)*

- Wednesday, February 14, 2024
- Wednesday, May 22, 2024
- Wednesday, August 21, 2024
- Wednesday, November 13, 2024

**There being no further business for discussion, the Board meeting adjourned at 12:38 p.m.**

**Minutes recorded by:**

Linsey Joiner, Board Support Specialist

**Minutes reviewed and edited by:**

Brig Zimmerman, Executive Director

**DR. ROBERT MCCULLOUGH**

**BRIG ZIMMERMAN**

President

Executive Director HC1

Minutes reviewed and approved **February 14, 2023**

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 an 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 November 8, 2023 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 8<sup>th</sup> day of November 2023

Deborah A. Horton

Notary Public

