

BOARD OF OPTOMETRY

October 19, 2023

9:41AM

OPEN SESSION

MEETING MINUTES

WebEx Virtual Meeting

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, all board meetings are held virtually during the declared public health emergency.

Information on how to access the public portion of the meeting is listed below:

This meeting is available by web:

<https://dcnet.webex.com/dcnet/j.php?MTID=m0f081b779d568b61ce2ead942500eced>

This meeting is available by phone:

Call in Number: 1-650-479-3208 or 1-202-860-2110

Access Code: 160 800 4760

Meeting Password: 2EMrsmD7qR9

**BOARD OF OPTOMETRY
 OPEN SESSION MEETING MINUTES
 OCTOBER 19, 2023**

BOARD MEMBER	
Dr. Lisa Johnson, OD - Chairperson	PRESENT
Dr. David Reed, OD - Board Member	PRESENT
Dr. LaMia Jones, OD- Board Member	PRESENT
Vacant - Board Member	-
Vacant- Consumer Member	-
BOARD STAFF:	
Ericka L. Walker, MSW - Executive Director	ABSENT
Sithembile Chithenga, MD, MPH – Executive Director (BOM)	PRESENT
Gregory Scurlock, Compliance Officer	ABSENT
Mark Donatelli, Board Investigator	PRESENT
Zaneta Batts, Health Licensing Specialist	PRESENT
LEGAL STAFF:	
Ajay Gohil, Board Attorney	PRESENT

BOARD OF OPTOMETRY

OPEN SESSION MEETING MINUTES

OCTOBER 19, 2023

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

OS-1019-01	<p><u>Introductions:</u></p> <p>Board Members</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. David Reed, OD- Present • Dr. LaMia Jones, OD – Present • Dr. Lisa Johnson, OD- Present <p>Board Staff</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ericka Walker, Executive Director – Absent • Sithembile Chithenga, Executive Director (BOM) - Present • Mark Donatelli, Investigator – Present • Gregory Scurlock, Compliance Officer- Absent • Zaneta Batts, Health Licensing Specialist – Present <p>Legal Staff</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ajay Gohil, Attorney- Present
------------	---

OS-1019-02	<p><u>Acceptance of Meeting Agenda:</u></p> <p><u>Board Action:</u></p> <p>Acceptance of the October 19, 2023, Open Session Meeting Agenda.</p> <p><u>Motion:</u></p> <p>A motion was made to approve the October 19, 2023, Open Session agenda by Dr. Reed and seconded by Dr. Jones.</p> <p>Dr. Johnson, Dr. Reed, and Dr. Jones, all voted in favor of the motion. The motion passed unanimously.</p>
------------	---

MINUTES AND STAFF REPORTS

OS-1019-03	<p><u>Executive Directors Report:</u></p> <p>Dr. Sithembile Chithenga, Executive Director for the Board of Medicine, sat in for Mrs. Ericka Walker while she was out on work travel. Dr. Chithenga gave a brief update on The Committee on Health posed a roundtable meeting on September 25th, 2023, to discuss several nominations to the Boards. The nominees were approved at the Legislative meeting held on October 3rd, 2023. On June 8th, 2023, Mayor Bowser announced the appointed acting Director, Dr. Ayanna Bennett, MD, MSPH, FAAP, for DC Health.</p> <p><u>Hybrid Board Meeting Schedule:</u></p>
------------	--

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> January 18, 2024 (In Person & Virtual) April 18, 2024 (Virtual) July 18, 2024 (In Person & Virtual) <p>Licensed Optometrists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 231 	
OS-1019-04	<p><u>Board Attorney’s Report:</u> Mr. Gohil gave an update on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The HORA amendments package is working its way on getting closer to the Mayor’s office for approval. Once it gets approved at the Mayor’s office, it will then move onto Councilwoman Henderson’s Health Committee for review to schedule a hearing. Mr. Gohil is currently working with Lisa Fennell at ARBO to create an attorney section for the conferences. Mr. Gohil also mentioned a reciprocity agreement maybe considered in the future with the Virginia Board of Optometry. <p>Mr. Gohil announced the next ARBO meeting is scheduled for June 16th – 18th, 2023 in Nashville, Tennessee and requested for Board Members to save the date for more details to come.</p>	
OS-1019-05	<p><u>Board Chair’s Report:</u> Dr. Johnson did not have a report.</p>	
OS-1019-06	<p><u>Open Session Meeting Minutes:</u></p> <p><u>Board Action:</u> Consideration of the Open Session minutes from the July 20, 2023, meeting.</p> <p><u>Motion:</u> A motion was made to accept the July 20, 2023, open session minutes by Dr. Jones and seconded by Dr. Reed.</p> <p>Dr. Johnson, Dr. Reed, and Dr. Jones, all voted in favor of the motion. The motion passed unanimously.</p>	
DISCUSSION AND AGENDA ITEMS		
OS-1019-07	<p><u>Board Action:</u></p> <p>Acceptance of consideration of applications approved and the items for purposes of review and/or ratification of Board Actions taken since the last meeting.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Saadi Darvish Vrajika Patel Chinyere Onyenekwu Amber Smith 	

	<p>5. Tracy Snowden 6. Keith Smithson</p> <p><u>Motion:</u> A motion was made to approve the items by Dr. Jones and seconded by Dr. Reed.</p> <p>Dr. Johnson, Dr. Reed, and Dr. Jones, all voted in favor of the motion.</p> <p>The motion passed unanimously.</p>	
OS-1019-08	<p><u>COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:</u> There was no public attendance in the Open Session Meeting.</p>	
CLOSING		
OS-1019-09	<p><u>Board Action:</u> To go into closed session to discuss confidential matters as permitted in DC Official Code § 2-575(b).</p> <p><u>Background:</u> Pursuant to DC Official Code § 2-575(b), the Board will move into the Closed Executive Session portion of the meeting to discuss the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To consult with an attorney to obtain legal advice and to preserve the attorney-client privilege between an attorney and a public body, or to approve settlement agreements pursuant to § 2-575(b)(4)(a). 2. Preparation, administration, or grading of scholastic, licensing, or qualifying examinations pursuant to section § 2-575(b)(6). 3. To discuss disciplinary matters pursuant to section § 2-575(b)(9). 4. To plan, discuss, or hear reports concerning ongoing or planned investigation of alleged criminal or civil misconduct or violations of law or regulations, if disclosure to the public would harm the investigation pursuant to section § 2-575(b) (14). 	

OS-1019-10	<p><u>MOTION TO ADJOURN:</u></p> <p><u>Bord Action:</u> To adjourn the Open Session Meeting.</p> <p><u>Background:</u> At the end of every meeting, a motion to adjourn must be made in an open session to close out the business of Boards.</p> <p><u>Motion:</u> A motion was made to adjourn the Open Session Meeting by Dr. Reed and seconded by Dr. Jones.</p> <p>Dr. Johnson, Dr. Reed, and Dr. Jones all voted in favor of the motion. The motion passed unanimously.</p>
------------	--

This ends the Board of Optometry Open Session Meeting at 10:03 AM.

The next meeting is scheduled for January 18, 2024 (In Person & Virtual).