

These minutes are for information only. They have not been reviewed, revised or approved by the Board of Optometry.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE  
BOARD OF OPTOMETRY  
April 19, 2024

ROLL CALL

The meeting of the Board of Optometry was called to order at 2:00 p.m. on April 19, 2024, by Dr. Robert Vandervort, Chairperson, at Hampton Inn, 7343 Husker Circle, Husker Room, Lincoln, NE. The meeting was conducted In-Person and by WebEx. The following members answered the roll call:

Robert Vandervort, O.D., Chairperson  
Linda Heiden Vice-Chairperson  
Creston Myers, O.D. Secretary (via WebEx)  
Jeremiah Baumfalk, O.D.

A quorum was present, and the meeting convened. Also present were: Vonda Apking, Program Manager; Heather Ord, Health Licensing Coordinator; Jan Gadeken-Harris, Health Licensing Coordinator; T.J. O'Neill, Assistant Attorney General; Abigail Hoy Nissen, Attorney General Office, Teresa Hampton, Department Legal; and Suzanna Glover-Ettrich, Department Attorney (via WebEx).

Dr. Vandervort announced that there is a copy of all the public documents being reviewed at this meeting available in the meeting room pursuant to the Open Meetings Act.

In accordance with Neb. Rev. Stat. § 84-1411 of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act, copies of the agenda were e-mailed to the Board members and other interested parties, posted on the DHHS web site at <https://dhhs.ne.gov/licensure/Pages/Agendas-and-Minutes.aspx> and posted in the Licensure Unit on April 15, 2024.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Baumfalk moved, seconded by Heiden, to adopt the agenda with the Chairperson having the ability to rearrange as necessary. Voting aye: Baumfalk, Heiden, Myers, Vandervort. Voting nay: none. Absent: none. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

September 8, 2023

Page 1: Correction of the title from "Minutes of the Conferences Call Meeting of the Board of Optometry" to "Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Optometry".  
Page 2: No changes.

Baumfalk moved, seconded by Myers, to approve the September 8, 2023, minutes as corrected. Voting aye: Baumfalk, Heiden, Myers, Vandervort. Voting nay: none. Absent: none. Motion carried.

INVESTIGATIONAL REPORTS, DISCIPLINARY REPORTS, APPLICATION REVIEW – CLOSED SESSION

Heiden moved, seconded by Baumfalk, to go into closed session at 2:03 p.m. for the purpose of review and discussion of investigative reports, licensure applications, and other confidential information, and for the prevention of needless injury to the reputation of the individuals. Voting aye: Baumfalk, Heiden, Myers, Vandervort. Voting nay: none. Absent: none. Motion carried.

The Board returned to open session at 2:43 p.m.

APPLICATION REVIEW

Optometrist Initial Application(s) (1)

ADMIRE, KIM OD – application for Initial Optometrist license. Heiden moved, seconded by Baumfalk, to table for more information.  
Voting aye: Baumfalk, Heiden, Myers, Vandervort. Voting nay: none. Absent: none. Motion carried.

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RATIFY EMAIL BALLOTS SINCE THE LAST MEETING

Nothing to ratify at this time.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

There were no updates at this time.

REGULATIONS UPDATE

There were no updates at this time.

PRACTICE QUESTION – ARE RADIO FREQUENCY (RF) TREATMENTS WITHIN THE SCOPE OF PRACTICE OF THE TREATMENT OF DRY EYE DISEASE?

Myers Moved, Seconded by Baumfalk, that it is the Board's opinion that the use of Radio Frequency is a non-surgical treatment, is within the scope of practice of an optometrist, and can be used to treat conditions, diseases, or infections of the eye, ocular adnexa, or visual system. Voting aye: Baumfalk, Heiden, Myers, Vandervort. Voting nay: none. Absent: none. Motion carried.

DISCUSSION REGARDING THE CANADIAN EXAMINATION

Baumfalk moved, seconded by Heiden, that the Canadian exam does not meet the meet the examination requirement for licensure. Voting aye: Baumfalk, Heiden, Myers, Vandervort. Voting nay: none. Absent: none. Motion carried.

Baumfalk moved, seconded by Myers, to provide clarification that the individuals are required to pass all parts of the National Board of Examiners in Optometry (NBEO) includes all parts of the exam. Voting aye: Baumfalk, Heiden, Myers, Vandervort. Voting nay: none. Absent: none. Motion carried.

In accordance with Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 38-2608, 38-131, 172 NAC 10, Chapter 120-003.01.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE

The next meeting is to be determined.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Vandervort, Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 3:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

(Signature on file with the Department)

Creston Myers, O.D., Secretary  
Board of Optometry