

These minutes have not been reviewed or approved by the Board of Dentistry.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF THE
BOARD OF DENTISTRY

January 19, 2024

ROLL CALL

The meeting of the Board of Dentistry was called to order by Dean Cope, DDS, Chairperson, at 9:02 a.m. on January 19, 2024. The meeting was conducted by WebEx. The following members answered the roll call:

Dean Cope, DDS – Chairperson - via WebEx
Melanie Steckelberg, DDS, Vice-Chairperson – via WebEx
Michael J. O’Hara, JD, PhD – Secretary – via WebEx
Gene Giles, DDS – via WebEx
Lisa Kucera, RDH – via WebEx
Terrence Lanphier, DDS – via WebEx
Lynlee Medhi – via WebEx
John Thomas, DMD – via WebEx

Absent: Yoshiharu Ameku, DDS
Hannah Randell, RDH

A quorum was present, and the meeting convened.

Also present to participate in the meeting: Vonda Apking, Program Manager; Jan Gaden Harris, Health Licensing Coordinator; C.J. Roberts, Department Attorney; T.J. O’Neill, Assistant Attorney General.

Cope 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 on the Bulletin Board at the entrance to the Nebraska State Office Building on January 9, 2024.

Cope provided an overview of the Board of Dentistry’s purpose.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

O’Hara moved, seconded by Kucera, to approve adoption of the agenda with the Chair having the authority to rearrange agenda items as needed. Voting aye: Cope, Giles, Kucera, Lanphier, Medhi, O’Hara, Steckelberg, Thomas. Voting nay: None. Absent: Ameku and Randell. Abstain: None. Motion carried.

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LEGISLATION UPDATE

LB824 - Adopt the Dentist and Dental Hygienist Compact and change provisions relating to criminal background checks.

Introduced January 3, 2024: <https://nebraskalegislature.gov/FloorDocs/108/PDF/Intro/LB824.pdf>
Hearing date is scheduled for January 24, 2024.

The Board of Dentistry opposes this Bill and will send a letter of opposition to the Legislature.

Steckelberg moved, seconded by Giles to send a letter of opposition to the Legislature regarding LB824. Voting aye: Cope, Giles, Kucera, Medhi, O'Hara, Steckelberg and Thomas. Voting nay: Lanphier. Absent: Ameku and Randell. Abstain: None. Motion carried.

LB834 - Establish requirements for a resident dental license.

Introduced January 3, 2024:

<https://nebraskalegislature.gov/FloorDocs/108/PDF/Intro/LB834.pdf>

Hearing date is scheduled for January 24, 2024.

The Board of Dentistry is generally in support of this Bill with the addition proposed amendment language which should include the requirement of completing the Nebraska Jurisprudence Exam.

Steckelberg moved, seconded by Giles to send a letter of support to the Legislature regarding LB834 including the Board's concerns about the proposed amendment language which should include the requirement of completing the Nebraska Jurisprudence Exam. Voting aye: Cope, Giles, Kucera, Lanphier, Medhi, O'Hara, Steckelberg, Thomas. Voting nay: None. Absent: Ameku and Randell.

Abstain: None. Motion carried.

FUTURE MEETING DATES

The next Board of Dentistry meeting is scheduled for March 4, 2024. To view the projected schedule for 2024, go to:

<https://dhhs.ne.gov/licensure/Pages/Agendas-and-Minutes.aspx>

ADJOURNMENT

The Board adjourned the meeting at 10:27 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

(signature on file with the Department)

Michael O'Hara, JD, PhD, Secretary
Board of Dentistry