

LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF OPTOMETRY EXAMINERS

MINUTES

WILLIS-KNIGHTON EYE CENTER- SHREVEPORT, LA.

JULY 9, 10-2021

The meeting was called to order on July 9, 2021 at 3:03 P.M. The roll was called and all members were present.

The agenda and the minutes of the June 3, 2021 meeting were adopted as presented upon motion by Dr. Sandefur/Anastasio. Passed unanimously.

The finance and budget report was given. The Board asked Dr. Sandefur to check on the expiration date and interest rate on the Certificate of Deposit.

Dr. Sandefur reported that there has been no communication from the La. Auditors office on the recent audit.

The Franz case was discussed. Dr. Anastasio reported on his findings. It was reported that the Consent Decree has not yet been signed. Upon motion by Dr. Sandefur/Anastasio the Board voted to require Dr. Franz to appear at a formal hearing. Passed unanimously. The date will be set soon.

The proposed Telehealth Rule was discussed. Upon motion by Dr. Avallone/Sandefur it was decided that there will be no fee for certification as a telehealth provider. Passed unanimously.

Dr. Sandefur/Benoit moved to suspend the licenses of all who have not renewed. Passed unanimously.

The Gary McGrath complaint was reviewed. Upon motion by Dr. Sandefur/Wroten the Board found no violation of the Optometry law and will notify Mr. McGrath accordingly.

Upon motion by Dr. Gerdes/Wroten the Board went into Executive Session at 3:38 P.M. The Board interviewed Dr. Avallone and reviewed the resumes of the other applicants. No action was taken. Upon motion by Mr. Benoit/Gerdes the Executive Session was ended at 4:26 P.M.

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The Stanton Optical case was reviewed. There was no new information.

The Barthelemy case was reviewed. The registered letter was returned unsigned.

The ABC case was reviewed. ABC was shopped but the results were inconclusive so the Board decided to shop them again.

Dr. Avallone reported on the C.E. verification by COPE. The Board was given a new, lower price by ARBO for auditing of the C.E. and upon motion by Dr. Avallone/Wrotten the Board voted to accept the new price. Passed unanimously.

There was no new information regarding COVID mandates.

The licensing exam was discussed and it was decided that new questions were need for the laser exam.

Dr. Sandefur reported that there was no response from LDH on his request for an update on the A.S.C. rules regarding O.D.s performing surgery in A.S.C.s.

The Board is waiting on the Board attorney for information on practice restriction authority.

Dr. Avallone gave an update on the Policy Manual. The rewritten manual was distributed to all Board members today.

The meeting was suspended until July 10, 2021.

The meeting was re-convened Saturday July 10, 2021 at 10:35 A.M.

Dr. Gerdes gave an update on the La. Healthcare Connections comprehensive examination question. He will report back at the next meeting.

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The examination results were graded and it was noted that all candidate had successfully passed and are eligible for licensure provided each candidate has completed all of the requirements for licensure.

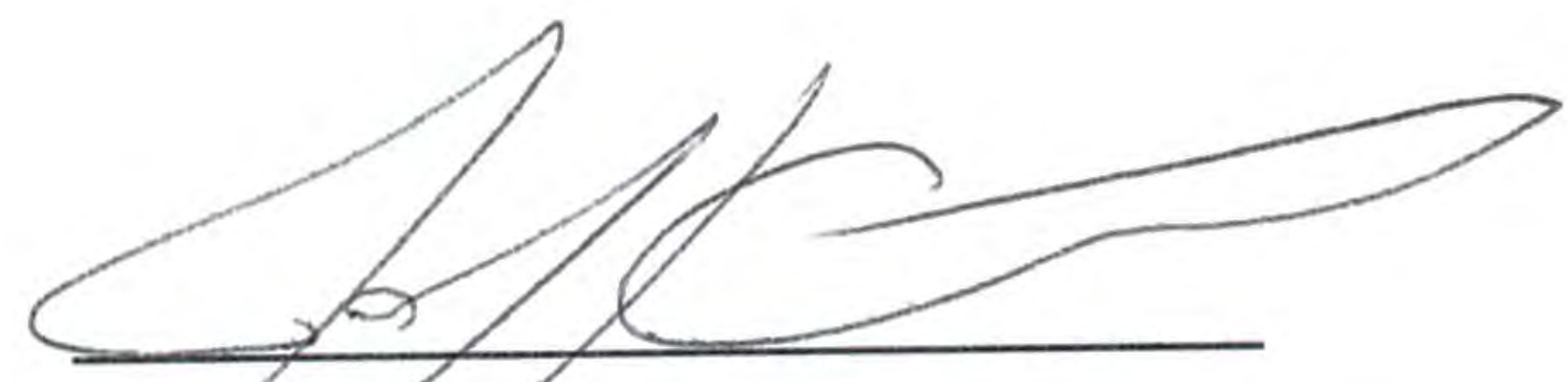
Election of officers was held. Upon motion by Dr. Sandefur/Gerdes, Dr. Anastasio was elected President and Dr. Avallone was elected Secretary/Treasurer. Passed unanimously.

The question of required C.E. for residents was discussed and the Board will ask the attorney for information and bring the matter up at the next meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:37 P.M.



Gary Avallone, O.D., Secretary



Jeffrey Anastasio, O.D., President