

**STATE BOARD OF EXAMINERS OF OPHTHALMIC DISPENSERS  
AND OPHTHALMIC TECHNICIANS  
PUBLIC SESSION MINUTES  
DECEMBER 10, 2008**

The December meeting of the Board was convened in accordance with its notice to the Secretary of State, the Bergen Record, the Record of Hackensack, the Trenton Times, the Courier Post and the Star-Ledger and was conducted in accordance with the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act.

President Cohen convened the meeting at 10:00 a.m. A roll call was taken and the following attendance was recorded for these minutes:

**PRESENT:** Linda Cohen, Joseph Grodman, Michael Higgins, Gary Iavarone, Jerry McMullian, and John Valeri, Esq.

**EXCUSED OR ABSENT:** Jane Kenny

**PUBLIC ATTENDEES:** Richard Palumbo, Professor at Essex County College and Charles Harrison

Also in attendance: Dorcas K. O'Neal, Executive Director, Susan Berger, Deputy Attorney General, and Monica Carrington, staff.

The Board adjourned the Public Session in order to hold examination review.

The Board held examination reviews for the September 23, 2008 examination from 9:00 a.m. -10:00 a.m. The following candidates attended this review:

Leon Macon Jr  
Reinaldo Perriera  
Elayne Wilder  
Rashka Panchal  
Roy Poulsen  
Waihung Yung  
John Hessel  
Sheetal Davda  
Jennifer Nelson  
Tzippy Abramowitz  
Julie Maygar  
William Ungaro

The Board reconvened in Public Session to complete the Public Agenda.

#### **I. APPROVAL OF PUBLIC MINUTES**

The Board reviewed the Public Session Minutes for November 12, 2008. On a motion by Michael Higgins, seconded by Joseph Grodman, the minutes were unanimously approved as submitted.

#### **II. OLD BUSINESS**

a. The Board reviewed a letter from Aaron Brooks an apprentice requesting to be excused from the September 2008 examination because he is not able to obtain an official transcript from Camden County College due to an outstanding financial obligation. He was granted an excused absence from the March 2008 Examination. The Board requested an unofficial copy of Mr. Brooks transcripts for review. After reviewing the unofficial copy of the transcript it was the consensus of the Board to grant Mr. Brooks the opportunity to sit for the Qualifying Technical Examination in March 2009 as he has completed the required education and apprenticeship time.

#### **III. NEW BUSINESS/FYI**

a. Raul Cruz - who is licensed in New York submitted a letter requesting one additional opportunity to sit for the dispensing portion of Ophthalmic Dispensers examination. It was the consensus of the Board to reaffirm its decision from the June 2008 meeting and deny Mr. Cruz's request. Mr. Cruz will be so advised.

b. The Board reviewed the "Scope of Work" for the written examination as informational.

#### IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

Richard Palumbo, Professor at Essex County College attended the Public Session meeting. He stated that Essex County administration will establish a certificate program for Ophthalmic Science. He requested the Board to change the requirements of the apprentice program to include a basic business course, Math and English, so that a student can receive a Certificate of Completion. DAG Berger advised that the Board cannot initiate changes to the statutes and suggested that he consider presenting his proposal to the Opticians Association of New Jersey.

There being is no other business to come before the Board, on a motion by John Valeri seconded by Joseph Grodman the Public Session was adjourned and the Board convened in Executive Session for the purpose of receiving counsel, to conduct one investigative inquiry, to review one criminal history, and one matter of old business.

The Board reconvened in Public Session. The next scheduled meeting is January 14, 2009. There being no other business to come before the Board, on a motion made and seconded the meeting was adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dorcas K. O'Neal  
Executive Director