

New Jersey State Board of Optometrists
Regular Session Minutes
October 15, 2008

A regular meeting of the New Jersey State Board of Optometrists was held at 124 Halsey Street, Newark on the 6th floor on Wednesday, October 15, 2008. Leonard Steiner, O.D., President of the Board, announced that pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act notice of this meeting was prepared in the office of the Board and mailed out to the Secretary of State, the Attorney General, the Star Ledger, the Record, the Press of Atlantic City, the Asbury Park Press, and the Trenton Times. The meeting was called to order at 9:00 A.M. A roll call was taken and the following attendance was recorded:

PAUL BENT Present
GIGETTE COLLAZO HARFST, O.D. Present
RICHARD FAVREAU, O.D. Absent
MITCHELL FINK, O.D. Present
JOHN FLORIO, O.D. Present
LEONARD STEINER, O.D. Present

Also present were: CARMEN RODRIGUEZ, Deputy Attorney General; LISA PETROWSKI, Assistant to the Executive Director

I. Public Comment

II. Approval of Regular Session Minutes

A. September 17, 2008

A motion was made by Dr. Harfst and seconded by Dr. Fink to approve the September 17, 2008 Regular Session Minutes as presented. A vote was taken and the motion carried by a unanimous vote.

III. New Business

A. Letter from Donald Alvarez, O.D.
RE: Scope of Practice

Dr. Alvarez inquired whether Anterior Stromal Puncture was within the scope of practice of optometry. Dr. Alvarez also asked the Board how many continuing education credits can be obtained within a biennial renewal period from courses via correspondence, internet, journals, etc.

A motion was made by Mr. Bent and seconded by Dr. Harfst to advise Dr. Alvarez that Anterior Stromal Puncture is within the scope of practice of optometry of an optometrist who is certified in therapeutics.

The Board will also advise Dr. Alvarez that an optometrist can obtain 20 continuing education credits from courses via correspondence, internet, journals, etc. in accordance with N.J.A.C. 13:38-7.4(e). A vote was taken and the motion carried by a unanimous vote.

B. Letter from Michael Siegel, O.D.
RE: Continuing Education

Dr. Steiner recused himself.

Mr. Siegel inquired whether an optometrist can receive continuing education credit if he or she attends an approved course more than once within the biennial renewal period provided he or she attends the course on different dates.

A motion was made by Dr. Florio and seconded by Mr. Bent to advise Dr. Siegel that it is the Board's position that licensees should not repeat courses within the same biennial for continuing education credit.

C. December 17, 2008 New Jersey State Board of Optometrists Meeting

A motion was made by Dr. Fink and seconded by Dr. Harfst to cancel its December 17, 2008 meeting due to a lack of a quorum. A vote was taken and the motion carried by a unanimous vote.

IV. For Your Information

A. Association of Regulatory Boards of Optometry September 2008 Newsletter

The Board reviewed the Association of Regulatory Boards of Optometry's September 2008 Newsletter and considered it informational.

B. New Jersey Board of Medical Examiners' October 15, 2008 Open Board Agenda

The Board reviewed the New Jersey Board of Medical Examiners' October 15, 2008 Open Board Agenda and considered it informational.

C. New Jersey Board of Medical Examiners' October 15, 2008 Open Agenda of Disciplinary Matters Pending Conclusion

The Board reviewed the New Jersey Board of Medical Examiners' October 15, 2008 Open Agenda of Disciplinary Matters Pending Conclusion and considered it informational.

D. New Jersey Board of Medical Examiners' August 13, 2008 Open Board Minutes

The Board reviewed the New Jersey Board of Medical Examiners' August 13, 2008 Open Board Minutes and considered them informational.

E. New Jersey Board of Medical Examiners' August 13, 2008 Open Minutes of Disciplinary Matters Pending Conclusion

The Board reviewed the New Jersey Board of Medical Examiners' August 13, 2008 Open Minutes of Disciplinary Matters Pending Conclusion and considered them informational.

Upon a motion made by Dr. Harfst and seconded by Dr. Fink, the Board voted to go into Executive Session to discuss the following matters involving investigations or violations of the Board's enabling act, the Uniform Enforcement Act and/or Board regulations.

1. Two matters filed with the board which requires review and additional recommendations with regard to investigations and/or actions.
2. Four matters where additional information has been submitted to the Board concerning pending investigations.

IV. Adjournment

A motion was made by Dr. Harfst and seconded by Dr. Fink to adjourn the Regular Session Meeting at 12:00 P.M. A vote was taken and the motion carried by a unanimous vote.

Respectfully submitted,
B Leonard Steiner, O.D.
Board President