

Minutes of Board Meeting  
North Dakota Board of Optometry  
Teleconference Call  
January 23, 2019

Members Present: Renae Sisk, Sandi Frenzel, Drs. Taya Patzman, Jeff Yunker, Brian Beattie, Dori Carlson, Alan King, Tamara Mathison, and Legal Council David Schaibley.

Absent: None

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. c.s.t. by President Yunker.

Dr. Yunker reported that he was participating in the call from his office and the doors were open. There was no one else present at the time of the call.

Dr. King reported that he had entered the call information on the Secretary of State's website as well as the Board Website.

Dr. Yunker reported that the purpose of the call was to discuss our bill, SB2323 and to discuss other bills before the legislature that would have an effect on our Board, or the public welfare.

SB2323 is being introduced by Senators Oban, Davidson, and Meyer.

It was the consensus of the Board that the purpose of our bill is to accomplish the following:

1. Enable the Board to change continuing education requirements to reflect the needs of the Board to keep licensees current with nationwide optometric standard of care. Currently, our Board requires 50 hours of CE every three years, which is about 16.33 hours per year. The national average of states with TPA certification is 19.55 hours per year. An increase in the number of hours, and the ability of the Board to perform office visitations gives the Board a mechanism of ensuring maintenance of competence.
2. Increase the number of hours by distance learning to 8 hours per year. Since North Dakota is a rural state, it is a hardship for many optometrists to attend face to face education. Distance learning CE also has a test at the end of the course consisting of ten questions for every hour of CE, and requires a 70% correct to receive credit, which enhances the learning process.
3. Give the Board latitude to increase to scope of practice and determine what CE is needed to effect change.
4. Give the Board the ability to allow disciplinary hearings. Present state law was written before the state set up the Office of disciplinary hearings, and needs to be updated.

It was moved by Dr. Mathison and seconded by Dr. Beattie to oppose Senate Bill 2126. The motion passed unanimously.

It was moved by Dr. Patzman and seconded by Dr. Carlson to oppose Senate Bill 2127. The motion passed unanimously.

It was moved by Dr. Beattie and seconded by Ms. Frenzel to oppose Senate Bill 2306. The motion passed unanimously.

It was moved by Ms. Frenzel and seconded by Ms. Sisk to oppose House Bill 1489. The motion passed unanimously.

It was moved by Dr. Mathison and seconded by Dr. Beattie to oppose House Bill 1523. The motion passed unanimously.

It was moved by Dr. Beattie and seconded by Dr. Patzman to oppose the section on 6 hours of CE annually in Senate Bill 2353. The motion passed unanimously.

It was moved by Dr. Beattie and seconded by Dr. Patzman to oppose the section regarding term limits in Senate Bill 2353. The motion passed unanimously.

It was moved by Dr. Patzman and seconded by Dr. Mathison to ask that our Board be exempt from Senate Bill 2353.

Dr. Patzman has volunteered to testify at hearings that are being held in the next week on behalf of the Board. Dr. Beattie will try to attend as many of the hearings as he can and also testify on behalf of the Board.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m., cst.

Respectfully submitted,

Alan J. King, O.D.  
Executive Director