



COLLEGE OF OPTOMETRISTS OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

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Board Meeting Minutes: September 17, 2023

Approved: December 11, 2023

1. INTRODUCTIONS

Members present:

- Dr. Kim Tsang (Chair)
- Dr. Russ Ebata
- Dr. Brad Genereux
- Dr. Harmeet Waraich
- Dr. Mark Bourdeau (via Zoom)
- Dr. Jaelyn McComas
- Mr. Joseph Finamore (Public Member)
- Ms. Concetta Risi (Public Member)
- Ms. Joyce Kenoras (Public member)

Staff present:

- Rick Gambrel, Registrar (via Zoom)
- Dr. Joan Hansen, Deputy Registrar

Dr. Tsang, Chair called the meeting to order at 9:01 am.

The College would like to recognize that this meeting is being held within the ancestral, traditional and unceded territories of the Snaw-Naw-As and Qualicum first nation.

Dr. Tsang spoke on behalf of the board relaying a message to Mr. Gambrel:

"Rick, it's important to convey the respect we have for you as our registrar. Unanimously around the table, we value the importance of you continuing in your role from now till amalgamation. We acknowledge the message you conveyed in your memo [SRAG memo] and recognize that in your eyes, the relationship has been damaged. We also recognize heightened stress, burden and frustration that you have on you at this point in time. And we want to move forward on a path towards reparation. Recognizing all of that, we want to know what do you need from us as a board to move forward in that direction?"

Mr. Gambrel acknowledged the message and showed appreciation. Response was delayed to respectfully give Mr. Gambrel time to respond with thoughtful remarks.

A quorum was present, and the meeting, having been duly convened, was ready to proceed with business. Dr. Tsang welcomed all Board members to the meeting and thanked Joyce Kenoras for the touching video from the children of her first nation. Dr. Tsang reminded all that documents and discussions at the meeting remain confidential.

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

It was **moved, seconded and carried** that the agenda is approved as circulated, with the moving forward of items 5.2 and 8.1 in order to allow the Registrar to fully participate in any discussion regarding those items.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – CONSENT AGENDA

3.1 June 12, 2023 meeting minutes. (amended)

3.2 August 14, 2023 meeting minutes.

4. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED – CONSENT AGENDA

5. REPORTS – CONSENT AGENDA

5.2 Registrar report – Mr. Gambrel updated the Board on the many meetings he has attended regarding the upcoming Amalgamation. He was thanked for his diligence.

It was **moved and carried** that the Board adopts the Consent Agenda, as circulated.

6. FINANCIAL REVIEW

6.1 It was **moved and carried** that the Board approves the Balance Sheets as presented.

6.2 It was **moved and carried** that the Board approves the Income Statements as presented.

6.3 It was moved and carried that the Board accepts FRAG's recommendation re: registration fee reduction and refund.

7. BUSINESS IN PROGRESS

7.1 It was **moved and carried** to appoint Dr. Sally Donaldson to the Inquiry committee.

7.2 Modernization of the Health Professions is being addressed by the group of 11 Registrars along with input from new "Board" appointee Allan Seckel.

It was **moved and carried** that the college refrain from any further advocacy for scope expansion until after amalgamation and leave this task to the very able Association. The College should limit itself to supporting the scope expansion by saying, and only saying, that it can regulate this expanded scope in the public interest.

7.3 The Strategic plan as developed over the preceding two days was reviewed and accepted. It will now be posted on the website. The Board Survey was also reviewed and all Board members were thanked for taking time to fill out.

7.4 The Calendar was adopted. Board meeting dates for 2024 were set at March 11 and May 27. A Volunteer year end thank you party is to be organized for January 2024.

8. NEW BUSINESS

8.1 It was **moved and carried** that the bylaws of the College of Optometrists of British Columbia made under the authority of the *Health Professions Act* are amended as follows:

1. Section 9 is repealed and replaced by the following:

Election

9 (1) *An election under section 17(3)(a) of the Act must take place no later than April 15 of each year in which the term of office for one or more board members comes to an end.*

(2) *The candidate who receives the most votes is elected.*

(3) *If there is more than one vacancy, candidates are elected according to the number of votes they received.*

(4) *In the case of a tie, the registrar must select the successful candidate by random draw.*

(5) *The registrar must certify newly elected board members pursuant to section 17.1(1) of the Act in Form 5.*

2. Section 10 is repealed and replaced by the following:

Term of office

10. (1) *The term of office of an elected board member is three years effective April 16 following the date of the election.*

(2) *No board member may serve more than three consecutive terms of office.*

(3) *Despite subsection (1), the term of office for every elected board member who holds office on the date this subsection comes into force is extended by one year.*

8.2 It was **moved and carried** that in accordance with s. 98(3), the Board approves the appointment of a registrant of the College to receive the records containing personal information from the deceased registrant.

9. NEXT MEETING

The College Board has been scheduled to meet on **December 11, 2023 and March 11, 2024.**

10. IN CAMERA

The Board met In Camera

11. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 12:12pm.

_____ Dr. Kim Tsang, Chair