



Board of Optometry

Office of Professional Regulation, Vermont Secretary of State

89 Main Street, 3rd Floor • Montpelier, VT 05620-3402

Tel. (802) 828-2373 • <https://sos.vermont.gov/opr/>

Approved Minutes Friday, March 17th, 2023, 8:30am

Board Members Present: Francis Pinard, OD, Chair; Karena Shippee, OD; and Debora Belcher, Ad-Hoc.

Board Member(s) Absent: Kenneth Lawenda, OD, Vice Chair.

OPR Staff Present: Lauren Layman, General Counsel; Agatha Kessler, Assistant Director; Dylan Bruce, Senior Policy Analyst; Noura Eltabbakh, Staff Attorney; and Corey Young, Licensing Administrator II

1. Call to Order

- Dr. Pinard called the meeting to order at 8:36 am.

2. Changes to the agenda

- Dr. Pinard asked that the Board budget be presented prior to approval of January's meeting minutes.

3. Approval of January 27th, 2023, meeting minutes

- Dr. Shippee made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Ms. Belcher seconded the motion. Approved.

4. Discussion

1. Board Budget Discussion

- Ms. Kessler & Mr. Bruce presented budget data to the Board and discussed upcoming 2023 fee adjustments. In consideration of inflation, the Board's negative fund balance, and an interest to keep application costs low, the Board supported an initial and renewal fee increase of \$50.

2. New Board and Staff Introductions

- Dr. Shippee and Attorney Eltabbakh introduced themselves to the Board.

3. Telemedicine & Patient Care

- Attorney Layman informed Dr. Shippee of Vermont's pending telehealth licenses and registrations.

5. Adjournment

- Dr. Shippee moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:01am. Ms. Belcher seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned.

Next Meeting Date – June 16th, 2023

Please check the office [website](#) for updates