

# NEVADA STATE BOARD OF OPTOMETRY



## MINUTES OF PUBLIC MEETING

November 22, 2021

1. **Call to Order and Public Comment.** President Mariah Smith, O.D. opened the telephonic meeting at 11:53 a.m. and asked for public comment. No public comments were offered.
2. **Roll Call.** President Mariah Smith, O.D., Jeff Austin, O.D., Chen Young, O.D., and Drew Johnson were all in attendance. Also, present were Executive Director Caren C. Jenkins, and members of the public, including Niki Neilon of Casey Neilon CPAs.
3. **Consideration and approval of 2021 Audit.** All members having had an opportunity to consider the proposed Audit and a brief presentation by Ms. Neilon and Ms. Jenkins, Member Johnson remarked that the audit showed a clean record the Board's fiscal responsibility. After a brief discussion, Dr. Austin made, and Mr. Drew Johnson seconded a motion to adopt the audit as presented and to forward it to the Legislative Counsel Bureau for consideration. Unanimous passage.
4. **Proposed revision of previous decision to provide rebates to licensees.**  
Ms. Jenkins proposed, after preparing to implement the approval of rebates to existing licensees, to revise the process to coincide with renewals. She proposed that it would be a simple process to issue a rebate to the credit card or checking account used to renew a license in 2022 upon completion of the renewal. She also mentioned that not all licensees participated in the years in which the reserves accumulated. Mr. Drew Johnson made, and Dr. Chen Young seconded a motion to direct staff to rebate \$375 per licensee who has held his or her license four years or more. The motion passed unanimously.
5. **Consideration and adjustment of staff compensation.**  
Executive Director Caren Jenkins presented the history of her salary negotiation and adjustments to her compensation since her hire in 2016. Her initial salary, using the employer-paid option was approximately \$88,000. In July 2017, she received a 3% COLA. In 2018, the Board provided her a \$5500 bonus. In July 2019, she received a 3% COLA and a 5% Merit salary increase. Since July 2019, her compensation has not been adjusted, and her annual salary currently is \$102,375, using the Employer-paid scale.

Dr. Smith noted that Ms. Jenkins had been a great asset to the Board and deserves more. Mr. Johnson noted the NRS 281.123 limit on salaries to 95% the Governor's salary, and that AB 385 passed this last legislative session to amend the definition of "salary" to include any bonuses. All Board members expressed appreciation for Ms. Jenkins' work.

Mr. Johnson made, and Dr. Young seconded a motion to provide an immediate \$5,000 one-time bonus to Ms. Jenkins, and a 5% one-time bonus to Ms. Nancy Padilla, and to implement any COLA approved by the Nevada Governor for other State Employees, if and when that takes place. The motion carried unanimously.

**6. Public Comment.** No public comment was offered.

**7. Adjournment.** Motion to adjourn by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Dr. Young.. Unanimous motion carried.

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**FY 2021-2022 Regular meeting schedule** Tuesdays at Noon by telephone: January 27, 2022, March 24, 2022, May 19, 2022, July 21, 2022, September 22, 2022, and November 17, 2022. Additional meetings may be called on an as-needed basis.

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These minutes were considered and approved by majority vote of the Nevada State Board of Optometry at its meeting on January 27, 2022.



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Caren C. Jenkins, Executive Director