

Minutes

Arkansas State Board of Optometry

Specially Called Meeting via Teleconference

May 18, 2021

Dr. Ashley, Board President, called the meeting to order at 6:00 with all board members present with the exception of Mr. Gentry. Also present on the call were Mr. Gilmore, Arkansas Department of Health; Tanya Ford, ASBO, Executive Secretary; Vicki Farmer, Arkansas Optometric Association, Executive Director; and Dr. Joe Sugg, ArOA, President.

The purpose of this specially called meeting was to determine the Board's response to the request of three graduating students to allow them to sit for the state licensure examination on June 17, 2021, despite not having passed Part III of NBEO as required by the optometric practice act. Dr. Ashley led the discussion. The students feel like they did not have ample opportunity to prepare for and take Part III due to the Covid pandemic. The Board allowed for this exception in 2020 due to the pandemic.

After discussion, a motion was made by Dr. Shane Ford that an additional test date for state licensure examination be scheduled in August, to occur following the release of the results of the most recent NBEO Part III examination. (These results will not be available prior to the June 17, 2021 state licensure examination given by the Board.) Dr. Hennessey made a second. The motion passed.

Dr. Ashley announced, for the good and welfare of the Board, that Dr. Howard Flippin, a member of the ASBO since 1978 and Executive Director of the Board since 2001, will officially retire from the Board on July 13, 2021, after 43 years of continuous service to the ASBO and the people of Arkansas. His last board meeting will be June 17, 2021.

Dr. Hennessey made a motion to adjourn. Mr. White made a second. The motion carried.