

Call to Order

The April 10, 2026, Virginia Board of Optometry Full board meeting was called to order at 11:00 a.m. at the Department of Health Professions (DHP), Perimeter Center, 9960 Mayland Drive, 2nd Floor, Board Room 3, Henrico, Virginia 23233.

Presiding Officer

Gerald R. Neidigh, Jr., OD, President

Members Present

Lisa G. Wallace-Davis, OD
Jeffrey C. Michaels, OD, FAAO
Amanda Umlandt, OD

Members Not Present

Shawn H. Hobbs, OD
Corliss V. Booker, PhD, APRN, FNP-BC

Staff Present

Kelli Moss, Executive Director
Claire Foley, Deputy Executive Director
Sara Blose, Senior Assistant Attorney General, Board Counsel
Laura Jackson, Board Administrator
Laura Paasch, Senior Licensing & Operations Specialist

Public Present

No members of the public were present.

Establishment of Quorum

Four board members were present in the Richmond office, constituting a quorum for conducting business.

Welcome and Introductions

Dr. Neidigh welcomed Dr. Amanda Umlandt who was appointed to the board on December 4, 2025. Dr. Umlandt provided a brief introduction. Dr. Neidigh also welcomed Sara Blose, Senior Assistant Attorney General, who was present as board counsel on behalf of Senior Assistant Attorney General Brent Saunders.

Ordering of Agenda

Dr. Neidigh opened the floor to any changes to the agenda. Ms. Moss announced that Dr. Brown, the agency's new director, was unable to attend the meeting due to a scheduling conflict. She requested the director's report be removed from the agenda.

- A **MOTION** was made by Dr. Wallace-Davis to adopt the agenda with the requested change. The motion was seconded by Dr. Umlandt and carried unanimously.

Public Comment

No public comment was provided.

Approval of Minutes

Dr. Neidigh opened the floor to any additions or corrections to the draft minutes from the following meetings:

- November 12, 2025, Board Meeting
- January 28, 2026, Summary Suspension Consideration Meeting

Hearing no additions or corrections, Dr. Neidigh approved the minutes as presented.

Legislative/Regulatory Report

Ms. Moss provided the legislative and regulatory activity report on behalf of Ms. Barrett and Mr. Novak.

Ms. Moss presented information on HB796 and HB1006 that were passed by the General Assembly on April 13, 2026, and are awaiting the Governor's action. Ms. Moss also provided an update on pending regulatory actions for practitioner profiles and licensure by endorsement.

Consideration of Amendments to By-Laws

Ms. Moss presented the policy department's and board counsel's proposed amendments to the 2021 bylaws for the board to consider. She proposed one additional amendment to more accurately reflect the number of board meetings scheduled annually.

- A **MOTION** was made by Dr. Wallace-Davis to adopt the proposed amendments to the Virginia Board of Optometry By-Laws policy document as amended by the board. The motion was seconded by Dr. Umlandt and carried unanimously.

Readoption of Electronic Meeting Policy

Ms. Moss presented the electronic meeting policy for readoption as required by Virginia Code § 2.2-3708.3(D).

- A **MOTION** was made by Dr. Michaels to readopt the electronic participation policy. The motion was seconded by Dr. Wallace-Davis and carried unanimously.

Board Counsel's Report

Ms. Blöse did not provide a report.

President's Report

Dr. Neidigh did not provide a report.

Staff Reports

Executive Director's Report

Ms. Moss provided the following information to the board:

- Association of Regulatory Boards of Optometry (ARBO):
 - Ms. Moss shared ARBO's first quarter report and updates with the board.
 - Ms. Moss advised that she and Dr. Neidigh will be attending the ARBO annual conference in June in Phoenix, Arizona.
- Accreditation Council on Optometric Education (ACOE)
 - Ms. Moss reviewed a Memorandum provided by the ACOE regarding adopted changes and updates to Accreditation Standards, Policies and Procedures, and Glossary terms.
- Outreach
 - Ms. Moss announced that staff is developing a newsletter for semi-annual publication that will be emailed to licensees and posted on the board website.
 - Ms. Moss reported she has been invited to present a board report at the Virginia Optometric Association's annual meeting in May.
 - Ms. Moss stated board staff are available to conduct outreach to optometry students and in other forums when requested and invited board members to forward any inquiries about outreach opportunities to her.
- Statistics – Ms. Moss shared the most recent agency monthly snapshot for licensing and discipline statistics and asked Ms. Jackson and Ms. Foley to present updated licensing and discipline reports.

Licensure

Ms. Jackson provided an update to the February 2026 snapshot of the board's licensing statistics:

- 26 TPA-certified optometrist licenses, 21 Laser-certified TPA optometrist licenses and one volunteer optometrist registration were issued.
- 106 laser-certified licenses have been issued since May 2025 when regulations became effective.

Ms. Jackson also reported that Senior Licensing and Operations Specialist Laura Paasch attained 100% customer satisfaction for the previous period with no complaints. Dr. Neidigh recognized Ms. Paasch for this achievement.

Discipline

Ms. Foley provided an update to the February 2026 snapshot of open and closed discipline cases:

- The board closed 17 cases between March 1 and April 9, 2026.
- As of April 9, 2026, the board has 12 open cases.

Dr. Neidigh thanked staff and board members for their work in resolving open complaints.

New Business

There was no new business to report.

Next Meeting

Ms. Moss reviewed the 2026 meeting calendar and noted the next full board meeting is scheduled for July 17, 2026.

Adjournment

Dr. Neidigh adjourned the meeting at 11:29 a.m.

Kelli G. Moss
Executive Director

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