

NEW YORK STATE BOARD FOR PUBLIC ACCOUNTANCY

July 26, 2023

**Meeting Minutes
New York State Education Department
Board Meeting**

89 Washington Ave, Room 217, Albany
1411 Broadway, 10th Floor, Regents Room, NYC
100 Chestnut Street, Suite 1200, Rochester
8321 Main Street, Williamsville

Chair Ms. Cohen called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.

<u>The following members were present:</u>	
Charles Abraham, CPA (NYC)	Rose Hu, CPA (Buffalo)
Carney AuYeung, CPA (NYC)	Brian Krist, Esq (NYC)
Anthony Bracco, CPA (NYC)	Stephen Langowski, CPA (NYC)
Alexander Buchholz, CPA (NYC)	Maria Moran, CPA (Albany)
Elizabeth Bush, CPA (Rochester)	Heather Mowat, CPA (Albany)
Ann Burstein Cohen, CPA (NYC)	Charles Pezzino, CPA (Buffalo)
Mark Ferm, CPA (Buffalo)	Thomas Sciametta, CPA (NYC)
Cynthia Foy (Rochester)	James Schnell, CPA (Rochester)
<u>Members absent:</u> Anthony Basile, CPA Crisy Geerholt William Kahn, CPA John Lauchert, CPA Joseph Maffia, CPA Kevin Richards, CPA Shelly Taleporos, CPA	

Others in attendance:

Jennifer Winters, Executive Secretary, NYSED (NYC)
Julie McLoughlin, NYSED (Albany)
Thomas Cordell, NYSED (Albany)

Public Session only:

Frank Venezia, Peer Review Oversight Committee (PROC)
D. Edward Martin, CPA - Extended Board Member (NYC)
Carla Ratchford, Executive Director of the Illinois Board of Examiners (NYC)
Amy Kramer, Ostroff Associates, Inc. – (NYC)
Ruth Singleton, NYSSCPA – (NYC)

The Board moved into Executive Session at 10:03 a.m., based on a motion made by Mr. Bracco and seconded by Mr. Buchholz.

Executive Session adjourned at 10:33 a.m. based on a motion made by Ms. Moran and seconded by Ms. Mowat. The Chair moved the Board into Public Session at 10:36 a.m. based on a motion by Mr. Krist and seconded by Ms. Hu.

Review and Approval of Minutes

Based on a motion made by Mr. Langowski and seconded by Ms. Foy, the Board unanimously approved the minutes of the April 26, 2023, Board meeting.

Peer Review Oversight Committee- Annual Report

Mr. Venezia, Chair of the Peer Review Oversight Committee (PROC), presented the annual PROC report beginning on page 6 of the board packet. The report included a summary for the year 2022, including the updated Regulations, and new developments for 2023.

Board Member Update

Ms. Winters reported that Mr. Ferm and Mr. Kahn's term will be ending in August. Ms. Winters thanked both for the years of service on the Board and their dedication to the profession. With their departures, the Board has openings for new members. Ms. Winters noted that the Office of Professional Discipline requested that the new Board members have experience in tax. Ms. Winters confirmed that to serve as a Board member, the licensee would need to be a licensed CPA for at least five (5) years. Ms. Winters asked the Board members to forward any referrals.

Ms. Winters indicated new Board members have been added to the various subcommittees. Ms. Winters will update the SharePoint site with the updated committee member lists.

Ms. Cohen reminded the Board members of the need to complete the Comprehensive Ethics Training Course (CETC). Board members should have received an email from training@nysed.gov.

Ms. Winters reminded the Board that travel expenses for reimbursement need to be submitted 30 days after the Board meeting.

Board Office Update

Ms. Winters reported that currently there are two position openings, Education Program Assistant 1 and Licensing Services Clerk, at the Board office. Interviews are being conducted and an update will be provided at the next meeting.

Education Committee

Ms. Cohen noted that members of the Education Committee presented the new 150E requirements to non-Licensure Qualifying schools in June. There were several in and out of state programs present at the meeting.

Ms. Cohen reported that the video of the January presentation of the 150E requirements for NY schools with License Qualifying programs has been posted to the website for viewing by the public.

Ms. Winters reviewed the licensing statistics included in the Board packet beginning on page 52. It was noted that the numbers remained consistent over the last three (3) years.

Ms. Cohen reported that it was brought to the Education Committee's attention that a NASBA approved CPE sponsor was offering a course titled Drunk Ethics. The CPE course would not be applicable toward the New York State ethics requirement as it is not an approved New York State provider; however, the

course could be applicable toward the Advisory Services category under behavioral ethics. A discussion took place regarding the acceptability of this course toward meeting the yearly CPE requirements under the advisory services category. The Board will compose a letter to NASBA regarding the concern with the perception and content of the course.

Ms. Winters reported that there are a variety of for-profit organizations that are partnering with institutions of higher learning advertising assisting individuals with obtaining college level credit. Ms. Winters included an example in the Board packet of one organization. The concern is that the for-profit entities are not degree granting, accredited, institutions and the marketing that is often presented is misleading to the consumer.

Ms. Winters noted that the Certification of Professional Education - Form 2 is currently being updated.

Examination Committee

Ms. Moran noted that at the April board meeting the Board approved a recommendation to extend the testing window to thirty months with an effective date of January 1, 2024. Additional information has developed regarding other states adopted implementation strategies of the extended testing window and the acceptability of exam score transfers to New York.

Based on a motion by Ms. Moran and seconded by Ms. Mowat the Board unanimously approved the Examinations Committee recommendation to remain with the recommendation from the April board meeting.

Ms. Moran reported that the Examinations Committee discussed the impact of an exam extension that may be coupled with the blanket extension for the new CPA Evolution Exam. Ms. Winters noted that the blanket exam extension notes that any valid exam credit on January 1, 2024, will be automatically extended to June 30, 2025.

Based on a motion by Ms. Moran and seconded by Mr. Langowski the Board unanimously approved to accept the Examinations Committee recommendation to review extensions that may be coupled with the blanket extensions on a case-by-case basis.

Ms. Moran provided a report on the examination extension requests since the previous board meeting.

Ms. Cohen noted that the Advisory Notice regarding the CPA Examination Condition Period is posted on the New York State website.

Ms. Cohen highlighted the five (5) individuals from New York that received the Elijah Watt Sells Award.

Ms. Cohen commented on the 2021 and 2022 exam statistics provided by NASBA. It was noted that the AICPA expects an uptick in 2023 due to the release of the new examination in 2024.

Practice Committee

Ms. Winters reported that the non-CPA ownership legislation passed both houses; however, it has not yet been delivered to the Governor. The Department's Office of Counsel wrote a memo indicating the issues with the technical components that needed technical amendments. The legislation is still pending.

NASBA

Ms. Cohen reported that many relevant topics were presented and discussed at the NASBA Eastern Regional meeting.

Ms. Winters noted that the annual NASBA meeting will be held in New York from October 29th to November 1, 2023. If Board members would like to attend, please forward your information to Ms. Winters as soon as possible so a request can be made.

New Business

No new business was reported at this time.

The next Board meeting is scheduled for October and will be held via video conference.

The public session adjourned at 12:37 p.m. based on a motion made by Mr. Sciametta and seconded by Ms. Mowat.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer B. Winters, CPA
Executive Secretary