

NEW YORK STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

Peer Review Oversight Committee

NYS Education Department
80 Wolf Road, Albany, NY

Other Locations:

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45 Bryant Woods North, Amherst, NY 14228
709 Westchester Avenue, White Plains, NY 10604

February 8, 2024

The following members were present:

Frank S. Venezia, CPA, Chair
Andy Neyman, CPA
Mitchell Mertz, CPA

David Iles, CPA, Vice Chair
Grace G. Singer, CPA
David Pitcher, CPA

Others in attendance:

Jennifer Winters, CPA, Executive Secretary, NYS Education Department
Thomas Cordell, Auditor 2, NYS Education Department

Executive Session: On a motion by Ms. Singer and seconded by Mr. Mertz, the Committee voted unanimously to enter executive session at 9:54 a.m.

Minutes and Peer Review Determinations: Based on a motion made by Mr. Mertz and seconded by Mr. Iles, the Committee approved the October 24, 2023, executive meeting minutes and peer review determinations.

Follow up items to the prior meeting minutes. The Committee discussed its contact with PICPA regarding the administration and the issues with the technical reviewer.

PRIMA Peer Review: Firm A – The Committee discussed the issues surrounding this firm’s peer review problems and have decided to send the firm to OPD. Mr. Cordell will make the referral.

Dropped Firms – 27 total - Firm Registration: 17 Current, 5 Delayed Registrations and 5 Not Registered.

Terminated Firms – 2 total - Firm Registration: 0 Current, 1 Delayed Registrations and 1 Not Registered.

- a). **Firms that require continued oversight:** 10 firms will remain on the dropped monitoring list.
- b). **Firms that submitted a Form 6PR/6T to claim exempt that the firm is no longer performing attest services. No longer require oversight:** 6 firms will be removed from the monitoring list.
- c). **Firms that are reenrolled and no longer require oversight:** 9 firms will be removed from the monitoring list.

- d.) **Firms that were dropped and no response was received. Referred to OPD and no longer require oversight:** 2 firms will be removed from the monitoring list.
- e.) **Firms that were dropped then subsequently terminated. Referred to OPD and no longer require oversight:** 2 firms will be removed from the monitoring list.

Report of Adverse System Reviews: The committee unanimously (except as noted abstentions) agreed to the following (please refer to the executive agenda and packet for additional information):

- a.) **Firms that require continued oversight:** 68 firms will remain on the monitoring list.
- b.) **Firms that no longer require oversight:** 25 firms will be removed from the monitoring list.
- c.) **Firms that were monitored, referred to OPD and no longer require oversight:** 1 firm will be removed from the monitoring list.

2. Report of Adverse Engagement Reviews: The committee unanimously (except as noted) agreed to the following (please refer to the executive agenda and packet for additional information):

- a.) **Firms that require continued oversight:** 13 firms will remain on the monitoring list.
- b.) **Firms that no longer require oversight:** 10 firms will be removed from the monitoring list.
- c.) **Firms that were monitored, referred to OPD and no longer require oversight:**
NA

3. NPRC Firm Determinations: The committee unanimously (except as noted) agreed to the following (please refer to the executive agenda and packet for additional information):

- a.) **Firms that require continued oversight:** 4 firms will remain on the monitoring list.
- b.) **Firms that no longer require oversight:** 4 firms will be removed from the monitoring list.
- c.) **Firms that were monitored, referred to OPD and no longer require oversight:** 1 firm will be removed from the monitoring list.

AICPA Tickets:

Lag in letters being posted in FSBA – The Committee briefly discussed the lag in the letters being posted in FSBA due to the consecutive non-pass and peer review meetings only happening several times a year.

Firm B – The Committee discussed that the firm should have been instructed to complete the outstanding peer review before being allowed to leave the peer review program. The firm was already referred to OPD, and no action needs to be taken.

Firm C – The firm did not want to complete previous peer reviews and just skip them to go to a more current year. However, per the guidance of the Board Office, OPD instructed the firm to complete all outstanding peer review years.

Termination Notices – Two firms Firm D and E, were both terminated per the reports sent by the AICPA. However, the firms were not shown as being terminated in FSBA and there were no re-enrollment letters.

Firm D was listed in FSBA as terminated after the inquiry was made. However, Firm E was not showing as not terminated but with a status of not enrolled. The Committee discussed the inadequate response by the AICPA that neither firm seems to be enrolled in the peer review program. The Committee requests further clarification and asked Ms. Winters to respond back to the latest AICPA's response and inquire why there is still a discrepancy.

Firm G – This firm is listed on FSBA twice with different AICPA numbers and statuses. The response from PICPA did not provide an adequate response to address the duplicate firms. The Committee requests that Ms. Winters respond to the latest response and inquire why the duplicate firm was not removed.

New Business: Ms. Singer reported that her former firm's peer review information was completely removed from PRIMA (and FSBA) due to a merger.

On a motion by Mr. Mertz and seconded by Ms. Singer, the Committee unanimously agreed to close executive session and end the meeting at 11:29 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Winters, CPA
Executive Secretary