

# NEW YORK STATE BOARD FOR PUBLIC ACCOUNTANCY

January 29, 2025

## Meeting Minutes New York State Education Department Board Meeting

89 Washington Ave, Room 217, Albany  
1411 Broadway, 10<sup>th</sup> Floor, Regents Room, NYC  
100 Chestnut Street, Suite 1200, Rochester  
333 West Washington Street, Suite 500, Syracuse  
8321 Main Street, Williamsville

Chair Ms. Cohen called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

<u>The following members were present:</u>	
Anthony Basile, CPA (NYC)	John Lauchert, CPA (Syracuse)
Anthony Bracco, CPA (NYC)	Joseph Maffia, CPA (NYC)
Ann Burstein Cohen, CPA (NYC)	Maria Moran, CPA (Albany)
Crisy Geerholt (Albany)	Charles Pezzino, CPA (Buffalo)
Gretchen Guenther-Collins, CPA (Albany)	Thomas Sciametta, CPA (NYC)
Timothy Hammond, CPA (Syracuse)	James Schnell, CPA (Rochester)
Rose Hu, CPA (Buffalo)	Shelly Taleporos, CPA (Albany)
Brian Krist, Esq (NYC)	
<u>Members absent:</u> Charles Abraham, CPA Elizabeth Bush, CPA Danilsa Lopez, CPA Kevin Richards, CPA	

### Others in attendance:

Jennifer Winters, Executive Secretary, NYSED (Albany)  
Julie McLoughlin, NYSED (NYC)  
D. Edward Martin, CPA - Extended Board Member (NYC)

### Public Session only:

Casey Fenton, Ostroff Associates, Inc. (Albany)  
Karen Sibayan, NYSSCPA (NYC)  
Calvin Harris, NYSSCPA (NYC)  
Jovan Richards, NYSSCPA (NYC)

The Board moved into Executive Session at 10:02 a.m., based on a motion made by Mr. Basile and seconded by Mr. Schnell. The Board discussed disciplinary cases.

Executive Session adjourned at 10:26 a.m. based on a motion made by Ms. Moran and seconded by Ms. Guenther-Collins. The Chair moved the Board into Public Session at 10:30 a.m. based on a motion by Ms. Hu and seconded by Mr. Pezzino. All in attendance introduced themselves. The guests were

introduced by Ms. Cohen for the New York City location and Ms. Winters for the Albany location.

### **Review and Approval of Minutes**

Based on a motion made by Mr. Kirst and seconded by Ms. Moran, the Board unanimously approved the minutes of the October 23, 2024, Board meeting.

### **Board Member Update**

The Board noted the farewell of member Anthony Bracco and thanked him for his ten years of service to the Board. Ms. Winters noted that two new board members will be joining the board in the upcoming months; however, there are still board member position openings. Please forward any names to Ms. Winters. Ms. Winters reported that board members will receive an ethics training from New York State Human Resources Department that will need to be completed.

### **Nominations Committee**

Ms. Cohen explained that the term is ending for the Chair and Vice Chair positions. The board is establishing a Nominations Committee to appoint members to the new positions. Ms. Cohen reminded the board members that if you volunteer for the Nominations Committee, then you cannot be chair or vice chair nominee of the board. The Nominations Committee include the following board members:

1. Ann Cohen
2. Rose Hu
3. John Lauchert
4. Brian Kirst
5. James Schnell
6. Shelly Taleporos

### **Board Meeting Schedule**

Ms. Cohen made note of the upcoming board meeting schedule included in the board packet. Please be mindful of the dates and note the April meeting will be held all in person in New York City.

### **Board Office and Office of Professions Update**

Ms. Winters reported that she gave a presentation on the Certified Public Accountancy profession to the Board of Regents at the January meeting. The presentation was well received.

Ms. Winters noted that the Peer Review Oversight Committee (PROC) will be proposing Regulation language changes as the AICPA is introducing a change in wording from the systems of "Quality Control" to the systems of "Quality Management."

The Education Program Assistant 1 position has been filled and the new hire is being trained.

Due to training, a backlog of pre-licensure applications has remained steady with applications being processed from the first week of December at approximately 300 in the queue.

### **Examination Committee**

Ms. Winters provided the report on the exam statistics in Mr. Abraham's absence. Ms. Winters made note of the data regarding the new discipline and core sections and the pass rates were highlighted for each section. The Board made comment regarding the average age of the candidates completing the examinations.

Mr. Winters reported the NYC Mega Center reopened in January 2025.

Ms. Winters provided an update on the examination extension requests.

The Board noted NASBA's introduction of block scheduling to be utilized by colleges, universities, and firms to schedule the Uniform CPA examination.

The Board reviewed the exam rescheduling fees and the updated list of international testing locations.

The exam statistical data for each state was included in the board packet.

### **Education Committee**

Ms. Hu provided an update regarding the Uniform Accountancy Act Competency-Based Experience pathway and the exposure draft. Comment letters from the NYS Board of Accountancy, New York CPA Society, and American Academy of Attorney – CPAs were included in the board packet for review. Ms. Hu noted that NASBA will be reviewing and evaluating the comment letters. For transparency purposes, it was requested that the other comment letters be posted by NASBA. The Board noted the importance of early engagement with state boards prior to changes. A revised version of the Uniform Accountancy Act is anticipated in the coming months.

It was noted that several states have active legislation for a 120-semester hour and 2-year experience model. Ms. Winters and Ms. McLoughlin met with the NY CPA Society and discussed the monitoring of the changes and the impact.

### **Practice Committee**

Mr. Bracco reported that there were no practice committee activities since the last board meeting.

### **Ad Hoc Education and Practice Committee**

With the upcoming changes in other states legislation, Ms. Winters made note that the Ad Hoc Education and Practice Committee will be meeting over the next several months to further discuss the impact. A discussion ensued regarding the effect on practice privilege/mobility and the endorsement pathway with the proposed legislation changes. It is anticipated to have language for the website posted regarding the impacts to mobility and endorsement.

### **NASBA**

Ms. Winters and Ms. Cohen attended the NASBA Annual meeting held in October. Ms. Cohen provided an overview of the topics discussed at the various meetings.

### **New Business**

The Board discussed the upcoming April meeting and the topics that they would like to see presented by the Office of Professional Discipline (OPD).

The next board meeting will be held in-person on April 30, 2025, in New York City. Ms. Winters reminded the board members to wait for the air flight memos before booking travel. In addition, Ms. Winters reminded members to submit any outstanding travel paperwork as soon as possible as the fiscal year ends March 31<sup>st</sup>.

The public session adjourned at 11:49 a.m. based on a motion made by Mr. Sciametta and seconded by Mr. Pezzino.

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Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer B. Winters, CPA  
Executive Secretary