

NEW YORK STATE BOARD FOR PUBLIC ACCOUNTANCY

April 30, 2025

Meeting Minutes New York State Education Department Board Meeting 1411 Broadway, 10th Floor, Regents Room, NYC

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

<u>The following members were present:</u>	
Charles Abraham, CPA	Joseph Maffia, CPA
Anthony Basile, CPA	Maria Moran, CPA
Ann Burstein Cohen, CPA	Charles Pezzino, CPA
Crisy Geerholt	Thomas Sciametta, CPA
Gretchen Guenther-Collins, CPA	James Schnell, CPA
Timothy Hammond, CPA	Denise Stefano, CPA
Rose Hu, CPA	Shelly Taleporos, CPA
John Lauchert, CPA	Deborah Todaro, CPA
Danilsa Lopez, CPA	
<u>Members absent:</u> Elizabeth Bush, CPA Kevin Richards, CPA	

Others in attendance:

Jennifer Winters, Executive Secretary, NYSED
Julie McLoughlin, NYSED
D. Edward Martin, CPA - Extended Board Member
Stephen Langowski, CPA – Extended Board Member
Brian Krist, Esq. – Regent

Executive Session only:

Catherine Slattery, NYSED
Thomas Rogers, NYSED

Public Session only:

Casey Fenton, Ostroff Associates, Inc.
Marcus Rayner, PWC
Karen Sibayan, NYSSCPA
Calvin Harris, NYSSCPA
Jovan Richards, NYSSCPA

The Board moved into Executive Session at 10:01 a.m., based on a motion made by Ms. Moran and seconded by Mr. Schnell. Staff from the Office of Professional Discipline presented on various disciplinary processes and matters.

Executive Session adjourned at 10:57 a.m. based on a motion made by Mr. Maffia and seconded by Ms. Hu. The Chair moved the Board into Public Session at 11:05 a.m. based on a motion by Ms. Guenther-Collins and seconded by Mr. Abraham. All in attendance introduced themselves. The guests

were introduced by Ms. Cohen.

Review and Approval of Minutes

Based on a motion made by Mr. Maffia and seconded by Mr. Sciametta, the Board unanimously approved the minutes of the January 29, 2025, Board meeting. The following members abstained: Mr. Abraham, Ms. Lopez, Ms. Stefano, and Ms. Todaro.

Board Member Update

The Board congratulated Mr. Krist on his appointment to the Board of Regents, thus resigning from the Board of Accountancy. Ms. Winters thanked Mr. Krist for his years of service on the Board. In addition, Ms. Winters noted the farewell of member Kevin Richards. Mr. Richards was unable to attend the meeting. Ms. Winters welcomed two new board members, Ms. Stefano and Ms. Todaro. Ms. Winters, Ms. Cohen, and Ms. Moran are in the process of interviewing new board members as there is a great deal of interest. Additionally, with Mr. Krist's resignation, a public member will need to be appointed to the Board as well.

Nominations Committee

Ms. Cohen reported that the Nominations Committee met on March 24th, regarding the new chair and vice chair positions. Ms. Cohen made a motion to the Board to accept the nomination of Ms. Moran to serve an initial one-year term as chair of the Board and Mr. Maffia to serve an initial one-year term as vice chair of the Board beginning on May 1, 2025. Based on a motion by Ms. Geerholt and seconded by Mr. Abraham, the Board unanimously approved the appointments. Ms. Winters thanked Ms. Cohen for her years of service as chair.

Board Office Update

Ms. Winters reported that all positions are now filled within the board office. The new staff are currently being trained on board procedures. Due to training, a backlog of pre-licensure applications has remained steady with applications being processed from mid-March.

Ms. Winters noted minor updates on the Form 4B, Verification of Experience by Supervisor that was spurred by the changes to the Statement on Quality Management Standards. Additional updates included instructions for a more streamlined process when reviewing licensure applications by obtaining necessary additional documentation up front for foreign experience or self-certification under endorsement.

Ms. Winters highlighted some of the relevant statistics provided within the New York State Education Department Office of Professions Annual Report.

Peer Review- Commissioner's Regulation 70.10

Ms. Winters reported that the Peer Review Oversight Committee (PROC) recommendation to change the phrase "system of quality control" to "system of quality management" within the Regulation was proposed to the Board of Regents at their April meeting. These minor Regulations changes will take six months due to the State's Administrative Procedures Act exposure requirements.

The chair of the PROC is anticipated to provide their annual report at the July board meeting.

Education Committee

Ms. Hu provided an updated on the committee's report and comment letter regarding the NASBA Uniform Accountancy Act Exposure Draft. Ms. Hu summarized the various proposed pathways for

licensure and practice privilege provided in the draft. The board further discussed the changes in education for licensure, exam pass rates, quality of newly licensed CPAs, various proposed legislation changes in other states, and the impact on the CPA pipeline. The board noted the need for statistics to provide data analysis on the changes. Ms. Winters highlighted that the exposure was only for the model law and the model rules, where the detail on education is, has not been exposed.

Based on a motion by Ms. Moran and seconded by Mr. Maffia, the Board unanimously supported the concepts in the comment letter with no changes and submission to NASBA.

The Board reviewed the proposed legislation. It was noted that the proposed legislation, same as bill, A7613 and S6891, would have the education, experience, and examination included in the Law whereas, currently this is in the Regulation, which allows for greater flexibility if future changes were to occur. If this bill moves forward, more technical comments will need to be provided. The legislation is still pending.

Ms. Hu reported the committee's beginning review of the education requirements under a proposed 120-semester hour bachelor's degree and 2-year experience licensure model. Ms. Winters and Cohen noted that despite the status of legislation, the work will continue as the Board of Regents has the flexibility to adopt the new pathway in regulation. Ms. Winters also reminded the Board that education, experience, and exam changes that took place in 2022 were done in less than two years from the last model rule changes. The education portion of that regulatory package is still being implemented with an effective date of August 2027 for the CPA-150E licensure qualifying programs.

Ms. Winters reported on the statistics of the various pathways for licensure from the previous years. She also noted that over the last twenty years from 2004 to 2024 there has been a 90% increase from approximately 35,000 to 67,000 in the number of registered CPAs in New York State.

Ms. Winters reported that as a new business item under the Education Committee, a former accreditation body, Western Association of Schools and Colleges, that was discontinued as recognized by the U.S. Department of Education. Therefore, it is no longer an acceptable accreditation body and was removed from the Department's website.

Examination Committee

Mr. Abraham noted an error was discovered regarding the candidates' credit expiration dates. The expiration dates were being calculated based on the exact day rather than the end of the month per our rules. The error was reported and corrected by NASBA in the test system.

Mr. Abraham reported on the recent extension requests received by the board and the large uptick in the number of requests. It was noted that several of the requests did not have a basis for an extension and the majority of the requests were denied. A full summary is provided in the board packet.

Mr. Abraham highlighted NASBA's quarterly exam statistics for each state. The board stressed the importance of the continual review of the various disciplines and the statistics provided.

Ad Hoc Education and Practice Committee

Ms. Moran provided a brief background on the committee report. It was noted that as legislation changes occur in other states, all out of state licensed individuals may not be considered substantially equivalent to practice privilege in this state. An out of state licensee's pathway for licensure may determine their ability to practice privilege in this state. Language was drafted to update the website with this information. The Ad Hoc committee will need to continue to review the changes and update as necessary.

Practice Committee

Mr. Pezzino reported on a scope of practice determination regarding a CPA who performed asset tracker

services that was presented to the practice committee. The matter is still outstanding and waiting for the licensee to respond to the board's request.

New York State Society of CPAs update

Mr. Harris, Chief Executive Officer of NYS Society of CPAs, presented the importance of ensuring that the Board maintains the guardrails for licensure. He stressed the importance of public protection and offered the NYS Society's education committee to review any proposed education changes and provide recommendations.

NASBA

Ms. Winters attended the NASBA Executive Director meeting virtually. Some topics included alternative practice structures and Employee Stock Ownership Plans (ESOP.)

The Eastern Regional meeting will be held in June and Mr. Hammond, Mr. Maffia, and Ms. Stefano will be attending. Ms. Winters will not attend the meeting as NASBA denied the scholarship request for her.

New Business

Ms. Cohen reminded the board members to complete the New York State mandatory ethics training.

The next board meeting will be held virtually from the approved video locations on July 30, 2025.

The public session adjourned at 1:18 p.m. based on a motion made by Mr. Sciametta and seconded by Mr. Basile.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer B. Winters, CPA
Executive Secretary