

NEW YORK STATE BOARD FOR PUBLIC ACCOUNTANCY

July 30, 2025

Meeting Minutes New York State Education Department Board Meeting

80 Wolf Rd, 3rd Floor, Colonie
1411 Broadway, 10th Floor, Regents Room, NYC
333 West Washington Street, Suite 500, Syracuse
8321 Main Street, Williamsville

Chair Ms. Moran called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

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

Public Session only:

Casey Fenton, Ostroff Associates, Inc.
Patricia Johnson, NYSSCPA
Karen Sibayan, NYSSCPA
Calvin Harris, NYSSCPA
Jovan Richards, NYSSCPA

The Board moved into Executive Session at 10:02 a.m., based on a motion made by Ms. Guenther-Collins and seconded by Ms. Taleporos. The members discussed the disciplinary cases from January through June 2025.

Members mentioned that they were informed from Office of Professional Discipline staff there is a new process for the disciplinary cases and each case will involve a board member review. The Board

discussed the backlog of cases and has asked Ms. Winters to inquire about a case management system, a concern about the aging of the cases, and to ensure there is transparency within the process.

Executive Session adjourned at 10:38 a.m. based on a motion made by Ms. Bush and seconded by Ms. Cohen. The Chair moved the Board into Public Session at 10:44 a.m. based on a motion by Ms. Hu and seconded by Ms. Guenther-Collins.

Review and Approval of Minutes

Based on a motion made by Mr. Lauchert and seconded by Ms. Stefano, the Board unanimously approved the minutes of the April 30, 2025, Board meeting.

Board Member Update

Ms. Winters notified the Board that there will be two new board members at the October meeting one was already appointed but was unable to attend the July meeting and the other is expected to be appointed at the September Board of Regents meeting. Ms. Winters indicated that there are two openings: one licensed member and the public member position. She asked the Board to forward any recommendations to her. The annual mandatory ethics training is in process and any members who have not completed the training should plan to sign up for the August or September training dates.

Board Office Update

Ms. Winters reported that there was no change in staffing since the last meeting all positions are filled in the board office. Due to training, a backlog of pre-licensure applications has remained steady with applications being processed from early July.

Ms. Winters noted an update to the previously reported firm registration project. She noted that Mr. Cordell in the Board Office sent out approximately 4000 firm registrations. The firms are provided with two options. The first is to renew their firm if they are continuing operations or the firm continues to collect receivables. The second is to properly dissolve the entity with the State of New York by filing the firm's final tax return with the Department of Taxation and Finance; submitting the dissolution to the Department of State to dissolve the organization; and lastly closing the firm's registration with the Education Department.

Ms. Winters noted that the review for the CPA150E programs is still behind. She notes that the goal will be to alleviate the backlog of the 150E programs before the new pathway comes into place. An update at the next meeting will be provided.

Peer Review- Annual Report

Ms. Winters reported that the Chair of Peer Review Oversight Committee (PROC) was unable to attend the Board meeting as he was attending the AICPA's Peer Review Conference. Ms. Winters reviewed the PROC annual report with the Board.

Education Committee

Ms. Hu provided an update on the proposed legislation. It was noted that the proposed legislation, same

as bill, A7613 and S6891, passed both houses, it has not been signed into law as the legislation is still pending the Governor's signature. Ms. Hu highlighted the change in the effective date from 180-days to one-year.

Ms. Hu reported the committee's recommendation of the education requirements under a proposed 120-semester hour bachelor's degree and 2-year experience licensure model. The basis of the 120-semester hour program was on the CPA-150E licensure qualifying program requirements.

Based on a motion by Ms. Hu and seconded by Ms. Stefano, the board unanimously approved the following recommendations to the Department for the 120-semester hour pathway:

- Degree requirements: Bachelor's degree in accounting or business must include a minimum of 24-semester hours of accounting coursework in the degree program.
- Minimum of 18-semester hours in accounting at the upper-level
- Minimum of 27-semester hours in accounting
- Specific core accounting course work requirement:
 - Financial Accounting and Reporting (upper level)
 - Auditing and Attestation (upper level)
 - Taxation (upper level)
 - Accounting Information Systems (upper level)
 - Cost/Managerial Accounting (lower or upper level)
- Minimum of 30-semester hours in business.
- Specific core business course work requirement:
 - Business Law
 - Information Technology & Systems
 - Business Data Analytics
 - Economics (does not include personal economics)
 - Finance (does not include personal finance)
- Requirements to sit for the examination include completion of 120 semester hours and the 5 core courses in accounting and business, noted above
- Exclusions to 27-semester hours of accounting course work requirement:
 - CPA review courses; can be included in business
 - Accounting communication courses; can be included in business
- Career preparation course work is not accepted for accounting or business, overall, 120-semester hours only.
- Accounting internship – maximum is 3-semester hours towards the 27-semester hour requirement.

A discussion about the implementation of the new pathway was discussed: applicants being allowed to switch pathways, how the 120-semester hour programs will become licensure qualifying after the regulations are implemented, advising students on specific course work requirements, and the individual transcript reviews being conducted prior to any 120-semester hour licensure qualifying programs being approved.

Ms. Hu reported that NASBA and AICPA will end their Experience, Learn and Earn initiative.

Examination Committee

Mr. Abraham reviewed the standing policies on the exam extensions as the overall credit retention window moved from 18 to 30-months. For extensions related to mothers who give birth (medical) and death of an immediate family member, based on a recommendation by Ms. Stefano and seconded by Mr. Sciametta, the Board unanimously recommended to the Department to modify the requirements for extensions to:

- Death of Immediate Family Member – Grant a 3-month extension for the death of an immediate family member that occurred in the last six months of the 30-month condition period.

- o Medical to mother's who birth a baby – Grant a 3-month extension for the birth of a baby that occurred in the last twelve months of the 30-month condition period.

There were no changes recommended to the required documentation for: medical, military, and test center closures.

Ms. Winters reiterated that an exam extension request must be requested prior to the expiration of the exam section as New York does not retroactively reinstate exam scores.

Mr. Abraham highlighted the regulation and policies on the transfer of exam scores from other jurisdictions. For those candidates who had an extension, the exam committee will review it to determine if it meets our requirements for extension. As there are a few states that adopted a longer 36-month window, the regulation does not allow the acceptance of the transferred scores as a 36-month window is not considered an extenuating circumstance.

A concern on the endorsement applicants and the acceptance of exam scores was discussed. Based on the language in Commissioner's Regulation section 70.5, legal interpretation is required. The examination committee noted the matter is under legal review and will reconvene on the topic once a determination has been made.

Mr. Abraham noted an error was discovered regarding the candidates' credit retention of the expiring section and the overall status of the examination. The expiration date for those candidates who sat on the last day of the test period, 6/30/2025 as the section of the exam(s) shown as "Credit Expired" and the overall exam status as "Credit" instead of "Passed". The error was reported to 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.

Ms. Winters reviewed the NASBA's Exam Review Board survey questions and sought feedback for the responses to the survey questions.

Ad Hoc Education and Practice Committee

Ms. Winters noted that the language that was drafted to update the website with the information on mobility was submitted after the last board meeting. It is still pending Department approval to post. Ms. Winters noted that it would need to be modified again with the implementation of the pending legislation. The Ad Hoc committee will need to continue to review the changes and update as necessary.

Practice Committee

No activities since the last meeting.

Licensing Committee

Ms. Cohen provided a summary of the licensing committee's review of an endorsement applicant that is still pending. A follow up report will be provided at the next Board meeting.

NASBA

Ms. Winters, Mr. Maffia, Mr. Hammond and Ms. Stefano attended the NASBA Eastern Regional meeting. Mr. Langowski attended the Western Regional meeting. Some highlighted topics included the new pathway, private equity, and pending legislation across the jurisdictions.

The Annual meeting will be held at the end of October after the next Board meeting. Ms. Winters noted that the virtual meetings will not have a cost included going forward.

New Business

There was no new business.

The next board meeting will be held virtually from the approved video locations on October 22, 2025.

The public session adjourned at 12:43 p.m. based on a motion made by Ms. Taleporos and seconded by Ms. Geerholt.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer B. Winters, CPA
Executive Secretary