

# **BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

## **February 20, 2026**

### CALL TO ORDER.

Dr. Hopping called the February meeting of the Texas Optometry Board (TOB) to order at 8:02 a.m.

ROLL CALL. A roll call vote was taken and quorum was present for the meeting.

Ronald L. Hopping, O.D. Chair  
Judy Chambers, Public Member  
Tory Moore, O.D. Member  
Steve Nguyen, O.D. Member  
James Oevermann, O.D. Member  
Carey Patrick, O.D. Member  
Rene Peña, Public Member  
Mala Sharma, Public Member  
Bill Thompson, O.D. Member

Janice McCoy, Executive Director  
Vincent Pina, Executive Assistant  
Kathy Johnson, Assistant Attorney General

MINUTES. The Board reviewed the November 15, 2025, meeting minutes. A motion was made by Dr. Patrick to dispense with the reading of the minutes and accept the minutes as drafted and seconded by Dr. Thompson. The motion passed unanimously (FOR – 9/OPPOSED – 0/ABSTAIN – 0).

PUBLIC COMMENT. Jasmin Filpo, LTC, OD, MBA, FAAO made comments in support of the Board creating a process to issue the Military Limited Volunteer License.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS. Dr. Hopping called for nominations for the position of Vice Chair and Secretary. Dr. Patrick moved to nominate Dr. Thompson as Vice-Chair and was seconded by Mr. Pena. The motion passed unanimously (FOR – 9/OPPOSED – 0/ABSTAIN – 0).

Dr. Thompson moved to nominate Mrs. Chambers as Secretary and was seconded by Dr. Moore. The motion passed unanimously (FOR – 9/OPPOSED – 0/ABSTAIN – 0).

BOARD CHAIR REPORT. Dr. Hopping presented the Board Chair Report. He thanked the Board members for their service in protecting Texans and staff for keeping the agency running. He stated the renewal process was smooth, the 2026 Professional Responsibility Course was presented for the first time at the TOA conference, that the agency was working on statutory changes to modernize its governing statute and directed the Executive Director to reach out to the Governor's Office, and discussed the 2026 ARBO meeting that Dr. Thompson would attend on behalf of the Board. He stated the agency would again request the Dr. Patrick attend via scholarship application.

GENERAL MATTERS.

*Optometry School Liaison Reports:* Dr. Moore provided an update for the Rosenberg School of Optometry (RSO). He reported Dean Stephanie Schmiedecke Barbieri, OD had nothing to report, but appreciated the Board asking for updates. Dr. Oevermann provided an update from Dean Twa of the University of Houston College of Optometry (UHCO). The Dean noted Dr. Manning and Dr. Walters passed away, Tommy Lucas OD was named to the UH Board of Regents, the school was celebrating 50 years in its building. The Dean continues to be concerned about NBEO passing rate – the new Part 3 exam has been particularly frustrating as competent students are regularly judged as incompetent by the national boards on basic exam skills (refraction, examination, case history, etc.). He did say UHCO achieved a 94% pass rate on recent NBEO Part 2. The Dean also mentioned the school would be revamping its practice management courses.

*ARBO Quarterly Report:* Mrs. McCoy shared the ARBO quarterly report as written by ARBO’s Chief Executive Officer.

*Strategic Plan:* Mrs. McCoy shared that while instructions were not out yet, the agency would be preparing its Strategic Plan for Fiscal Years 2027-2031. She stated she would include language about the statute modernization project as a first step in working the legislative process.

*Executive Director Evaluation:* At 8:21 am the Board went into Executive Session to discuss confidential personnel matters as authorized by Section 551.074 of the Government Code. The closed session ended at 8:36am.

The Board returned to Open Session at 8:39 a.m. Dr. Hopping reported the Board did not take any action during the Executive Session. Mrs. Chambers moved to increase the Executive Director’s salary to \$104,000 and was seconded by Dr. Thompson. The motion passed unanimously (FOR – 9/OPPOSED – 0/ABSTAIN – 0).

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT. Ms. McCoy presented the Executive Director’s Report. She reported that for the first five months of FY26 (through January), the Board had 56% of the budget remaining with 8 months left in the year. She reported at this time there were no financial concerns to report and the Board is in good financial standing.

She reported the agency filed its FY26 Q1 Performance Measures on December 30, 2025. The report was included in the Board packet.

She reported licensing stats as of February 11, 2026:

Total Licensees	5,301 (4,990 active; 297 inactive; 14 retired)
Total OGS	4,299 (4,192 active; 98 inactive, 9 retired)
Military	112

She reported the 2025 renewal period had a few stumbling blocks, but mostly worked as expected. There were 167 licensees whose license expired. About half communicated their intent to let the license expire – which is about normal.

She reminded the Board about the annual training which was distributed via email on January 20, 2026 and asked members to submit their acknowledgement form. Finally, she reported that she spoke to fourth year students from UHCO and RSO about the licensing process.

#### LEGAL REPORT.

Mrs. McCoy reported on the status of complaint 2021-00086 in which a petition for review by the respondent was rejected by the Texas Supreme Court. As a result, the attorney representing Texas Physicians Eyecare Group asked to settle the remaining similar cases – but asking that certain cases be dismissed.

The Board directed the Executive Director to send each of the respondents a settlement agreement that requires payment of the administrative penalty and reporting the National Practitioners' Databank.

#### COMMITTEE REPORTS.

##### ADMINISTRATIVE/LICENSING COMMITTEE.

Dr. Patrick, Chair of the Administrative/Licensing Committee, provided the report. She reported in FY26 Quarter 1, 39 new licenses were issued and 1,248 licenses were renewed. Through the first two months in FY26 Quarter 2, 16 new licenses have been issued and 1,295 licenses renewed. She reported on five licensees who had passed away.

Dr. Patrick provided the remainder of the report in the form of a motion. The Committee moved to accept one applications for Licensure without Examination (Millicent Knight) and to pend a second Licensure without Examination application until further information could be attained. As the motion came from a committee, no second was needed. The motion passed unanimously (FOR-9/AGAINST 0/ABSTAIN-0).

##### COMMITTEE ON PEER ASSISTANCE.

Mrs. Chambers provided an update on the PRN program. She reported that the Board has two optometrists (both volunteer enrollments) in the Professional Recovery Network (PRN) program. She reported that the PRN hosted its fall seminar on Friday, September 26, 2025. PRN attendees are required to attend as stated in their Support Agreement for psychoeducational opportunities.

CONTINUING EDUCATION COMMITTEE. Dr. Nguyen provided the report in the form of a motion. The Committee moved to approve 23 total reviewed courses (comprising 37 DT hours, 2 general hours, and 2 controlled substance hours) and to approve one special request for 18 DT hours. As the motion came from a committee, no second was needed. The motion passed unanimously (FOR-9/AGAINST 0/ABSTAIN-0).

Additionally, Dr. Nguyen reported the committee approved a guidance document which clarifies the categories of continuing education so both providers and licensees know how to properly upload courses to CE Broker.

INVESTIGATION-ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEE.

Ms. McCoy provided a summary of investigative activity to the Board regarding complaints and investigations for FY26 Q1: Total Number of Cases Closed: 21 / Average Days to Close in Quarter: 48 / Total Number of Inspections Conducted: 0 / Penalties Assessed: 1. She reported that for the first two months of FY26 Q2, the agency has closed 14 cases – 1 with violation found, 6 as non-jurisdictional, and 7 as no violation. She reported there were 21 cases currently open: 9 at SOAH (2 awaiting final PFD and 7 awaiting hearing), and 12 under investigation.

Administrative penalties to approve:

2025-00084 \$200 - §351.353 Violations found during Board review

Dr. Patrick moved to accept the administrative penalties issued by the Executive Director. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Sharma. The motion passed unanimously. (FOR-9/AGAINST-0/ABSTAIN-0)

RULES COMMITTEE. Dr. Thompson provided a report in the form of four separate motions.

He moved the Board finally adopt with changes amendments to 22 TAC 271.4 (related to Licensing for Military Service Member, Military Veteran, and Military Spouse) as published in the January 2, 2026 issue of the Texas Register. As the motion came from a committee, a second was not needed. The motion passed unanimously (FOR – 9/OPPOSED – 0/ABSTAIN – 0).

He moved the Board finally repeal rule 22 TAC 273.14 (related to License Applications for Military Service Member, Military Veteran, and Military Spouse) as published in the January 2, 2026 issue of the Texas Register. As the motion came from a committee, a second was not needed. The motion passed unanimously (FOR – 9/OPPOSED – 0/ABSTAIN – 0).

He moved the Board finally adopt without changes amendments to 22 TAC Rule 279.16 (related to Telehealth Services) as published in the January 2, 2026 issue of the Texas Register. As the motion came from a committee, a second was not needed. The motion passed unanimously (FOR – 9/OPPOSED – 0/ABSTAIN – 0).

He moved the Board propose the Quadrennial Rule Review of Chapter 277 (Practice and Procedure) and Chapter 279 (Interpretations) for publication in the Texas Register. As the motion came from a committee, a second was not needed. The motion passed unanimously (FOR – 9/OPPOSED – 0/ABSTAIN – 0).

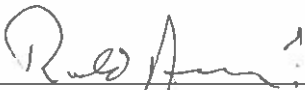
He asked Mrs. McCoy to update the committee on the discussion on the rule related to the Military Limited Volunteer License (22 TAC Rule 273.6). Mrs. McCoy stated she would work with Dr. Filpo and have language to propose at the May meeting.


Dr. Thompson stated the Executive Director was working with the Texas Regulatory Efficiency Office on reviewing its rules in compliance with SB14 passed by the Texas Legislature.

ANNOUNCEMENTS. Dr. Patrick provided a positive health update for her daughter. Dr. Hopping reminded the Board the next meeting would be held virtually on Thursday May 14, 2026.

ADJOURNMENT. Dr. Patrick moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:38 am. Mrs. Chambers. The motion passed unanimously (FOR – 9/OPPOSED – 0/ABSTAIN – 0).

Approved:

  
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Presiding Officer  
  
5/14/2020  
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Date

  
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Executive Director  
  
5-14-2020  
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Date