

**Maine Board of Optometry
113 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333**

**MINUTES OF August 1, 2025
BOARD MEETING**

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by Dr. Smith, O.D. at 9:03 a.m. Members present, Eric Hebert, O.D, James Smith, O.D., James Murphy, Public Member, Timothy Rioux, O.D., (zoom) and Todd Hamilton, O.D. (zoom)

Others present: Tina Carpentier, Office Specialist II, Lisa Wilson, Assistant Attorney, four citizens present, and four citizens were listening on Zoom.

OLD BUSINESS:

Action on May 1, 2025, Meeting: A motion was made by Dr. Hebert, second by James Murphy to accept the minutes as written.

The motion passes 5 in favor and 0 opposed.

Email March 4 and 6, 2025 Dr. Salvat: Tabled from the Board meeting in May. The Board asked for clarification on what Dr. Salvat is asking for. Wavier or more time to complete continuing education credits. Dr. Salvat wanted more time to complete his continuing education and has completed all required CE 25 hours within the deadline of March 31, 2025.

No action taken by the Board.

Letter from Dr. Sheridan Gove, O.D. received on July 22, 2025, requesting the Board to revisit and reverse their decision on the consent agreement she signed on October 28, 2020.

A motion was made by Dr. Smith, second by Dr. Hebert to terminate the consent agreement that was signed on October 28, 2020.

The motion passes 5 in favor and 0 opposed.

NEW BUSINESS

Complaint Officer Discussion: The Board discussed the possibility of delegating complaint investigations to other members to reduce the workload on the complaint officer.

A motion was made by James Murphy, seconded by Dr. Rioux to adopt this approach when necessary.

The motion passes 5 in favor and 0 opposed.

Election of Officers:

A motion was made by James Murphy, seconded by Dr. Hebert to elect Dr. Smith as Board President.

The motion passes 5 in favor and 0 opposed.

A motion was made by Dr. Smith, seconded by Dr. Hebert to elect James Murphy as Vice President.

The motion passes 4 in favor and James Murphy abstained.

A motion was made by James Murphy, seconded by Dr. Rioux to elect Dr. Hebert as Complaint Officer.

The motion passes 4 in favor and Dr. Hebert abstained.

A motion was made by James Murphy, seconded by Dr. Hebert to elect Dr. Rioux as Continuing Education Officer.

The motion passes 4 in favor and Dr. Rioux abstained.

Board President – Dr. Smith
Board Vice President – Jame Murphy
Board Complaint Officer – Dr. Hebert
Board Continuing Education Officer – Dr. Rioux

Meeting Date for 2026

February 6, 2026
May 1, 2026
August 7, 2026
November 6, 2026

Budget: Tina Carpentier provided budget information regarding the costs of remaining an independent Affiliated Board. The Board will review budget implications and potential fee increases after receiving more information from the August 2025 meeting with The Office of Professional and Occupational Regulations (OPOR).

No action taken by the Board.

Affiliated Board vs. OPOR: The Board discussed transitioning from an affiliated to OPOR. The Board expressed concerns about losing autonomy, potential impact on rulemaking and future governance. The Board will meet with Commissioner Cohen and Director Penny Vaillancourt in August to gather more information about the transition implications. The Board will revisit with a decision expected after receiving the additional information.

No Action Taken by the Board.

Dr. Rioux review of the ARBO Annual meeting: Dr. Rioux shared insights on available resources, including the ARBO website and new exam options. He also briefly touched on upcoming telehealth and AI issues, noting concerns about AI potentially being used to circumvent the doctor-patient relationship. The Board will send a member to the Annual ARBO meeting in June of 2026.

Stakeholder From the Board of Optometry for LD1803 Study Group. The Board needs to elect a Stakeholder for the LD1803 study group, meeting date will be one day in September, October and November between the hours of 7:00am and 9:00am.

A motion was made by Dr. Rioux, seconded by Dr. Hebert to elect Dr. Smith as Stakeholder for the LD 1803 Study Group.

The motion passes 4 in favor and Dr. Smith abstained.

COMPLAINTS

2025-OPT-20667: After presentation and discussion, a motion was made by Dr. Rioux, seconded by Dr. Hebert to dismiss the complaint on the grounds of no violation of the Maine Optometry Laws and Rules.

The motion passes 4 in favor and 1 abstained (Dr. Smith)

2025-OPT-20693: After presentation and discussion, a motion was made by Dr. Hebert, seconded by James Murphy, to dismiss the complaint with a letter of guidance on the grounds of no violation of the Maine Optometry Laws and Rules.

The motion passes 4 in favor and 1 abstained (Dr. Smith)

2025-OPT-20742: After presentation and discussion, a motion was made by Dr. Hebert, seconded by Dr. Rioux, to dismiss the complaint with a letter of guidance on the grounds of no violation of the Maine Optometry Laws and Rules.

The motion passes 4 in favor and 1 abstained (Dr. Smith)

2025-OPT-20745: After presentation and discussion, a motion was made by Dr. Hamilton, seconded by Dr. Rioux to dismiss the complaint on the grounds of no violation of the Maine Optometry Laws and Rules; however, an assessment of a late fee to the licensee as specified in the board statute.

The motion passes 4 in favor and 1 abstained (Dr. Smith)

2025-OPT-20781: After presentation and discussion, a motion was made by James Murphy, seconded by Dr. Hebert, to dismiss the complaint on the grounds of no violation of the Maine Optometry Laws and Rules.

The motion passes 4 in favor and 1 abstained (Dr. Smith)

OTHER BUSINESS: PUBLIC COMMENT: None

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Dr. Smith read a letter that was received June 10, 2025, from Dr. Nadeau. Dr. Nadeau submitted his letter of resignation to the Governor's office effective immediately. To all of you, you have my deepest respect for your work on the Board. Pat once said, the doctors in the State of Maine have no idea what we do. We've worked hard for the people of the state and the doctors; we've accomplished a lot and we all should feel proud of what we have done. Dr. Nadeau thanked everyone for putting up with him. It has been a privilege to work with you all. He genuinely enjoyed his time on the board.

SECRETARY REPORT: The Board is preparing for a disciplinary hearing on November 7, 2025. Please be sure to plan on being at the hearing meeting from 8:00am to 4:00pm.

I am planning on retiring at the end of March 2026.

ADJOURNED: A motion was made by Dr. Hebert, seconded by Dr. Smith to adjourn the meeting at 11:00 a.m.

The next meeting will be held on August 22, 2025.

Respectfully submitted,

Tina Carpentier

Office Specialist II

Maine Board of Optometry