

LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF OPTOMETRY EXAMINERS
301 Main Street, 23rd Floor
Baton Rouge, LA 70801
MINUTES
January 16, 2026

I. Roll Call/Call to Order/Confirmation of posting of notice and agenda

The roll was called at 10:38 AM with the following LSBOE board members present: Drs. Kasovich, Lamar, Jong, Anastasio and Ms. Wicker. Dr. Gerdes and Dr. LaPoint were absent. Public guests were also present, including OAL members. Board counsel, Ms. Carrie Jones were also present. Executive Director, Anna Cahill, attended via phone call. Declaring a quorum was present, Dr. Kasovich called the meeting to order.

II. Public Comment – There was no public comment.

III. Adoption of Agenda

Dr. Kasovich moved to add 2026 Budget under New Business and to adopt the agenda. The motion was seconded by Dr. Anastasio and was passed unanimously.

IV. Approval of Minutes

Dr. Lamar moved to adopt the minutes from the November 14, 2025 meeting. The motion was seconded by Dr. Anastasio and passed unanimously.

V. Executive Director’s Report

A. Finance and Budget Report – Ms. Cahill provided an update to the Board regarding the Balance Sheet and Profit & Loss documents.

B. License Activity

A. Renewals – Ms. Cahill reminded the Board that licensees have until March 1, 2026 to renew without penalty.

B. Applicants/new licensees – No update.

C. Endorsement requests – One request.

D. Inactive requests – No new requests.

E. Hardship requests – Two requests to be discussed in executive session.

F. Requests for reinstatement – No new requests.

G. Complaints – To be discussed during executive session.

C. Required Training – Ms. Cahill reminded the Board of the Sexual Harassment and Ethics trainings and deadlines.

D. Requests for Guidance – No new requests.

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OLD BUSINESS

- VI. CE Rule Promulgation Update** – Ms. Jones provided an update regarding the rule. No action was taken.
- VII. Telehealth Update** – Dr. Kasovich gave a brief update regarding the current telehealth rule and presented new topics that may need to be incorporated. Dr. Roy and Dr. Janot provided public comments on this agenda item. No action was taken.
- VIII. Dispensing Rule Update** – Ms. Jones reported there were no substantive updates. No action was taken.
- IX. OTS Phone Invoices** – Ms. Jones provided an update to the Board. No action was taken.
- X. Board Email and Web Address** – Dr. Kasovich informed the Board of his efforts to obtain an @la.gov email address and new web address.
- XI. Online Complaint Form** – Ms. Cahill informed the Board that she is almost done with the online form and that it will be up and running by the end of the week.
- XII. Delinquent Licenses Update** – The Board instructed staff to send a cease and desist letter to the delinquent licensees and to pursue discipline if the Board receives information that a delinquent licensee is practicing optometry in Louisiana without a valid license.
- XIII. CE Management and Web Hosting** – No update.
- XIV. Open meetings via electronic means rule** – Ms. Jones provided an update on the rule. A brief discussion was held. No action was taken.

NEW BUSINESS

- XV. 2026 LSBOE Budget** – Ms. Cahill presented the 2026 proposed budget to the Board. The Board decided to remove a few line items from the budget. Dr. Anastasio moved to adopt the proposed budget with the changes. Ms. Wicker seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.
- XVI. NBEO Requirements for Advanced Procedures License** – Discussion ensued regarding application process for licensees wishing to obtain advanced procedures.

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EXECUTIVE SESSION – Dr. Kasovich moved to enter Executive Session and Dr. Anastasio seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the Board entered executive session at 12:12 PM.

- XVII. Update on Outstanding Litigation:**
 - A. OAL v Heitmeier, et al, No C-729018 19th JDC State of Mediation between LSBOE and OAL**
 - B. LSBOE v OAL et al, No. C-729434 19th JDC State of Louisiana**
 - C. Update on Ethics Board Proceedings Related to LSBOE/OAL Pending**
- XVIII. Update on Complaints**
 - 1. Pending Complaints**
 - 2. New Complaints Since Last Meeting**
- XIX. Requests for Reinstatement from Prior Disciplinary Action**

(The Board returned to Open Session at 1:31 PM. The following Board members were presented: Drs. Kasovich, Lamar, Jong, Anastasio. Ms. Wicker was no longer in attendance.)

- XX. Taking of any votes on items discussed in Executive Session** – Dr. Kasovich made a motion to grant the hardship waivers as requested by KL and TD. Dr. Lamar seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Dr. Kasovich read statements from Dr. Janot of the OAL (Attachment A) and Dr. Sandefur (Attachment B) regarding the settlement. Dr. Kasovich moved to accept the 1.16.26 version of the settlement as written. Dr. Lamar seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

- XXI. Set Date for Next Meeting** – The next meeting was set for March 13, 2026.
- XXII. Motion to Adjourn** – Dr. Lamar moved to adjourn. Dr. Jong seconded the motion and the meeting adjourned at 1:46 PM.

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January 15, 2026

Louisiana State Board of Optometry Examiners

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Marrero, LA 70072

ATTN:

Ms. Anna Marie Cahill, LSBOE Executive Director

Dr. Kevin Kasovich, LSBOE President

Dear Ms. Cahill & Dr. Kasovich:

I apologize that I am unable to attend the January 16, 2026 LSBOE meeting in person, as I am traveling on association business.

On behalf of the Optometry Association of Louisiana (OAL), its Legal Committee, and its Board of Directors, I wish to state, and to have recorded in the public record, that the OAL fully supports the "Settlement Agreement and Mutual Release" document as drafted on January 15, 2026 between the LSBOE, LDH, OAL, James D. Sandefur, O.D., and Hope L. Carrier. I have attached that document, for reference.

With the concurrence of the other names parties, the OAL requests that the document, in its current form (attached) be presented to the Attorney General of the State of Louisiana for final acceptance.

Sincerely,

Robert C. Janot, O.D., F.A.A.O.

Executive Director, Optometry Association of Louisiana

January 15, 2026

Dr. Kevin Kasovich, President

La. State Board of Optometry Examiners

Re: Settlement Document 19JDC #C-729,018"31"

Dear Dr. Kasovich,

I will be unable to attend the L.S.B.O.E. meeting scheduled for January 16, 2026 as I am recovering from a recent serious illness and surgery.

I understand that the proposed settlement agreement that I have attached is on the agenda for discussion.

I would like for the board members to understand that I am completely in favor of the proposed settlement agreement as it is presented here.

Settlement of this matter has been delayed for far too long since all the principals in the matter agreed to settle one year ago.

I would urge the board members to vote to adopt this document as a final resolution to the lawsuit in question.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,

James D. Sandefur, O.D.