

**VIRGINIA BOARD OF OPTOMETRY
FORMAL HEARING MINUTES
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS
BOARD ROOM 2
HENRICO, VA
October 19, 2017**

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting of the Virginia Board of Optometry (Board) was called to order at 1:08 p.m., on October 19, 2017, at the Department of Health Professions (DHP), Perimeter Center, 9960 Mayland Drive, 2nd Floor, Board Room 2, Henrico, Virginia.

PRESIDING OFFICER: Steven A. Linas, O.D., Chairperson

MEMBERS PRESENT: Devon Cabot, Citizen Member
Helene Clayton-Jeter, O.D.
Fred E. Goldberg, O.D.

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Lisa G. Wallace-Davis, O.D.
Clifford A. Roffis, O.D.

QUORUM: With four members of the Board present, a quorum was established.

STAFF PRESENT: Leslie L. Knachel, Executive Director
Amanda E. M. Blount, Deputy Executive Director
Terri H. Behr, Discipline/Compliance Specialist

BOARD COUNSEL: Charis A. Mitchell, Assistant Attorney General

COURT REPORTER: Theresa J. Pata, Crane-Snead & Associates, Inc.

PARTIES ON BEHALF OF THE COMMONWEALTH: Emily E. Tatum, Adjudication Specialist

MATTER SCHEDULED: **William J. Benjamin, Jr., O.D. Applicant**
Case No.: 175878

Dr. Benjamin appeared before the Board in accordance with a Notice of Formal Hearing dated September 13, 2017. Dr. Benjamin was represented by counsel, Julia Krebs-Markrich, Esquire. The Board received evidence from the Commonwealth and Ms. Krebs-Markrich regarding Dr. Benjamin's application for licensure to

practice optometry in the Commonwealth of Virginia, and evidence that grounds may exist to deny his application.

CLOSED SESSION:

Dr. Goldberg moved that the Board convene a closed meeting pursuant to § 2.2-3711(A)(27) of the Code of Virginia (“Code”) for the purpose of deliberation to reach a decision in the matter of **William J. Benjamin, Jr., O.D. Applicant**, Additionally, he moved that Ms. Knachel and Ms. Mitchell attend the closed meeting because their presence in the closed meeting was deemed necessary and would aid the Board in its deliberations. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

RECONVENE:

Dr. Goldberg moved that the Board certify that it heard, discussed or considered only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements under the Virginia Freedom of Information Act and only such public business matters as were identified in the motion by which the closed meeting was convened. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

The Board reconvened in open session pursuant to § 2.2-3712(D) of the Code.

DECISION:

Ms. Cabot moved to accept the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law as presented by the Commonwealth, amended by the Board, and read by Ms. Mitchell.

Dr. Clayton-Jeter moved to issue an Order approving Dr. Benjamin’s application to practice optometry in the Commonwealth of Virginia, with a license to be issued upon submission of passing scores for the Treatment and Management of Ocular Disease examination.

Following a second, a roll call vote was taken. The motion passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT:

The Formal Hearing adjourned at 2:54 p.m.

Steven A. Linas, O.D., Chairperson

Leslie L. Knachel, M.P.H., Executive Director