

**VIRGINIA BOARD OF OPTOMETRY  
SPECIAL CONFERENCE COMMITTEE MINUTES  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS  
BOARD ROOM 4  
HENRICO, VA  
JANUARY 31, 2017**

- CALL TO ORDER:** A meeting of a Special Conference Committee (“Committee”) of the Virginia Board of Optometry (“Board”) was convened on January 31, 2017, at 11:38 a.m., at the Department of Health Professions, Perimeter Center, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Center, Board Room 4, 9960 Mayland Drive, Henrico, Virginia 23233.
- FIRST CONFERENCE:** 11:38 a.m.
- MEMBERS PRESENT:** Lisa G. Wallace-Davis, O.D., Chairperson  
Clifford A. Roffis, O.D.
- STAFF PRESENT:** Amanda E. M. Blount, Deputy Executive Director  
Terri H. Behr, Discipline/Compliance Specialist  
Emily E. Tatum, Adjudication Specialist
- OTHERS PRESENT:** William J. Benjamin, Jr.
- MATTER SCHEDULED:** **Patricia C. Benjamin, O.D. Applicant**  
**Case No.: 175874**
- Discussion:** Dr. Benjamin appeared before the Committee in person in accordance with a Notice of Informal Conference dated December 12, 2016, to consider her application for licensure to practice optometry in the Commonwealth of Virginia, and to inquire into evidence that grounds may exist to deny her application. Dr. Benjamin was not represented by counsel. The Committee fully discussed the allegations contained in the Notice with Dr. Benjamin.
- Closed Session:** Dr. Roffis moved that the Committee convene a closed meeting pursuant to § 2.2-3711(A)(27) of the Code for the purpose of deliberation to reach a decision in the matter regarding **Patricia C. Benjamin, O.D. Applicant**. Additionally, Dr. Roffis moved that Ms. Blount and Ms. Tatum attend the closed meeting because their presence in the closed meeting was deemed necessary and would aid the Committee in its deliberations. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

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**Reconvene:**

Dr. Roffis moved that the Committee 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 Committee reconvened in open session pursuant to § 2.2-3712(D) of the Code.

**DECISION**

**Case No. 175874:**

Upon a motion by Dr. Roffis and duly seconded by Dr. Wallace-Davis, the Committee voted to refer the matter to the full Board or a panel thereof for a formal hearing. The hearing adjourned at 12:41 p.m.

**SECOND CONFERENCE:**

12:45 p.m.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Lisa G. Wallace-Davis, O.D., Chairperson  
Clifford A. Roffis, O.D.

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Amanda E. M. Blount, Deputy Executive Director  
Terri H. Behr, Discipline/Compliance Specialist  
Emily E. Tatum, Adjudication Specialist

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Patricia C. Benjamin

**MATTER SCHEDULED:**

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

**Discussion:**

Dr. Benjamin appeared before the Committee in person in accordance with a Notice of Informal Conference dated December 12, 2016, to consider his application for licensure to practice optometry in the Commonwealth of Virginia, and to inquire into evidence that grounds may exist to deny his application. Dr. Benjamin was not represented by counsel. The Committee fully discussed the allegations contained in the Notice with Dr. Benjamin.

**Closed Session:**

Dr. Roffis moved that the Committee convene a closed meeting pursuant to § 2.2-3711(A)(27) of the Code for

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the purpose of deliberation to reach a decision in the matter regarding **William J. Benjamin, Jr., O.D. Applicant**. Additionally, Dr. Roffis moved that Ms. Blount and Ms. Tatum attend the closed meeting because their presence in the closed meeting was deemed necessary and would aid the Committee in its deliberations. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

**Reconvene:**

Dr. Roffis moved that the Committee 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 Committee reconvened in open session pursuant to § 2.2-3712(D) of the Code.

**DECISION**

**Case No. 175878:**

Upon a motion by Dr. Roffis and duly seconded by Dr. Wallace-Davis, the Committee voted to refer the matter to the full Board or a panel thereof for a formal hearing. The hearing adjourned at 1:03 p.m.

**THIRD CONFERENCE:**

1:43 p.m.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Lisa G. Wallace-Davis, O.D., Chairperson  
Clifford A. Roffis, O.D.

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Amanda E. M. Blount, Deputy Executive Director  
Terri H. Behr, Discipline/Compliance Specialist  
Emily E. Tatum, Adjudication Specialist

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Anne G. Joseph  
Johnathan P. Horgan

**MATTER SCHEDULED:**

**Diana Thao Tran, O.D.**  
**License No.: 0618-001343**  
**Case Nos.: 154934, 155012, 158304, 160741, 163385, 168725, 170737, & 172595**

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**Discussion:**

Dr. Tran appeared before the Committee in person in accordance with a Notice of Informal Conference dated October 5, 2016, and a letter dated December 8, 2016, to inquire into allegations that she may have violated certain laws and regulations governing optometry practice in Virginia. Dr. Tran was represented by counsel, Robert Harrison Gibbs, Jr., Esquire. The Committee fully discussed the allegations contained in the Notice with Dr. Tran.

**Closed Session:**

Dr. Roffis moved that the Committee convene a closed meeting pursuant to § 2.2-3711(A)(27) of the Code for the purpose of deliberation to reach a decision in the matter regarding **Diana Thao Tran, O.D.** Additionally, Dr. Roffis moved that Ms. Blount and Ms. Tatum attend the closed meeting because their presence in the closed meeting was deemed necessary and would aid the Committee in its deliberations. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

**Reconvene:**

Dr. Roffis moved that the Committee 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 Committee reconvened in open session pursuant to § 2.2-3712(D) of the Code.

**DECISION**

**Case Nos.: 154934, 155012, 158304,  
160741, 163385, 168725, 170737, &  
172595:**

Upon a motion by Dr. Roffis and duly seconded by Dr. Wallace-Davis, the Committee voted to refer the matter to the full Board or a panel thereof for a formal hearing. The hearing adjourned at 5:17 p.m.

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Lisa G. Wallace-Davis, O.D., Chairperson

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Amanda E. M. Blount, Deputy Executive Director