

**VIRGINIA BOARD OF OPTOMETRY
SPECIAL CONFERENCE COMMITTEE MINUTES
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS
HEARING ROOM 4
HENRICO, VA
August 28, 2024**

- CALL TO ORDER:** A meeting of a Special Conference Committee (“Committee”) of the Virginia Board of Optometry (“Board”) was convened on August 28, 2024, at 12:01 p.m., at the Department of Health Professions, Perimeter Center, 2nd Floor Conference Center, Hearing Room 4, 9960 Mayland Drive, Henrico, Virginia 23233.
- MEMBERS PRESENT:** Evan Kaufman, TPA-Certified Optometrist, Chairperson
Shawn Hobbs, TPA-Certified Optometrist, Committee Member
- STAFF PRESENT:** Heather Pote, Acting Deputy Executive Director
Emily Tatum, Sr. Adjudication Specialist, Administrative Proceedings Division
- MATTER SCHEDULED:** **Andrew Kartesz, TPA-Certified Optometrist**
Case No. 230016
- DISCUSSION:** Dr. Kartesz appeared before the Committee in person in accordance with a Notice of Informal Conference dated July 25, 2024, to consider inquire into allegations that he may have violated certain laws and regulations governing the practice of Optometry in Virginia. Dr. Kartesz was present and was represented by counsel, Kassie Schroth, Esq. The Committee fully discussed the allegations contained in the Notice with Dr. Kartesz.
- CLOSED SESSION:** Dr. Hobbs 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 **Andrew Kartesz, TPA-Certified Optometrist**. Additionally, Dr. Hobbs moved that Ms. Pote attend the closed meeting because her 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. Hobbs 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. 230016

Dr. Hobbs moved that the Committee dismiss the case against Dr. Kartesz, and that the basis for this decision will be set forth in a final Board order sent to Dr. Kartesz. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

The hearing concluded at 12:44 p.m.



Heather Pote, Acting Deputy Executive Director