



Douglas A. Ducey,
Governor

Arizona State Board of Dental Examiners

“Caring for the Public’s Dental
Health and Professional Standards”

1740 West Adams Street, Suite 2470

Phoenix, Arizona 85007

P: (602)242-1492

E: info@dentalboard.az.gov

W: <https://dentalboard.az.gov>

OPEN SESSION MINUTES

March 17, 2020

Special Board Meeting

Members of the Arizona State Board of Dental Examiners (“Board”) held a meeting at 3:02 p.m. on Tuesday, March 17, 2020 at the Board’s office in Boardroom B, 1740 West Adams Street, Phoenix, Arizona 85007. The Board did not meet in executive session.

BOARD MEMBERS:

- ☎ Heather N. Hardy, RDH..... President and Licensed Hygienist Member
- ☎ Robert B. Taylor, DDS..... Vice-President and Licensed Dentist Member
- Lisa B. Bienstock, DMD..... Licensed Dentist Member
- ☎ Morgan Burg..... Business Entity Member
- ☎ Aditya Dynar, Esq..... Public Member
- ☎ Nick Goodman..... Public Member
- ☎ John N. Harman, IV, DDS..... Licensed Dentist Member
- Anthony Herro, DDS..... Licensed Dentist Member
- ☎ Marilyn J. McClain, RDH..... Licensed Hygienist Member
- ☎ Russell J. Morrow, DDS..... Licensed Dentist Member
- ☎ Leslie D. Seaman, DDS..... Licensed Dentist Member

- ☎ Participated Telephonically

STAFF AND ASSISTANT ATTORNEY(S) GENERAL PRESENT:

- Ryan P. Edmonson..... Executive Director
- Kristina Gomez..... Deputy Director
- Seth T. Hargraves, Esq..... Assistant Attorney General
- Sherrie Biggs..... Licensing Manager
- Miriam Thompson, LLB, LEC..... Chief Compliance Officer
- Selena Acuna..... Legal Administrator
- Lisa Schmelling..... Administrative Assistant
- Susie Adams..... Program and Project Specialist

GUESTS PARTICIPATING AND/OR PRESENT:

- ☎ Sean Murphy, Executive Director..... Arizona Dental Association
- ☎ Deb Kappes, RDH, MPH..... Arizona Dental Hygienists’ Association
- Michael Fortuna, CDT, Partner/Lab Manager..... Guest
- Mital Patel, DDS..... Guest
- Roger Briggs, DDS..... Guest

- ☎ Participated Telephonically

The Americans with Disabilities Act: Persons with disabilities may request reasonable accommodations, such as sign language interpreters. Requests should be made as early as possible to allow time to arrange the accommodation. This document is available in alternative format upon request.

OPEN SESSION

The meeting was called to order at 3:02 p.m. by Heather N. Hardy. The following order of business was then considered.

ITEMS FOR BOARD REVIEW, DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

COVID-19

Safety and welfare of the public and dental practitioners

The Board thanked Dr. Lisa Bienstock for drafting an initial response to the COVID-19 pandemic. After discussion and some amendments to the draft, a motion was made by Heather N. Hardy and seconded by Dr. Robert B. Taylor to post the Board's response to the Board's. The motion included directing Board staff to work on sending mass communication to all its licensees and to contact the Governor's Office regarding emergency dental treatment. The motion passed 9 – 1 – 1 by the following roll call vote:

Heather N. Hardy, RDH – Aye
Robert B. Taylor, DDS – Nay
Lisa B. Bienstock, DMD – Aye
Morgan Burg – Aye
Aditya Dynar, Esq – Aye
Nick Goodman – Abstain
John N. Harman, IV, DDS – Aye
Anthony Herro, DDS – Aye
Marilyn J. McClain, RDH – Aye
Russell J. Morrow, DDS – Aye
Leslie D. Seaman, DDS – Aye

License renewals and the completion of required continuing education

Board members discussed the continuing education hours needed for license renewals. Ryan P. Edmonson provided an update regarding licensee requests for extensions when renewing this renewal season. Mr. Edmonson also stated that the Attorney General's Office suggested that Board members should not currently make any recommendations, but wait and maybe revisit this topic the closer we get to the expiration date of June 30, 2020. The Board stated that licensees will have had 36 months to complete the required continuing education hours; not just 3 and ½ months.

Mr. Edmonson provided a few examples the licensees could do to complete the required continuing education hours. Sean Murphy stated that the Arizona Dental Association made a decision to continue to offer courses through the Western Regional Dental Experience, but the courses will now be virtual versus in person to comply with the Governor's Executive Order of not meeting in groups of 10 or more. Mr. Murphy stated that licensees can access the meeting online, and if licensees are already registered, then they have automatically been converted to the virtual meeting. Heather N. Hardy stated that it's best not make a decision on this matter until the board members and staff gather more information about how COVID-19 will affect the licensees receiving their required continuing education. The Board discussed having this as a future meeting agenda item later if it's not addressed sooner by a higher authority.

After discussion, a motion was made by Dr. Robert B. Taylor, seconded by Heather N. Hardy and passed unanimously to take no action.

Completion of continuing education as it relates to board orders

Ryan P. Edmonson explained that there are board orders that require continuing education and asked if the Board had an opinion regarding those courses in light of the pandemic. Seth T. Hargraves stated that the best approach might be to have the affected licensee write a letter showing what they have done so far to comply with the order, what course(s) have been effected and request an extension or request a new course, including an online course. The Board directed staff to follow Mr. Hargraves advice.

The Board did not take any action.

Initial licensing concerns

Ryan P. Edmonson informed the Board that the WREB and the CDCA have either cancelled or postponed their exams that are scheduled through April. Mr. Edmonson also reported that Board staff is also fielding these calls, but indicated that the testing agencies will need to come up with alternative plans to address licensing concerns. Dr. Robert B. Taylor stated that other state Boards are granting 90-day provisional licenses, but if the applicant has not taken the required exam within the 90 days from testing agencies reopening, then the license is being revoked.

The Board did not take any action.

SUMMARY OF CURRENT EVENTS

Ryan P. Edmonson informed the Board and staff that Dr. Leslie Seaman and Morgan Burg were on the teleconference call and participating in the votes even though it appears that the Board did not hear their responses.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS AND AGENDAS

The board members scheduled a telephonic meeting for March 31, 2020 at 3:00 p.m., if necessary.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Dr. Robert B. Taylor, seconded by Heather N. Hardy and passed unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 4:35 p.m.