**STATE OF MARYLAND**

**BOARD OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTANCY**

**BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES**

**March 1, 2022**

**LOCATION:** Google Meets Teleconference

**MEMBERS**

**IN ATTENDANCE:** James E. Marshall, Jr., Chair

Macon M. Ware, III, Secretary

Barrett E. Young

Dr. Jan L. Williams

Tamara Bensky

Joe Petito

Brian Dunne

**MEMBERS/STAFF**

**ABSENT:**

**DLLR OFFICIALS/STAFF:**  Kausar Syed, Deputy Commissioner

Matthew Lawrence, Legal Counsel

Christopher Dorsey, Executive Director

Linda L. Rhew, Administrative Officer

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Mary Beth Halpern, MACPA

Laura Swann, MACPA

Bill Feehley, MSATP

Alison Houck, NASBA

Sharon Sweeney, Western Governor’s University

The, March 1, 2022, meeting of the Maryland Board of Public Accountancy was called to order at 9:02 AM by Chairman of the Board, James E. Marshall, Jr.

Upon a motion **(I)** by Mr. Young, and seconded by Mr. Petito, the minutes of the February 1, 2022, meeting were unanimously approved with corrections.

**Chairman’s Report**

Chairman Marshall informed the Board that NASBA has sent the CPA transition policy out to all exam candidates. He explained that if candidates have taken AUD, FAR and REG they do not have to take one of the new corresponding parts of the exam. If they take BEC prior to 12/31/2023 they will not have to take one of the core disciplines.

Chairman Marshall has asked Mr. Young to include information concerning the transition in the newsletter once the Board‘s staff person is hired, and they begin to work together on the newsletter.

Chairman Marshall congratulated Dr. Jan Williams, as she has been nominated and selected to receive a very prestigious award in Excellence in Public Service, from the University System of Maryland, Board of Regents Faculty Awards.

The Board of Regents Faculty Awards, are awarded to exemplary faculty members within the University System of Maryland. These awards are awarded for excellence in teaching, scholarship, research, or creative activity, public service, mentoring and innovation on the part of faculty members. He congratulated Dr. Jan Williams for being a recipient of such a prestigious award this year! Dr. Williams will receive this award at the Board of Regents meeting in April. Congratulations Dr. Williams!

Upon a motion **(II)** by Mr. Ware, and seconded by Ms. Bensky, the Board unanimously approved the Chairman’s report.

**Executive Director’s Report**

Executive Director, Christopher Dorsey informed the Board, the CPA Board meetings will become hybrid meetings beginning in April. He asked that Board members let him know in advance if they wish to attend in person.

Upon a motion **(III)** by Ms. Bensky, and seconded by Mr. Petito, the Board unanimously approved the Executive Director’s report.

**Exam Appeals**

There were no exam appeals.

**Education Report**

Dr. Williams presented the Education Report. There were three (3) Transfer of Grades application approvals and one (1) Transfer of Grades application denial. The three (3) approved Transfer of Grades applications originated from CA, NY, and PA. The one (1) denied originated from VA and was found to be lacking an ethics course.

Upon a motion **(IV)** by Mr. Dunne, and seconded by Mr. Young, the Board unanimously approved the Education Report.

**Experience Report**

Ms. Bensky presented the Experience Report. There were 23 (twenty-three) Maryland candidate license application approvals and zero (0) Maryland candidate application denials.

There were seven (7) Reciprocal application approvals, and zero (0) Reciprocal application denials. The Reciprocal application approvals originated as follows: 1-CO, 1-DC, 1-ME, 1-NC, 1-NY, 1-OR, and 1-VA.

Upon a motion **(V)** by Mr. Ware, and seconded by Mr. Petito, the Board unanimously approved the Experience Report.

**Firm Permit Report**

Mr. Dunne presented the Firm Permit Committee Report. There were two (2) Maryland firm permit application approvals with an office located in Maryland and one (1) having an office located in Alabama. There were zero (0) firm permit applications closed.

Upon a motion **(VI)** by Ms. Bensky, and seconded by Dr. Williams, the Board unanimously approved the Firm Permit Report.

**Peer Review Oversight Committee Report**

Mr. Ware reported the following to have occurred beginning February 1, 2022, and ending February 28, 2022: two (2) new firms enrolled in the Peer Review Program; 17 (seventeen) firms had reviews accepted; two (2) firms passed with deficiencies, one (1) firm failed; and two (2) firm was dropped or terminated due to scheduling information not being received.

Upon a motion **(VII)** by Mr. Petito, and seconded by Mr. Young, the Board unanimously approved the Peer Review Report.

**New Business**

Alison Houck, Regional Director for the Mid-Atlantic area attended today’s meeting to provide updates to the Board on what is happening at NASBA and throughout the Atlantic Region. Ms. Houck attended the Board of Director’s meeting in January 2022, at which, Kenneth Bishop reported they are monitoring the Pandemic and all conferences are being scheduled as in person conferences. The Regional conference at Green Briar in W. VA. on June 27, 2022 will be an in person conference.

There will be a new member orientation. Board members that became new to the Boards in the last year, are invited to attend.

In addition Ms. Houck spoke of these key points:

* CPA evolution is progressing and mapping was issued in November 2021. There are two years before the new exam will be introduced and in place.
* The pipeline is a big initiative. Ms. Houck said the staff task force, AICPA, and NASBA hit the mark on the initiative by talking to colleges and universities as to why students are not going into the CPA field. It may be because the students can come out of college and earn more to start in engineer or STEM fields and make more money. The students do not realize that overall they will make more money as a CPA.
* The Center for Public Trust is having a diversity focused fundraiser golf tournament. Deloitte is helping to put a diversity training program together and will target those in the future to show a diverse leadership.
* The CPE standards will be looked at. The NANO learning is being looked at, and tracking of the 5-10 minutes courses is being done.
* State Education requirements have not been updated in this region yet by State Boards. West Virginia so far has only indicated less restrictive rules and has to go through legislation first.
* CPAcredits.com was being discussed at the Education Committee meeting yesterday. They have removed from their website that they were NASBA approved. Ms. Houck reported that Delaware approves each third party credit awarding organization as a Board.
* NASBA is discussing a transition policy of the cut off of requirements to take the exams.

Ms. Houck will be stepping down as the Mid Atlantic Regional Director in November 2022 and a new one is being sought.

**Old Business**

Dr. Williams informed the Board she had sent an email to CpaCredits.com on February 8, 2022, asking them; how are the partner colleges involved with this program and how do they provide the courses?  Do the partner colleges include these credits on their transcripts and are the courses acceptable by the partner colleges in their own undergraduate or graduate programs?  Also, please provide us with a list of your partner colleges.  Dr. Williams did not receive a response.

Upon a motion **(VIII)** by Mr. Young, and was seconded by Mr. Petito, the Board unanimously approved the motion to have Mr. Lawrence follow up with CPAcredits.com in regards to the questions the Board has.

**Correspondence**

None

**Open Discussion**

NONE

**Executive Session**

Upon a motion (**IX)**, by Mr. Petito, and seconded by Mr. Ware, the Board went into a closed Executive Session at 9:46 AM via a Google meeting teleconference, where log-in information was only provided to Board members and staff. The purpose of this session was to consult with counsel. This session is permitted to be closed pursuant to Section 3-305(b) (7) of the General Provisions Article, Maryland Annotated Code.

**Return to Open Session**

Upon a motion **(X)** by Mr. Petito, and seconded by Mr. Young, the Board unanimously approved the motions made during Executive Session.

Upon a motion **(XI)** by Mr. Ware, and seconded by Mr. Young, the Board adjourned at 10:18 AM.

**NEXT MEETING:** April 5, 2022, via Google Meets teleconferencing at 9:00 AM

\_\_\_x\_\_With corrections \_\_\_\_Without corrections

Signature on file 4/5/2022

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Chairman Date