



STATE OF ALABAMA
ALABAMA LICENSURE BOARD
FOR
INTERPRETERS AND TRANSLITERATORS
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Board Meeting
May 4, 2017
Minutes

The Alabama Licensure Board for Interpreters and Transliterators held its regularly scheduled Board meeting on Thursday, May 4, 2017, at the Board's office located at 2777 Zelda Road in Montgomery. The meeting was called to order at 10:01 a.m. by Ms. Belinda Montgomery, Board Secretary, serving as Board Chair and a quorum present. Board members present, along with Ms. Montgomery, were: Mr. Melvin Walker (member), Ms. Patricia Smartt (member), Ms. Nancy Hayes (member), Ms. Nancy Adams (member), and Mr. Sam Feibelman (member). Board members absent were Mr. Ben Hollingsworth (Board Chair), Ms. Sharon Canada-Emann (Board Vice Chair), and Ms. Tammy Adams (member). Also present were Ms. Leigh Moorer (Board Administrator), Ms. Monet Gaines (Legal Counsel arriving at 10:36 a.m.), and Ms. Renee' Reames (Executive Secretary to Keith Warren, who served as recording secretary).

The meeting was advertised in advance on the Board's website, www.albit.alabama.gov, and the Secretary of State's website, www.sos.alabama.gov, in accordance with the Alabama Open Meetings Act.

- I. Ms. Belinda Montgomery presented the February 16, 2017 Board meeting minutes for the Board's review. A copy of the February minutes was provided to the Board members prior to the meeting.
MOTION 2017-06 – Ms. Nancy Adams made a motion to accept the February meeting minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Sam Feibelman. The Chair called for a vote from the Board. Voting "aye" were Mr. Melvin Walker, Ms. Patricia Smartt, Ms. Nancy Hayes, Ms. Nancy Adams, and Mr. Sam Feibelman. The motion passed unanimously.
- II. Reports
 - A. Ms. Belinda Montgomery indicated that she had no new business to report as Board Chair.
 - B. Ms. Leigh Moorer presented the Executive Director Report to include financial activities, total number of licensees and status of consumer complaints received in FY 2017. Also presented was the Administrator's Report listing activities accomplished since the last Board meeting which was held in February 2017. Ms. Moorer reported that the licensing

certificates had been issued; however, the newly formatted licensing cards had not been received from the printer.

Ms. Moorer reported that the Board's website was being updated in both its appearance and a user-friendly format, and she proposed from ISD a cost of \$3,120 to update the licensee search component and provide other support functions to other aging components. The Board discussed improvements to the FAQ's and the licensee roster search by listing the licensee's name, along with city and county searches (preference by licensee to be obtained during next renewal cycle).

MOTION 2017-07 – Ms. Nancy Hayes made the motion to authorize the Executive Director to proceed with the website updates, to include support updates, FAQs and the licensee database search, at a cost not to exceed \$3,500 and based on what the budget could bear. The motion was seconded by Ms. Nancy Adams. The Chair called for a vote from the Board. Voting "aye" were Mr. Melvin Walker, Ms. Nancy Adams, Ms. Patricia Smartt, Ms. Nancy Hayes, Ms. Patricia Smartt and Mr. Sam Feibelman. The motion unanimously passed.

Ms. Monet Gaines arrived at 10:36 a.m.

- C. Ms. Monet Gains presented the Legal Counsel report. She presented information regarding a case of an unlicensed individual teaching sign language environment for financial compensation outside of a K-12. The Board discussed the difference between the K-12 environment and community education classes and the yearly gaps in sign language education for young persons. The Board discussed the intent of the Board rules for the licensing process and whether the teaching situation was applicable when teaching sign without a third-party involved. They further discussed the Board's role in maintaining the integrity of sign language and establishing standards. Ms. Montgomery recommended that an ad hoc committee be formed to develop talking points to present to the deaf community and to look into sign language teaching requirements.

COMMITTEE: The following members agreed to serve on the ad hoc committee: Ms. Nancy Adams, Ms. Patricia Smartt and Ms. Belinda Montgomery. Ms. Monet Gaines offered to serve as a consultant.

- III. A. Ms. Belinda Montgomery presented the Committee Report regarding the Board's Rules for examination requirements. She recommended that the Virginia Quality Assurance Screening (VQAS) exam be accepted as a performance exam for Permits and Renewals (Levels 3 and 4). The Board discussed that EIPA was no longer recognized by RID and a moratorium was placed last Fall by RID.

MOTION 2017-08 - Ms. Nancy Adams made a motion to approved the VQAS as a performance exam for Level 3 and 4 licensure (Permits and Renewals). The motion was seconded by Ms. Patricia Smartt. The Chair called for a vote from the Board. Voting "aye" were Ms. Nancy Adams and Ms. Patricia Smartt. Mr. Melvin Walker voted "nay" and Mr. Sam Feibelman abstained from voting. The motion passed by majority vote.

- B. Ms. Belinda Montgomery deferred discussion of proposed use of BOE funds until the next meeting.

Ms. Belinda Montgomery called recess of the Board at 11:38 a.m. for approximately 5 minutes.

The meeting was reconvened at 11:49 a.m. by the Chair.

The Board discussed the RID moratorium on the EIPA performance exam.

MOTION 2017-09 – Mr. Melvin Walker made the motion that the EIPA performance or written exam be accepted as a performance exam in cases where individuals were attempting to become licensed or permitted by the Board and had passed the exam since the RID moratorium. The motion was seconded by Ms. Nancy Adams. The Chair called for a vote from the Board. Voting “aye” were Mr. Melvin Walker, Ms. Nancy Adams, and Ms. Patricia Smartt. Voting by “abstention” were Ms. Nancy Hayes and Mr. Sam Feibelman. The motion pass with majority vote.

- IV. A. Ms. Belinda Montgomery presented the request for exemption by an individual who had taken the EIPA performance exam after the RID moratorium. Based on the recent motion 2017.09 by the Board, the Chair announced that the applicant was eligible for licensure.

The Board discussed modifying the Board Rules to incorporate the motion concerning the RID moratorium.

MOTION 2017-10 (COMMITTEE) - The Chair established a Rules Committee to consider this matter further consisting of Mr. Melvin Walker, Ms. Belinda Montgomery and Mr. Ben Hollingsworth, as Chair.

- B. Ms. Belinda Montgomery presented the annual renewal of the Administrative Services Contract with Warren and Company.

MOTION 2017-11 – Mr. Melvin Walker made a motion to renew the Administrative Services Contract for another year with no changes to the contract. The motion was seconded by Ms. Nancy Adams. The Chair called for a vote from the Board. Voting “aye” were Mr. Melvin Walker, Ms. Nancy Adams, Ms. Patricia Smartt, Ms. Nancy Hayes and Mr. Sam Feibelman. The motion unanimously passed.

- C. Ms. Monet Gaines presented the proposed changes to Rule 488-X-1-.12 Complaint Procedure.

MOTION 2017-12 - Mr. Melvin Walker made a motion to amend the Board Rule 488-X-1-.12 Complaint Procedure as discussed. The motion was seconded by Ms. Nancy Adams. The Chair called for a vote from the Board. Voting “aye” were Mr. Melvin Walker, Ms. Nancy Adams, Ms. Patricia Smartt, Ms. Nancy Hayes and Mr. Sam Feibelman. The motion unanimously passed.

- D. Ms. Belinda Montgomery reviewed with the Board communications concerning deaf individuals working as Exempt interpreters and raised the question of their legal status to work as interpreters. Ms. Monet Gaines reported that the Exemption Rules were appealed

based on the statute, which gave no jurisdiction to the Board to create a category for deaf applicants.

RECOMMENDATION (REPORT): The Board discussed the exemption status question and determined that Ms. Gaines would report to the Board at the next meeting on the exemption statute and the statute's reference to petitioning the Board.

- V. A. The next meeting of the Board is scheduled August 10, 2017.
 - B. Ms. Belinda Montgomery reported that the legislation proposed by Lead-K had gone before the legislative committee and forwarded to the House, and she asked for continued support of this legislation.
- VI. MOTION 2017-13 (ADJOURN)- A motion was made by Ms. Nancy Adams to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Mr. Sam Feibelman. The Chair called for a vote from the Board. Voting "aye" were Mr. Melvin Walker, Ms. Nancy Adams, Mr. Sam Feibelman, Ms. Patricia Smartt and Ms. Nancy Hayes. The motion passed unanimously. The Chair adjourned the meeting at 12:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Ben Hollingsworth, Board Chair



Keith E. Warren, Executive Director

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