State of Maryland

Board of Certified Public Accountants

Business Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, September 12, 2023

*In Person and Via Google Meets Teleconference*

**MEMBERS**

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Dr. Jan Williams, Chair

Tamara Bensky, Secretary

James Marshall

Macon M. Ware III

Joseph Petito

Barrett E. Young

Brian Dunne

**DLLR OFFICIALS/STAFF:** Christopher Dorsey, Executive Director

Robert Pambianco, Legal Counsel

Sarah McDermott, Deputy Commissioner

Sharron McNeill, Office Supervisor

Shemirra Massie, Administrative Specialist III

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Mary Beth Halpern, MACPA

Rebekah Olsen, MACPA

Daniel Dustin, NASBA

Kausar Syed

September 12, 2023, 2023, the Maryland Board of Public Accountancy meeting was called to order at 9:03 AM by Dr. Jan Williams, Chair.

Upon a motion **(I)** by Ms. Bensky and seconded by Mr. Petito, the August 1, 2023, meeting minutes were unanimously approved with edits.

**Chairman’s Report**

1. Dr. Williams informed the Board of her first regional conference call with NASBA. Topics that were discussed included that all states have approved the 30-month credit extension, the Experience, Learn & Earn Pilot Program will start January 2024, and State Boards will be asked to consider the retroactive one-time Credit Relief Initiative Program.

Upon a motion **(II)** by Mr. Marshall, and seconded by Mr. Dunne, the Chairman’s Report was unanimously approved.

**Executive Director’s Report**

1. Mr. Dorsey introduced our new Assistant Commissioner Sarah McDermott.
2. Mr. Dorsey announced the NASBA Annual meeting in New York from October 29th – November 1, 2023, and urged all Board members who wanted to attend to notify him as soon as possible.
3. Mr. Dorsey followed up on a request by the Board for a description of job duties for the open Administrative Officer I position.

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

**Exam Appeals**

None

**Education Committee Report**

Mr. Marshall presented the Education Report for August. There were zero (0) Transfer of Grades application approvals and zero (0) Transfer of Grades application denials.

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

**Experience Committee Report**

Ms. Bensky presented the Experience Report. There were twenty-two **(22)** Maryland candidate license application approvals and zero **(0)** Maryland candidate application denials.

Nine (9) Reciprocal application approvals originated from the following jurisdictions:

1-IL., 1-CA, 2-FL, 1-CT, 1-PA, 1-VA, 1-MI, 1-DC

There were zero **(0)** Reciprocal application denials.

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

**Firm Permit Committee Report**

Mr. Dunne presented the Firm Permit Committee Report. There were two **(2)** firm approvals and zero **(0)** firms closed.

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

**Peer Review Oversight Committee Report**

Mr. Ware reported the following: One **(1)** newly enrolled firm in the Peer Review Program; thirteen **(13)** firms had reviews accepted; zero **(0)** first time passes with deficiencies and two **(2)** first time failed, and zero **(0)** firms were dropped or terminated.

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

**New Business**

1. AICPA & NASBA Experience, Learn & Earn Program:

Daniel Dustin from NASBA discussed in detail and answered questions about the (ELE) Experience, Learn, and Earn program, which will offer an RFP (Request for Proposal) to colleges/universities in the future. The pilot program is currently only with Tulane University. So far, 70 firms have confirmed that they wish to participate in this pilot program.

1. Experiential Learning Proposal:

The Board had a lengthy discussion about experiential learning and the acceptability of these related credits towards the, approximately, 30 additional hours required for CPA licensure and the 1-year work experience requirement. The Board did not deem it necessary to vote on motions related to experiential learning. The Board is supportive of experiential learning credits that are acceptable under our current statutes and regulations. Experiential learning credits on an official transcript of a school, college, university, or other institution that is a member of an accrediting body included in § 2-303(c) of the Maryland Public Accountancy Act will be accepted as credits toward education for licensure. Work experience obtained through experiential learning that meets the requirements of § 2-302 (f) of the Maryland Public Accountancy Act will count toward the minimum 2,000 hours of experience required for licensure. Experiential learning credits obtained through examination and included on a transcript of an accredited institution by COMAR 09.24.05.03 (C) will be accepted for credit towards education for licensure. The Board agreed that the minutes would serve as public acknowledgment of its discussion of experiential credits.

**Old Business**

1. Fee Increases:

The Board reviewed the Board of Public Accountancy’s financial information for FY2014-estimated FY2023, along with fee information of other states in NASBA’s Mid-Atlantic Region. The Board also discussed the benefits of using NASBA’s CPA Examination Services to process Exam applications and the State’s request to establish a $25 license verification fee.

Upon a motion **(VIII)** by Mr. Dunne, and seconded by Mr. Young, the Board voted unanimously to approve a one-time 12.5% increase (maximum amount per Regulation) of non-CPAES fees and to establish a $25 license verification fee.

1. NASBA CPAES Licensing Proposal:

The Board discussed the NASBA CPA Application Services Proposal. There are currently 35 states in the U.S. that use this service. Using CPAES Examination Application Services would increase fees for applicants. However, these fees would be equal to, or aligned with most of the other states in the Mid-Atlantic Region. Using CPAES License Application Services would result in a substantial increase in the initial license application fees. The Board was not in favor of this substantial increase in license fees.

Upon a motion **(IX)** by Mr. Young, and seconded by Mr. Petito, the Board voted to approve the use of CPAES for Examination Application Services only, and not to add any additional state fees to the total cost. The State will continue to process initial license, license renewal, and transfer of grades applications.

**Correspondence**

None

**The Board held a hearing**

**Closed Session**

Upon a motion **(X)** by Mr. Marshall, and seconded by Mr. Young, the Board went into a Closed Session at 2:03 PM via a Google Meets 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 according to Section 3-305(b) (7) of the General Provisions Article, Maryland Annotated Code.

**Return to Open Session**

Upon a motion **(XI)** by Mr. Petito, and seconded by Mr. Dunne, the Board unanimously approved the motions made during the Closed Session.

Upon a motion **(XII)** by Ms. Bensky, and seconded by Mr. Petito, the Board adjourned at 2:35 PM.

**NEXT MEETING:** Tuesday, **October 3, 2023**, via Google Meets teleconferencing at 9:00 AM

\_x\_\_\_ With corrections \_\_\_\_\_Without corrections

\_\_\_\_\_\_**Signature on file**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ **October 17, 2023**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Chairman Date