

**MISSISSIPPI STATE BOARD OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTANCY
MINUTES
November 16, 2023**

The Mississippi State Board of Public Accountancy met on November 16, 2023, beginning at 9:00 a.m. The following record of that meeting was maintained.

Board Members Present (In Person – X; Via Tele/Video Conf. – T)

Charles Prince, Chair T
Annette Pridgen, Vice-Chair X
Gary Walker, Secretary X
David Bridgers T
William Kelly T
Rick Elam T
Willie Sims, Jr. T

Board Staff and Others Present (whether in person or video conf.)

Andy Wright, Executive Director X
Sharee Brewer, Associate Director, Investigations X
Vicki Snowden, Licensing X
Lane McNeal, Compliance X
Kiana Foster, Attorney General's Office X
Ed Jones, MSCPA Liaison T
Karen Moody, MSCPA CEO T

I. General

1. The Board opened the meeting with an invocation from Willie Sims.
2. After a motion was made by B. Kelly and seconded by W. Sims, the minutes from the September 21, 2023 meeting were unanimously approved by the Board.
3. Previously approved licenses are available for signature after the meeting.
4. Proposed dates and times for future meetings/conferences:

2023 Dates:

December 14

10:00 a.m. Board Meeting

I. General (Continued)

4. Reviewed proposed dates and times for future meetings/conferences:

2024 Dates:

January 26	10:00 a.m. Board Meeting, at Ole Miss
March 21	10:00 a.m. Board Meeting, at Sou. Miss
March 25-27	Exec. Directors and Staff Conference, Nashville
May 3	10:00 a.m. Board Meeting
May 4	New CPA Ceremony
Early June (?)	NASBA Regional Meeting
June 13 (?)	10:00 a.m. Board Meeting
June 20-23	MSCPA Convention, Destin, FL
Late June (?)	NASBA Regional Meeting
August 8	10:00 a.m. Board Meeting
September 19	10:00 a.m. Board Meeting, MSU Starkville

II. National Regulatory Concerns

1. The AICPA State Legislative and Regulatory Update was reviewed.
2. The NASBA published FAQs for CRI were discussed.
3. After a motion was made by A. Pridgen and seconded by B. Kelly, NASBA’s Credit Relief Initiative (CRI) was unanimously approved by the Board. Under the CRI candidates with exam credits that expired between January 30, 2020 and December 31, 2023 will have those credits extended until June 30, 2025.

III. Administration

1. Balance Sheets Treasury, Funds 3845 and 3850 as of September 30, 2023 were reviewed.
2. FY2024 Budget to Actual Comparison – Fund 3845, for the three months ended September 30, 2023, was reviewed.
3. Statement of Revenues and Expenditures – Fund 3845, for the three months ended September 30, 2023, was reviewed.
4. Items of interest from the “Regulatory Roundtable” event were discussed.

5. After a motion made by W. Sims and seconded by A. Pridgen, additional per diem days were unanimously approved by the Board.

IV. CPA Examination, Licensing & Firms

1. The Board noted staff approval of 255 candidate applications (63 initial, 192 reexam) for 281 Sections of the computerized CPA examination received since the September 21, 2023 meeting.
2. After a motion was made by B. Kelly and seconded by W. Sims the Quarter 3 (Jul – Sept 2023) examination scores for 214 candidates, 250 examination sections were unanimously accepted by the Board.
3. The following actions on applications for CPA licenses, reciprocals, reinstatements, and CPA firm permits were approved by the Board:

Applications for Original CPA License

A motion was made by B. Kelly and seconded by W. Sims

Name	Number	Action
Chad Everett Allgood	8464	Unanimously Approved
Derrel Joel Bilsky	8465	Unanimously Approved
Anne Louise Cavett	8466	Unanimously Approved
Nicholas A. Chesser	8467	Unanimously Approved
Kenneth Eugene Dixon III	8468	Unanimously Approved
Gelsey L. Guerra	8469	Unanimously Approved
Madison Dale Huey	8470	Unanimously Approved
Ryan J. Lynch	8471	Unanimously Approved
Nancy N. Nguyen	8472	Unanimously Approved
Brenna Elise Nowell	8473	Unanimously Approved
Jonah W. Pitts	8474	Unanimously Approved
Ian T. Requilman	8475	Unanimously Approved

Applications for Reciprocal CPA License Approved & Issued by Staff

A motion made by B. Kelly and seconded by A. Pridgen

Name	Number	Action
Natalie Marie Boyles	R8456	Unanimously Approved
Christopher Jew	R8457	Unanimously Approved
Rachel K. Kinzer	R8458	Unanimously Approved
James Stevenson Luffey	R8459	Unanimously Approved

IV. CPA Examination, Licensing & Firms (continued)

3. Applications (continued)

Applications for CPA Firm Permit

A motion was made by B. Kelly and seconded by R. Elam

Name	City, State	No.	Action
Clark Taylor CPA	Ridgeland, MS	8460	Unanimously Approved
Jaggars Denley CPA	Ridgeland, MS	8461	Unanimously Approved
Hunter Praytor P.A.	Asheville, NC	8462	Unanimously Approved
The Pearson Group	Natchez, MS	8463	Unanimously Approved

Applications for CPA Firm Permit Amendments

A motion was made by B. Kelly and seconded by W. Sims

No.	Name	City, State	Action
All #s	BDO USA P.C.	Various	Unanimously Approved
7233	Marcum LLP	New York, NY	Unanimously Approved
7538	Sabrina G. Baio, PLLC	D'Iberville, MS	Unanimously Approved

4. The new license portability requirement for Service members and spouses was discussed.

VI. Rules and Regulations

1. A firm name proposal under pending new rule was deferred.
2. After a motion by A. Pridgen and second by W. Sims, the Board ratified by unanimous vote the staff change to the Rule 4.1.5 modification that deleted the last sentence prior to exposure to the OLRC and licensees.

After a motion by A. Pridgen and second by B. Kelly the Board approved by unanimous vote the final version of proposed rules changes as exposed to the OLRC and licensees.

VII. Regulatory Matters

1. The Board heard a report from Associate Director Sharee Brewer regarding the regulatory activities from September 22, 2023 to November 16, 2023:

Activity	Number
Cases Opened Beginning of Period	149
Cases Opened	5
Cases Closed ①	44
Cases Open End of Period	110
Open Cases Referred to Members	3

① *Cases Closed:*

Case 2021.026 involved a firm that received a 2nd pass with deficiencies on their peer review. Firm initially was required to have pre-issuance reviews but instead left public practice, closed their firm and canceled their firm permit. Matter was closed.

Cases 2023.013; 2023.014; 2023.015; 2023.016; 2023.017; 2023.018; 2023.019; 2023.020; 2023.021; 2023.022; 2023.023; 2023.024; 2023.025; 2023.026; 2023.029; 2023.030; and 2023.031 involved individual licensees who all requested an extension of time to obtain their CPE. Board granted the requested extensions and these licensees complied with the extension by reporting and documenting their CPE to the Board. Matters were closed.

Case 2023.032; 2023.035; 2023.036; 2023.042; 2023.043; 2023.047; 2023.057; 2023.067; 2023.079; 2023.080; 2023.084; 2023.090; 2023.101; 2023.104; 2023.107; 2023.109; 2023.125; 2023.131; and 2023.141 involved individuals who requested retirement or cancellation of their active licensure status in lieu of informally settling their CPE violation. Matters were closed.

Cases 2023.070; 2023.102; and 2023.121 involved individuals who were included in the CPE database as having a deficiency but upon investigation staff learned they had only failed to hit the final submit button. Matters were closed.

Cases 2023.037; 2023.052; and 2023.133 involved individuals who documented medical or military waivers of the financial penalties on their CPE matters, or were deceased. Those who received a waiver still documented their CPE to the Board. Matters were closed.

Case 2023.145 involved a firm that was late completing their peer review. Sole proprietor had some health-related issues. Firm did complete their peer review about 6 months late and received a pass rating. Matter was closed.

After a motion was made by G. Walker and seconded by B. Kelly, the Board unanimously ratified the staff's closure of these matters.

2. Ms. Brewer provided an excerpt from the Board licensing system of the currently active cases.

VII. Trial Board Hearing

1. After a motion was made by G. Walker and seconded by W. Sims, the **Continuation Order 2022.113** was unanimously approved by the Board with B. Kelly recused.
2. A Consent Order for **Cases 2023.294, 2023.295, and 2023.296** involves three separate locations of an out of state CPA firm. The three locations hold firm permits issued by the Board. The three locations were subject to disciplinary action by the SEC for violation of PCAOB Rule 3500T related to a cheating scandal by various employees on CPE tests and/or ethics portions of CPA tests. The CPA firm agreed in the Consent Order to cease and desist from committing or causing any violations or future violations of PCAOB Rule 3500T. Order calls for a \$15,000 financial penalty. After a motion was made by W. Sims and seconded by B. Kelly the Consent order was unanimously approved by the Board with G. Walker recused.
3. Stipulation and Consent Orders for **Case 2023.038, 2023.040, 2023.044, 2023.045, 2023.051, 2023.058, 2023.059, 2023.060, 2023.061, 2023.063, 2023.068, 2023.072, 2023.073, 2023.076, 2023.078, 2023.081, 2023.088, 2023.089, 2023.091, 2023.092, 2023.096, 2023.103, 2023.108, 2023.111, 2023.115, 2023.117, 2023.118, 2023.120, 2023.122, 2023.128, 2023.135, 2023.137 and 2023.138** involving individual licensees who 1) did not report Continuing Professional Education for the 2022-2023 year, 2) were licensed and primarily employed in another state of licensure and in compliance with that other state's CPE rules thereby qualifying for an exemption, 3) failed to report that exemption, and 4) requested informal settlement of their case. Orders have the same language requiring documentation to the Board of active licensure in the other state and calling for a \$100 financial penalty for failing to report the exemption claimed. All licenses verified through ALD as actively licensed in the applicable state and all financial penalties have been paid. After a motion was made by W. Sims and seconded by G. Walker the Orders were unanimously approved by the Board with D. Bridgers recused.

4. Stipulation and Consent Orders for **Case 2023.033*** and **2023.034** involved an individual licensee who 1) did report their Continuing Professional Education for the 2022-2023 year, 2) had not obtained the required 40 hours, 3) had not requested an extension of the Board to obtain CPE when they learned of the deficiency, and 4) requested informal settlement of their case. The order requires the licensee to obtain the deficient CPE hours, an assessment of 50% penalty hours on the deficiency, and to document all to the Board. Order calls for a \$250 financial penalty for failing to obtain the required hours by June 30, 2023. All hours have been documented and financial penalty paid except for case marked with an asterisk. After a motion was made by B. Kelly and seconded by W. Sims, Order for **Case 2023.033** was unanimously approved by the Board with D. Bridgers recused. After a motion made by G. Walker and seconded by B. Kelly, Order for **Case 2023.034** was unanimously approved by the Board with D. Bridgers recused.
5. Stipulation and Consent Orders for **Case 2023.039, 2023.041, 2023.048, 2023.050, 2023.053, 2023.054, 2023.055, 2023.056, 2023.064, 2023.065, 2023.066, 2023.069, 2023.071, 2023.075, 2023.077, 2023.083, 2023.085, 2023.086, 2023.087, 2023.093, 2023.094, 2023.097, 2023.098, 2023.100, 2023.105, 2023.106, 2023.114, 2023.123, 2023.124, 2023.126, 2023.129, 2023.130, 2023.134, 2023.136, 2023.139, and 2023.140** involving individual licensees who 1) did not report Continuing Professional Education for the 2022-2023 year, 2) had obtained their required 40 hours, and 3) requested informal settlement of their case. Orders have the same language requiring the licensee to document to the Board the 40 hours obtained by June 30, 2023. Orders call for a \$250 financial penalty for failing to report the 40 hours obtained by August 1, 2023. All financial penalties paid and hours documented. After a motion was made by W. Sims and seconded by G. Walker, the Orders were unanimously approved by the Board with D. Bridgers recused.
6. Stipulation and Consent Orders for **Case 2023.082, 2023.095, 2023.099, 2023.113, and 2023.116** involving individual licensees who 1) did not report Continuing Professional Education for the 2021-2022 year, 2) had not obtained the required 40 hours by June 30, 2023, and 3) requested informal settlement of their case. Orders have the same language requiring the licensee to obtain deficient CPE hours, an assessment of 50% penalty hours on the deficiency, and to document all to the Board. Orders call for a \$500 financial penalty for failing to obtain the required 40 hours by June 30, 2023 as well as failing to report the hours a licensee did obtain even if the hours were zero by August 1, 2023. All hours have been documented and financial penalties paid. After a motion was made by W. Sims and seconded by G. Walker, the Orders were unanimously approved by the Board with D. Bridgers recused.

These minutes were adopted by unanimous vote of the Board Members present at the December 14, 2023 Board Meeting.

For the Board:

Gary Walker
Board Secretary