**STATE OF MARYLAND**

**BOARD OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTANCY**

**BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES**

**August 3, 2021**

**LOCATION:** Google Meets Teleconference

**MEMBERS**

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

Macon M. Ware, III, Secretary

 Barrett E. Young

 Leslie Mostow

 Joe Petito

 Dr. Jan L. Williams

**MEMBERS/STAFF**

**ABSENT:** Brian Dunne

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

 Christopher Dorsey, Assistant Executive Director

 Matthew Lawrence, Legal Counsel

 Linda L. Rhew, Administrative Officer

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

 Bill Feehley, MSATP

The August 3, 2021, meeting of the Maryland Board of Public Accountancy was called to order at 9:00 AM by Chairman of the Board, James E. Marshall, Jr.

Upon a motion **(I)** by Mr. Ware, and seconded by Mr. Mostow, the minutes of the June 15, 2021, meeting were unanimously approved with corrections.

**Chairman’s Report**

Chairman Marshall shared with the Board his impressions of the NASBA Regional virtual meeting on June 22nd and 23rd, 2021.  NASBA acknowledged this meeting had a higher volume of participants, and as a result NASBA may offer more virtual meetings as it allows more people to participate.  CPA Evolution continues to move forward. The pipeline and comments show pre-pandemic candidate numbers were at 37,000 and are down nationally to 30,000 during 2020, and 2021. NASBA will continue working with State Boards and industry leaders to increase the pipeline.

Chairman Marshall shared the CPA exam updates that were shared at the meeting, which included the blueprint changes that went live in 2021. There will be changes in the AUD and BEC exams. Emphasis will be on data analytics and digital data. IFRS will be removed from FAR. Estate and tax will be removed from the REG section of the exam.

 Currently all states have agreed to accept remote testing pilot scores as Colorado is the last to join. The pilot for remote testing is not being rushed.

The CPA Evolution transition policy is expected to have an impact on candidates with shorter testing

windows necessary for disciplines.  Candidates may experience longer wait times for scores to be

released, which could require extensions of credit.

Upon a motion **(II)** by Mr. Young and seconded by Mr. Petito, the Board unanimously approved the

Chairman’s report.

**Executive Director’s Report**

Chris Dorsey, Assistant Executive Director, informed the Board that Executive Director Shanai Jordan would be leaving the Board on August 13, 2021. He has begun operating in her capacity. Mr. Dorsey informed the Board he took over the CE review of Audits since Mr. Fenwick resigned. He anticipates the CE Audits being caught up by September’s Board meeting as he is currently working on May’s audits.

The Board would like to express its appreciation of service to Shanai Jordan as Executive Director. Ms. Jordan has provided significant insight, knowledge, professionalism, and management to the Board over the last two years. We wish her the best in her future endeavors.

Upon a motion **(III)** by, Mr. Young 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 five (5) Transfer of Grades application approvals. There were zero (0) transfer of grades application denials. The five (5) transfer of grades applications originated from: 1-AL, 1-ME, 1-NJ, 1-NV, and 1-PA.

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

**Experience Report**

Mr. Mostow presented the Experience Report. There were fourteen (14) Reciprocal application approvals, and zero (0) Reciprocal application denials. The fourteen (14) Reciprocal application approvals originated as follows: DE-1, GA-1, GUAM-1, NC-1, NY-2, TN-1, TX-1, and VA-6.

There were 41 (forty-one) Maryland candidate license application approvals and zero (0) Maryland candidate application denials.

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

**Firm Permit Report**

Dr. Williams presented the Firm Permit Committee Report in Mr. Dunne’s absence. There were two (2) Maryland firm permit application approvals with offices located in Maryland. There were zero (0) firm permit applications closed.

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

**Peer Review Oversight Committee Report**

Mr. Ware reported the following have occurred beginning July 1, 2021 and ending July 31, 2021: two (2) new firms have enrolled in the Peer Review Program since July 1, 2021; 12 (twelve) firms have had reviews accepted since July 1, 2021; one (1) firm has failed since July 1, 2021; six (6) firms were dropped or terminated due to scheduling information not being received since July 1, 2021; and zero (0) firms have passed with deficiencies since July 1, 2021.

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

**New Business**

Chairman Marshall shared with the board a letter received from MACPA, asking the Board to consider granting Coastal Peer Review, Review Acceptance Body (RAB) CE credit hours for participation in the RAB members meeting.

Upon a motion **(VIII)** by Mr. Young and seconded by Mr. Mostow, the Board unanimously approved the motion that the Board acknowledges, that the work of the Coastal Peer Review, Review Acceptance Body fits the definition of Continuing Professional Education within the current regulations. Further, we will recognize up to 1.0 hour per monthly meeting attended during a member’s involvement on the RAB. As substantiation in case of audit, the licensee should keep a copy of the minutes of any meetings they claim, showing their attendance under the roll call of that meeting. The Board will retroactively accept these credits to January 2020 (the start of the RAB), but not to precede the licensee’s current renewal period.

**Old Business**

The Board discussed the effective date for Board members to be able to count CE for Board meeting attendance to be the current renewal period for Board meetings.

Upon a motion **(IX)** by Mr. Young, and seconded by Dr. Williams, the Board unanimously approved the effective date of counting CE for Board meetings.

Dr. Williams talked about the educational changes on the Model UAA Rules & Curriculum Launch. She stated that most boards do not meet during the summer and have not made changes to their education requirements yet. The main issues are whether cost accounting will continue to be required, whether we will require AIS, whether ethics is changed to a business or accounting ethics course, and updating internship hours from six (6) to nine (9).  Dr. Williams and Mr. Mostow will meet to discuss contacting the colleges in Maryland. The Model UAA Rules will be placed on the September agenda for discussion.

**Correspondence**

There was no correspondence.

**Open Discussion**

Deputy Commissioner Kausar Syed informed the Board that due to the decrease in the fund balance she was trying to gain the Secretary’s approval for a fee increase.

**Executive Session**

Upon a motion **(X)**, by Mr. Mostow, and seconded by Dr. Williams, the Board went into a closed Executive Session at 10:11 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 **(XI)** by Mr. Mostow, and seconded by Mr. Petito, the Board unanimously approved the motions made during Executive Session.

Upon a motion **(XII)** by Mr. Petito, and seconded by Dr. Williams, the Board adjourned at 10:55 AM.

**NEXT MEETING:** September 14, 2021, via Google Meets teleconferencing at 9:00 AM

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

Signature on original document 9/28/2021

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 Chairman Date