BOARD MEETING

Friday, October 10, 2025

The Board of Dental Examiners of Alabama met Friday, October 10, 2025, at the Board office to conduct business.

The President called the Board Meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. with the following members in attendance: Dr. Melodie A. Jones, President; Dr. Mark McIlwain, Secretary/Treasurer; Dr. Holt Gray; Dr. Sonya White; Dr. John W. York, II, Dr. Roberto Pischek, and Ms. Kay Alexander, RDH. Also in attendance were Stephen Morris, Executive Director; Shannon Youngblood, Investigator/Facility and Security; Dr. Mary Beth Finn, Chief of Staff; and Cameron Elkins, Esq., Attorney General's Office.

Guests included: Dr. Robin Pruitt, Jr.; James Driskell, CPA; Dr. David Northcutt; Dr. Rene' Talbot, Dr. Mike Koslin; Kathy Gray; Jordan Gray; Dr. Kevin Sims; Dr. Grady Swicord; Ann Marie Karaki, UAB CE Department; Dr. Mollie Helf; Michele Huebner, Executive Director - ALDA; Dr. John Bennett; and Clint Maze, Esq.

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

Dr. Jones gave the Invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

A roll call vote was conducted:
Dr. Jones – yes
Dr. McIlwain – yes
Dr. Gray – yes
Dr. White – yes
Dr. York – yes
Dr. Pischek - yes
Ms. Alexander – yes

The President determined a quorum was present. Mr. Morris confirmed.

Dr. Jones gave her President's Farewell address. Dr. McIlwain presented her with an award plaque for her service to the Board.

Dr. Jones announced she made a gift to the Mission of Mercy as a donation for her time on the Board.

The Board accepted and ratified the consent order for case #2025-13, voted and approved in the August 9, 2025, Board meeting.

Dr. Rene' Talbot was sworn in by Dr. Jones to serve as a Board member from October 2025 to October 2030.

Election of Officers:
Dr. Gray nominated Dr. McIlwain to be Board President. Dr. York seconded the motion.
Dr. White nominated Dr. Gray to be Board Vice President. Dr. Talbot seconded the motion.
Dr. York nominated Dr. White to be Secretary/Treasurer. Dr. McIlwain seconded the motion.
Dr. Gray made the motion for the board to vote on the slate of nominations made and seconded.
Dr. White seconded the motion.
A roll call vote was made to approve the nominations.
Dr. McIlwain – yes
Dr. Gray – yes
Dr. White – yes
Dr. York – yes
Dr. Pischek – yes
Dr. Talbot – yes
Ms. Alexander - yes

The President asked the Board to adopt the meeting agenda as presented.
Dr. Gray made a motion to approve the agenda with the addition of an Executive Session at the end of the meeting. Ms. Alexander seconded the motion. The Motion was approved unanimously by all members present.

The President asked for a review of the Board Minutes from the September 2025 meetings.
Dr. Gray made the motion to approve the General Counsel subcommittee meeting minutes of September 3, 2025. Dr. Pischek seconded the motion. The Motion was approved unanimously by all members present.
Dr. White made the motion to approve the Subcommittee for Allowing Dental Assistants to Perform Coronal Polishing minutes for the meeting held September 18, 2025. Ms. Alexander seconded the motion. The Motion was approved unanimously by all members present.
Dr. York made the motion to approve the Board meeting minutes for the meeting held September 18 and 19, 2025. Ms. Alexander seconded the motion. The Motion was approved unanimously by all members present.

Dr. McIlwain presented the Financial Report for August 2025. All expenditures are within budget.

Dr. McIlwain asked that the financial report be accepted as presented. Dr. White made a motion to accept the financial report as presented. Dr. Gray seconded the motion. The Motion was approved unanimously by all members present.

Because of the change in officers, there was not a President's Report.

Dr. Bennett presented the Wellness Report. Special note: One dentist is having difficulty getting his DEA permit back. Dr. McIlwain and Mr. Morris will sit down with the DEA representative.

Dr. Koslin presented the Anesthesia Committee report to the Board. The committee is requesting that Board Rule 270-x-2-.17 be changed to outline the process for temporary permits.
Dr. Talbot made a motion to publish the rule for the changes to 270-X-2-.17 and Dr. Pischek seconded the motion.

A roll call vote was conducted for approval to publish the rule:
Dr. McIlwain – yes
Dr. Gray – yes
Dr. White – yes
Dr. York - yes
Dr. Pischek - yes
Dr. Talbot - yes
Ms. Alexander – abstain

Executive Director's Report:
-Good communications have taken place with the inLumon team.
-There is a separate page on the website for the Governor's office required financial reports.
-The renewal period for licenses is over, and we have a list of dentists and hygienists that have not renewed either their licenses or permits. The staff spent time calling all licensees that missed the October 1, 2025, deadline and now the reinstatement process has begun. It should be a little easier for the licensees as we have all applications for reinstatement on the website applications page.

Dr. Gray reported on his attendance at a standard of care court case he attended last week. Some members of the Board were ethically questioning whether a board member could serve as an expert witness in a civil case or should they recuse himself/herself if involved in previous litigation. It was asked if Mr. Morris or Ms. Hetzel would send a letter to the Ethics Commission regarding an opinion on this question.
Dr. York made a motion to request an ethics decision of the Ethics Commission on whether a board member could serve as an expert witness in a court case. Dr. Talbot seconded the motion.

A roll call vote was conducted for approval:
Dr. McIlwain – abstain

Dr. Gray – yes
Dr. White – yes
Dr. York - yes
Dr. Pischek – yes
Dr. Talbot - yes
Ms. Alexander – yes

Ms. Hetzel reported that the Ethics Commission already has opinions on the question of whether a board member could be an expert witness in a case.

Break 9:02 a.m.
Return from break 9:13 a.m.

Dr. White presented the results of discussion from the subcommittee on Dental Assisting and Coronal Polishing. The subcommittee proposes a change to 270-X-3-.10 to allow changes to the duties of allied personnel.

Dr. Gray made a motion for these changes to be added to the rule. Dr. Pischek seconded the motion. The Motion was approved unanimously by all members present.

Public Comments:
Dr. Robin Pruitt presented his comments to the Board.
Dr. Grady Swicord presented his comments to the Board.
Bradley Guye withdrew his request for public comments at this meeting.
Dr. Kevin Sims presented his comments to the Board.

The General Counsel discussion was tabled until the November meeting due to approval needed from the AG's office.

The Board attorney application process has gotten sixteen applicants. The subcommittee will be reviewing these applications and will be sending out follow-up questions to the applicants that are chosen to receive them.

The Board attorney subcommittee meeting will be scheduled and confirmed by the Executive Director to post on the Secretary of State website.

The OCS opinion discussion was tabled until the November meeting after a brief discussion. Dr. McIlwain and Mr. Morris will be working on a final version of the opinion.

The Board received recommendations for retraining of hygienists who are wanting to return to work after more than five years of not practicing. The additional information needed to process these applications will be detailed in the Board Rule 270-X-3-.07.
The motion was made by Ms. Alexander to include remediation/retraining language for licensees returning after five years of not practicing in Board rule 270-X-3-.07. Mr. Morris to draft this language and present it at the November Board meeting. This motion was seconded by Dr. Pischek. The motions were rescinded until a final version is presented at the November meeting.

Dr. Gray invited Dr. Northcutt to speak at this meeting for the board and staff.

Break 10:25 a.m.
Return from break 10:37 a.m.

Dr. Northcutt made his presentation to the Board and staff.

The Board announced the NAPS free dental clinic, November 8, at Thomasville High School.

The Board announced the Free Extraction Day, November 22 from 8-12, at the Foundry Dental Center.

An ADHP student was absent from class and needed Board approval to return to class. Documentation was received by the Board. Ms. Alexander made a motion to approve the student to return to class. Dr. York seconded the motion. The Motion was approved unanimously by all members present.

Mr. Morris presented the streaming policy for the Board meetings. According to the Board's Records Disposition Authority, Board meeting recordings will be kept until the minutes are approved by the Board. For this to be changed, the RDA will have to be rewritten and submitted to the State Records Commission for approval. Dr. Gray made the motion that the RDA be modified to keep the board meeting recordings posted on YouTube or another platform, and that the recordings be kept for two years. Dr. Talbot seconded the motion.

Dr. McIlwain – yes
Dr. Gray – yes
Dr. White – yes
Dr. York - yes
Dr. Pischek – yes
Dr. Talbot - yes
Ms. Alexander – yes

Dr. Finn presented the two CE Course approvals for C.A.P.S.T.O.N.E. Academy of Facial Aesthetics: Treatment of TMD Using Neuromodulators and Bay Area Dental Hygiene Organization for Helping Guide Patients with Congenitally Missing Teeth.
Dr. York made the motion to approve both courses. Dr. White seconded the motion. The Motion was approved unanimously by all members present.

Dr. Talbot asked for clarification where the Board voted to not fund the contract for Mr. Strickland's attorney fees and the AG's office overrode that decision. Ms. Hetzel said that it was evaluated by the AG's office, and the previous Executive Director was entitled to the fund support. The vote was to make the Board a party to the contract. Because the Board voted no, the contract will originate through the AG's office.

Ms. Alexander needs to be approved for travel to the AADB meeting. In August, her name was not approved as she was not known to be a still seated board member at the time of the conference. Dr. York made the motion for approval of travel for Ms. Alexander. Dr. Gray seconded the motion. The Motion was approved unanimously by all members present.

Dr. Pischek asked to be approved to go to the Southern Conference of Deans and Examiners in January in North Carolina. The following board members were also approved to go to this meeting: Dr. York, Dr. White, Dr. Gray, Dr. McIlwain, and Dr. Talbot. Dr. York made the motion for approval of travel for all of the board members listed. Dr. White seconded the motion. The Motion was approved unanimously by all members present.

- Dental License Applications
    - By Credentials
        - John Goertemiller, DDS; Univ. of N.C. Chapel Hill (2009)

Dr. Gray recommended approval of the applicant for Dental Licensure by Credentials contingent upon successful completion of the jurisprudence exam. Dr. McIlwain made a motion to approve the applications. Dr. White seconded the motion. Motion was approved unanimously by all members present.

Ms. Alexander recommended approval of the applicants below for Dental Hygiene Licensure by Regional Exam contingent upon successful completion of the jurisprudence exam. Dr. York made a motion to approve the applications. Dr. White seconded the motion. Motion was approved unanimously by all members present.

- Dental Hygiene License Applications

- By Regional Exam
  - Kennedi Collins, RDH; Fortis (2025)
  - Torree Whitney, RDH; West Coast Univ. (2020)

Ms. Alexander recommended approval of the applicant below for Dental Hygiene Licensure by Credentials contingent upon successful completion of the jurisprudence exam. Dr. York made a motion to approve the application. Dr. White seconded the motion. Motion was approved unanimously by all members present.

- By Credentials
  - Megan Akin, RDH; Remington College (2018)

Dr. Gray recommended approval of the applicant for Military/Spouse License Portability. Ms. Alexander made a motion to approve the application. Dr. White seconded the motion. Motion was approved unanimously by all members present.

- Military/Spouse License Portability
  - Michelle Turkovich, RDH; Allegany College of Maryland (2011)

Dr. Gray recommended approval of the applicants for Special Purpose License contingent upon successful completion of the jurisprudence exam. Dr. White made a motion to approve the applications. Dr. Pischek seconded the motion. Motion was approved unanimously by all members present.

- Special Purpose License
  - Eric Westergard, DDS; Univ. of Arizona (2012)
  - Thomas Vahdani, DDS; Univ. of Southern California (2003)

Break 11:20 a.m.
Return Back 11:40 a.m.

Dr. York made a motion that case #2019-102 be closed with a flag to reopen and adjudicate if the licensee tries to reinstate at a future date. Dr. Pischek seconded the motion. It was approved by unanimous consent with the case team leader and the hygiene member abstaining from the vote.

Dr. Gray made a motion that case #2025-153 has no evidence to sustain. Dr. Pischek seconded the motion. It was approved by unanimous consent with the case team leader and the hygiene member abstaining from the vote.

Dr. Gray made a motion that case #2025-160 has no evidence to sustain. Dr. Pischek seconded the motion. It was approved by unanimous consent with the case team leader and the hygiene member abstaining from the vote.

Dr. Gray made a motion that case #2025-166 has no evidence to sustain. Dr. York seconded the motion. It was approved by unanimous consent with the case team leader and the hygiene member abstaining from the vote.

Dr. Gray made a motion that case #2025-164 had no evidence to sustain. Dr. White seconded the motion. It was approved by unanimous consent with the case team leader and the hygiene member abstaining from the vote.

Mr. Morris presented the NAPS letter requesting a waiving of the $500 renewal fee for the event on November 8, 2025. Dr. York made a motion to waive the fee. Dr. Talbot seconded the motion. The Motion was approved unanimously by all members present.

Dr. Gray read the election results for the Board Seats:
Dr. Talbot was elected to the Dental seat.

There is a runoff for the Hygiene seat between Toya Neely and Kelley Perry. The runoff election will be October 31-November 14 with the winner announced on November 15th.

Election Results:

Dentist at Large Board Member:

Dr. Rene' Talbot	464 votes

Dental Hygienist Board Member:

Kelley Perry	206 votes
Toya Neely	142 votes
Leah Harper	105 votes
Misty Watson	29 votes
Jennifer Rousseau	16 votes

Dr. McIlwain announced to the audience that the Board would be in executive session for 30 minutes.

Dr. Pischek motioned for the Board to go into Executive Session. Dr. York seconded the motion. A roll call vote was made to approve going to Executive Session:

Dr. McIlwain – yes
Dr. Gray – yes
Dr. White – yes
Dr. York - yes
Dr. Pischek – yes
Dr. Talbot - yes
Ms. Alexander – yes

Ms. Hetzel certified that the Board will be going into Executive Session due to discussion of pending litigation and that she is a member in good standing with the State Bar.

At 12:35 p.m., the Board came out of Executive Session.

Dr. Pischek made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Dr. Gray seconded the motion. Motion was approved unanimously by all members present.

Dr. McIlwain adjourned the meeting at 12:36 p.m.

Submitted by: Dr. Mary Beth Finn

Respectfully Submitted,

Dr. Sonya White, Secretary/Treasurer

Approved: November 7, 2025

SPECIAL CALLED BOARD MEETING
Board Attorney Sub-Committee

Tuesday, October 28, 2025

The Board of Dental Examiners of Alabama's sub-committee on hiring a Board Attorney met Tuesday, Oct. 28, 2025, at the office of Dr. Henry "Scott" Robson, III, MD, DMD, 2780 AL-157, Cullman, AL 35055 to conduct business.

Dr. Holt Gray called the special meeting to order at 5:04 pm with the following members in attendance: Dr. Gray (in person); Dr. John W. York, II (in person), and Dr. Roberto Pischek (via Webex). Also in attendance was Stephen Morris, Executive Director.

Guests included: Dr. Rene' Talbot (Webex).

The meeting was advertised on the Board's website, www.dentalboard.org, and on the Secretary of State's website, www.sos.alabama.gov in compliance with the Alabama Open Meetings Act. It was initially advertised on the SOS website on Oct. 21, 2025. The meeting was accidentally deleted on Oct. 28 and re-entered minutes after deletion with the same information.

Dr. Gray opened the meeting by verifying all members were present. He mentioned the Probable Cause Committee in his opening remarks. He then read the Board Attorney posting.

The sub-committee discussed the candidates. They chose Michael Allen Chester, Donald Harrison, and Edward Zwilling to interview.

Dr. Gray made remarks on the idea of a Probable Cause Committee. There was no discussion.

Dr. Gray made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Dr. York seconded the motion. Motion was approved unanimously by all members present.

Dr. Gray adjourned the meeting at 5:20 p.m.

Submitted by: Stephen Morris

Respectfully Submitted,

Sonya White

Dr. Sonya White, Secretary/Treasurer

Approved: November 7, 2025