



**DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
COURT REPORTERS BOARD OF CALIFORNIA
MINUTES OF OPEN SESSION
NOVEMBER 30, 2007**

CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Toni O'Neill, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:07 a.m. at 2535 Capitol Oaks Drive, Third Floor Conference Room, in Sacramento, California.

ROLL CALL

Board Members Present:
Toni O'Neill, CSR, Chair
Greg Finch, Public Member, Vice Chair
Yvonne Fenner, CSR
Lori Gualco, Public Member
Elizabeth Lasensky, Public Member

Staff Members Present:
David E. Brown, Executive Officer
Dianne Dobbs, Staff Legal Counsel
Laura Freedman Eidson, Staff Legal Counsel

A quorum was established and the meeting continued.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW BOARD MEMBER, ELIZABETH LASENSKY

Ms. O'Neill introduced the newly appointed Board Member, Ms. Elizabeth Lasensky and welcomed her to the Board.

ADJOURNED TO CLOSED SESSION

Ms. O'Neill adjourned the meeting to closed session at 9:08 a.m.

RECONVENE

Ms. O'Neill reconvened the meeting to open session at 9:56 a.m.

MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 19, 2007 MEETING

Ms. O'Neill asked for corrections to the October 19, 2007 meeting minutes.

Mr. Finch moved to approve the minutes as presented. Ms. Fenner seconded the motion.

Ms. Freedman Eidson noted that she was in attendance at the meeting. Ms. O'Neill recommended amending the minutes to include her name under staff members present.

Mr. Finch moved to approve the minutes as amended. Ms. Fenner seconded the motion; **MOTION CARRIED.**

FEE REGULATIONS

The Board discussed the proposed language for resolving inconsistencies regarding a lack of regulatory authority in California Code of Regulations 2450 and 2451. It was proposed that subsection (a) of 2450 of Title 16, Division 24, Article 6 be deleted and the rest of the section be re-numbered. (See attached for complete language.)

Ms. Lasensky moved to adopt the proposed language as amended. Mr. Finch seconded; **MOTION CARRIED.**

Staff will prepare rulemaking package to begin the process.

TAPE RECORDING VS LIVE REPORTING OF BOARD MEETINGS

Ms. Fenner recapped the issues for the benefit of the new Board members. The impetus for the change is to increase efficiency of staff by enabling quicker production of minutes, thus better ability to follow up on action items, and also to ensure an absolutely accurate record of Board decisions, a record which has not been subject to interpretation of the person producing the minutes. After Board debate and public comment, Ms. Fenner moved that it be the policy of the Court Reporters Board to have the open portions of the meeting reported by a CSR; the closed session of the Board meeting will not be reported. Ms. Lasensky seconded the motion. **MOTION CARRIED.**

EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORT

Mr. Brown provided a budget update, noting that the budget office has asked him to look into the enforcement line item as we're at 50 percent expended at four months into the fiscal year.

The update of the strategic plan goals was reviewed with the following updates:

PS2 – Privacy meetings were held and best practices will be developed and incorporated into the newsletter.

PS5 – Firm task force meeting noted for the afternoon.

CI2 – While the communication plan is not formalized, one of the action items completed is a new toll-free number for the CRB: 8773ASKCRB or 877-327-5272.

CI4-MCLE course. Information will be forwarded to the associations for their help in putting together appropriate courses.

OE6-Mr. Brown to follow up with Terri regarding a possible technical bulletin on electronic storage of original notes issue.

Mr. Brown reported on the DCA's response under his signature to the inaccuracies in The Sacramento Bee article regarding SB797. The response apparently was not printed.

Also included in Mr. Brown's report was his participation in the newly rejuvenated Executive Officers forum. The EOs have prepared an issue paper requesting approval for out-of-state travel. The DCA has also committed to establish a system to track board member mandatory training, as well as an internal system for tracking bills which will include the Department's position on bills.

Mr. Brown provided a copy of an interview he gave to the California Lawyer about what's happening in the profession in terms of the number of reporters in the system and the growing need for reporters due in part to the Americans With Disabilities Act.

Computer-based testing is still on target for post-July, making the March '08 exam the last paper and pencil exam. After that, the exam will be a one-day event for dictation only. Mr. Brown reported on possible budget impacts due to changes to the contract resulting from a changed number of sleeping rooms attached to the contract. It is hoped the pass rate will be favorably affected by candidates having to focus on only one area of the exam at a time.

Mr. Brown reported that the newsletter is still on schedule for a January publication.

In regard to the misinformation printed in The Sacramento Bee, Ms. Sandy Bunch Vanderpol thanked Mr. Brown on behalf of CCRA for his quick dissemination of the correct information, which they were then able to pass along to their members.

CONTINUING EDUCATION UPDATE

Mr. Brown reminded the Board that he and Ms. Fenner had met with the Senate B&P Committee who had committed to putting language together for us based on the Board's direction to amend Business and Professions Code 8024.8 and sending it to the Legislative Counsel's Office to get the process going. It was noted that we may have some difficulty finding an author because of the timing of it coming midway in the two-year cycle, but it may be added to an appropriate existing bill. If nothing is available, we are free to come up with our own author.

COLLEGE OF THE REDWOODS

Mr. Brown reported on the closure of the court reporting program at College of the Redwoods due to declining enrollments. West Valley Community College in Saratoga, the closest existing program, has been contacted to see if they are able to transition any of the students to their campus or their distance learning program.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

AB582: Ms. O'Neill reported that the status of AB582 has not changed and that we are continuing to track it. Ms. Bunch Vanderpol asked the Board to reiterate its position on the opposition to this bill. Ms. Fenner summarized past discussion leading to opposition, noting the amendment including making the Transcript Reimbursement Fund accessible to pro per litigants was not appropriate to this bill. It's a very complicated issue that the Board would be happy to work with the Legislature to resolve, but AB582 is not the appropriate vehicle.

APPELLATE COURT'S CALL FOR AMICI CURIAE BRIEFS

After discussion it was unclear what the exact issue in the case was, so the Board was unable to take any action. Mr. Ed Howard offered to forward the underlying briefs in the case after he received them to help the Board decide if enforcement issues exist.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

FUTURE MEETING DATES

A tentative date was set for the afternoon of January 18, 2008, after the Technology Committee meeting in San Francisco. February 7, 2008, will be an alternate date, in Sacramento. Next exam date is March 14 and 15, 2008, in Los Angeles. March 28-29, 2008, are the strategic planning dates in Berkeley. Ms. Gualco requested meeting dates six months in advance to accommodate her mediation schedule. Ms. O'Neill agreed and asked Board members to forward suggested meeting dates or times to Mr. Brown.

ADJOURNED TO CLOSED SESSION

Ms. O'Neill adjourned the meeting to closed session at 11:26 a.m.

RECONVENE

Ms. O'Neill reconvened the meeting to open session and adjourned the meeting.

TONI O'NEILL, Board Chair

DATE

DAVID E. BROWN, Executive Officer

DATE