



**COURT REPORTERS BOARD OF CALIFORNIA
MINUTES OF OPEN SESSION
OCTOBER 17, 2008**

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Gregory Finch, Chair, called the meeting to order at 2:07 p.m. at Court Reporters Board, Third Floor Conference Room, 2535 Capitol Oaks Drive, Sacramento, California.

ROLL CALL

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

Board Member Absent: Lori Gualco, Public Member

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

A quorum was established and the meeting continued.

ADJOURNED TO CLOSED SESSION FOR INTERVIEWS AND CONSIDERATION OF EXECUTIVE OFFICER POSITION

Mr. Finch adjourned the meeting to closed session at 2:11 p.m.

RECONVENE

Mr. Finch reconvened the meeting to open session at 3:55 p.m. and welcomed Spencer Walker, Senior Advisor to the Director of Department of Consumer Affairs.

APPOINTMENT OF AN EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Mr. Finch announced the selection of Yvonne Fenner as executive officer upon Mr. Brown's retirement. Her appointment will begin at a date to be determined.

MINUTES OF THE JUNE 13, 2008 MEETING

Ms. Lasensky moved to approve the minutes as presented. Ms. O'Neill seconded; **MOTION CARRIED.**

Mr. Finch noted having had several meetings with Mr. Brown. In addition he reported he had attended a number of meetings in preparation for and an actual meeting with the Governor's Office regarding the continuing education bill.

Ms. O'Neill reported having attended two industry conventions, the National Court Reporters Association annual convention in Anaheim, California, in July and the California Court Reporters Association annual convention in Las Vegas, Nevada, in October. Being the chair of the CRB BAM Task Force, she made it a point to attend the BAM seminar in Anaheim and served as a panelist at a BAM seminar in Las Vegas. She noted that after hearing the questions from the audience at both seminars, it's extremely important that the CRB focus on education as there are many misperceptions about it.

Ms. Lasensky reported having had numerous phone meetings with Mr. Brown and having completed ethics training.

Mr. Brown clarified that Ms. O'Neill traveled to the CCRA convention in Las Vegas at her own expense.

EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORT

Mr. Brown started off with an update on the 2008 fall newsletter. A spreadsheet of the proposed articles is contained in the Board packets, and after legal review it will be printed. He expects it to be in the mail the last of November.

The EO report continued with Mr. Brown pointing out that the budget report show us starting off the fiscal year with a negative balance. He noted that it is not accurate as the report is based on projections or expectations based on what's happened in the past. He gave an example of a line item where the actual numbers will come in under the projected amount, bringing it back into a positive position, namely, exam site rental.

Mr. Brown drew the Board members' attention to a chart in the Board packet showing the pass rates on the computer-based testing. He proudly pointed out a significant increase in pass rate because of computer-based testing. He noted that the theories that anticipated an increase in pass rate by separating the written exams from the dictation exams, reasoning that it would decrease test anxiety and allow candidates to focus their attention on one test module at a time, seem to be proving true. He reported that an informal polling of the schools during equipment setup showed that while candidates have the option of scheduling both parts of the written test on the same date, most were opting to schedule them on different days, allowing them to truly focus on one section at a time.

2007-09 LEGISLATION UPDATE

Ms. Fenner reported that AB2189 (Karnette) - Continuing Education was vetoed by the Governor, as was AB 1569 (Mendoza) - Rough Draft Transcript. She reported hearing from several sources that the CRB's sunset date was extended to January 1, 2011, and Dianne Dobbs, staff counsel, was able to confirm that information.

2008-2010 LEGISLATION DISCUSSION

Ms. O'Neill recommended, in light of prior Board process and the Governor's veto on continuing education, that a Legislative Committee be formed to discuss issues with stakeholders and bring recommendations back to the Board for further consideration.

Mr. Jim Cassie of Capitol Strategies, lobbyist for CCRA, mentioned the value of taking another run at the continuing education bill. He noted that the Governor was consistent in that he also vetoed continuing education for private investigators. Ms. O'Neill questioned the value of expending resources to take it up again if the result were going to be the same. Mr. Cassie noted that the bill was put into the legislative process late in a two-year cycle and that with more notice and information, the Department of Consumer Affairs might be in a position to support the legislation.

Ms. O'Neill volunteered to chair the Legislative Committee.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Congratulations were extended to Ms. Fenner on obtaining the EO position.

Mr. John Squires on behalf of the Deposition Reporters Association spoke to the firm oversight issue on agenda item 8. He emphasized what a burden the gift-giving violation of the code of ethics is on small firms and urged the CRB to do what they could to help level the playing field.

Ms. Sheri Turner of CCRA echoed the concern for the issue, gave additional examples and agreed with the importance to the industry. She also touched on the continuing education issue noting the inequity between it being required for officials but not for freelancers.

Mr. Finch noted that however the Board proceeds legislatively, they will need extensive and specific examples and suggested that concerned parties begin compiling as much detail as possible.

FUTURE MEETING DATES

Mr. Brown suggested that the Board might want to have their strategic planning session some time in early January. He reviewed the proposed process of having the Board members complete the questionnaires ahead of time, submitting them to the facilitator for review, and then having a half-day session. Mr. Finch noted that he really wants stakeholder input and hoped staff would distribute questionnaires for gathering such feedback. The meeting would be held in Sacramento. Mr. Brown polled the Board on scheduling preferences. Friday was the best day.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Finch adjourned the meeting at 4:16 p.m.

 GREGORY F. FINCH, Board Chair	3/13/09	 YVONNE K. FENNER, Executive Officer	3/16/09
			DATE