

MINUTES
BOARD OF PRIVATE OCCUPATIONAL SCHOOLS
March 12, 2020 10:00 A.M.

Department of Higher Education
1600 Broadway, Suite 2200
Denver, CO 80202
Telephone: 1-877-820-7831; code 115477#

Board Members Present (Telephonically):

Paul Garibay, Chair;	Ellen Wamser;
Ryan Minic, Vice Chair;	Shelley Krovitz;
Barbara Kearns;	JoAnn Stevens;

Board Members Absent:

Chris Reister

Division Staff Present:

Lorna Candler, Director;
Mary Kanaly, Deputy Director & Compliance Officer;
Brad Uyemura, Compliance Investigator;
Rachel Acosta, Program Specialist;
April Cordova, Program Specialist;
Carrie Harding, Program Specialist;
Amy Knoblauch, Data & Research Specialist;

Division Staff Absent:

Bernadette Esquibel, Program Specialist Assistant;
Jonathan Rendon, Program Specialist

Board Counsel Present:

Jacquelynn Rich Fredericks, Assistant Attorney General, Office of the Colorado Attorney General

Guests Present:

Call to Order:

The interim meeting of the Private Occupational Schools Board was called to order by Mr. Paul Garibay, Chair, at 10:00 A.M. The Board members, Division staff and guests were introduced. Board roll call was taken. A quorum was present.

Additions / Changes to the Agenda

No changes were made.

Director/ Staff Report:

A report was not provided.

Other Business Items

1. Continuous Operation Plan for Division, Board and Private Occupational Schools in Colorado

Director Candler discussed the option for Private Occupational Schools in Colorado to offer temporary distance education during the pandemic caused by COVID-19. To continue operations at the schools with minimal interruption, the Division requests that the Board delegate authority to the Division to approve distance education programs on a case by case basis. The Division has conferred with counsel regarding the logistics and legality of offering temporary distance education.

Counsel agreed that the Public institutions are offering distance education and that it is a beneficial action for the Private Occupational Schools for those who can adopt distance education. The action taken by the Board would allow for establishing a protocol to meet the needs of the schools during this pandemic.

Director Candler ensured that if the Board wishes to vote to delegate authority to the Division for temporary distance education approval, the Division will reach out to subject matter experts, such as NASASPS and SHEEO, in the Higher Education landscape to gather best practices.

Following Board discussion regarding the following topics: the logistics of meeting in person or online for the March meeting; delegating authority to the Division to approve temporary distance education; and, best practices from national accreditors and the Department of Education regarding temporary distance education, Mr. Minic made a motion to hold the March Board Meeting telephonically. The motion was seconded and carried.

Mr. Garibay made a motion to temporarily delegate to the Division and staff the ability to approve program changes whereas schools are changing their method of education from an in-class, in-person manner to an online format due to the COVID-19 situation in the United states; whereas the definition of the World Health Organization deeming this a pandemic; whereas Governor Polis executed an Executive Order of a State of Emergency in Colorado; following in line with accreditors that are allowing schools to modify their curriculum to allow for education to continue via a remote education process; that this delegation of authority is temporary and will be revisited within 28 days to determine if the motion needs to be extended; and finally, that the guidelines the Division and staff follow are aligned with best practices and procedures from the Department of Higher Education. The motion was seconded and carried.

Adjournment:

Mr. Minic motioned to adjourn the meeting at 11:16 A.M. The motion was seconded and carried.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board is Tuesday April 21, 2020, at 9:30 A.M. and will be held via telephone and Zoom with details listed below:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/662958891>

Meeting ID: 662 958 891

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