

**Illinois Board of Examiners
Board Minutes- September 28, 2023
1120 E. Diehl Road, Suite 111
Naperville, IL 60563**

Members Present: Amanda Gavin, Chair, CPA; Martrice Caldwell, Vice-Chair, CPA; Brad Danton, JD; Maria de J. Prado, CPA; Thomas Homer, JD, CPA; Sook Lee, CPA; Annette O'Connor, CPA; Luis Plascencia, CPA; Leilani Rodrigo, CPA; Brian Whitlock, JD, CPA

Staff: Carlarta Ratchford, Executive Director
Lianne Mace, Assistant Director
Mary Fitzgerald, Business Manager

Guest: Marty Green, Senior Vice President & Legislative Counsel ICPAS

Call to Order: Chairperson Gavin called the meeting to order at 10:27 AM

ACTION: Approval of June 22, 2023 Minutes

Mr. Whitlock motioned to accept the June 22, 2023 board meeting minutes. Mr. Plascencia seconded the motion, which was passed by unanimous voice vote.

Report of the Chair- Amanda Gavin

Chairperson Gavin reviewed new items under Ms. Ratchford's leadership.

Report of the Executive Director- Carlarta Ratchford

- a. **ACTION:** Ms. Ratchford asked for Board approval of the 23Q2 scores for April 1 to June 30, 2023. Mr. Whitlock motioned to approve the scores. Ms. O'Connor seconded the motion, which was passed by unanimous voice vote.
- b. Ms. Ratchford presented the Board with a list of the Board members and the duration of their terms. Some Board members will be rolling off and as a result, the Board wants to continue looking for a diversity of candidates.
- c. Ms. Ratchford outlined her personal goals for the next three months. These included continuing work on the pipeline and CPA Evolution.
- d. The audit has started and all appropriate paperwork has been submitted.
- e. The ICPAS summit was an excellent source of information and ideas.
- f. Ms. Ratchford asked Board members to confirm if they are attending NASBA's 116th Annual Meeting at the end of October.
- g. Ms. Ratchford highlighted significant statistics from the 23Q3 score release and 23Q2 statistics. Most noteworthy is the Illinois pass rate, which remains high.
- h. Ms. Ratchford presented a copy of her letter to the Board's lawyer, which contained wording for the amendment of administrative rule 1400.140 (23 Ill. Adm. Code 1400.140). The Board recommended that Ms. Ratchford prepare for a potential emergency filing.

- i. The BEC testing being performed by staff and Tyler Technologies has been successful. No initial exam requests for BEC will be accepted after October 1, 2023, and no re-exam requests for BEC will be accepted after November 12, 2023.
- j. Ms. Ratchford briefed the Board on important elements of ELE as developed by the AICPA and NASBA. Ms. Mace presented a model for earning the 30 credits beyond the 120 credits as proposed by DePaul University. The Board asked Ms. Ratchford to arrange an informational meeting with representatives from DePaul.
- k. Ms. Ratchford asked for a motion to approve the language for one of two recommendations put forth by NASBA's one-time credit relief initiative. The Board asked to schedule a special board meeting once more information is gathered about the candidates who may be eligible for this initiative.
- l. Ms. Ratchford emphasized the importance and success of school visits. She encouraged the Board to participate in these visits, noting that students enjoy hearing from actual CPAs.
- m. Ms. Ratchford is seeking Board members interested in participating in upcoming presentations with Greenville University and Augustana University.
- n. Ms. Ratchford updated the Board on recent personnel changes and reported that the ILBOE has advertised for an additional employee.
- o. An upgraded inserter has been leased from Quadient.
- p. Ms. Ratchford reported on her progress searching for Cyber Security Insurance.

Report of Geof Brown (CAE) President and CEO of ICPAS

No report

Report of Marty Green Senior Vice President & Legislative Counsel ICPAS

Mr. Green presented the regulatory areas of focus in government relations, specifically government audits. He briefed the Board on delays the IDFPR has been experiencing with the license renewal for healthcare professionals and cautioned the Board this delay may also affect CPAs.

ILBOE COMMITTEE AND TASK FORCE REPORTS

Administrative Committee- Annette O'Connor

No report

Candidacy Committee- Leilani Rodrigo

The committee reviewed three appeals.

Education Advisory Task Force- Luis Plascencia

No report

Executive Committee- Amanda Gavin

Ms. Gavin announced that the Board has employed former Executive Director Russ Friedewald to assist Ms. Ratchford's transition during the NASBA Annual meeting at the end of October.

Finance/Audit Committee- Martrice Caldwell

Ms. Caldwell reported the additional interest income for FY 2023.

Strategic Planning- Sook Lee

Ms. Lee said the committee will be aligning Ms. Ratchford's personal goals with the strategic plan.

NASBA/AICPA COMMITTEE REPORTS

Audit Committee- Leilani Rodrigo

The NASBA's Audit Committee met on September 21st at NASBA's headquarters in Nashville to discuss the outcome of the fiscal year 2023 audit. The Committee also approved the financial statements for presentation to the Board.

By-Laws Committee- Tom Homer

No report

Diversity Committee- RoseAnn Abraham/ Maria de J. Prado

Ms. Prado related that several CPA firms are interested in the new DEI training video developed by NASBA.

Education Committee- Luis Plascencia

Mr. Plascencia indicated that a meeting of the committee will be held in the afternoon of September 28.

Awards Committee- Martrice Caldwell

Ms. Caldwell disclosed that awardees have been selected and will be announced at the national meeting.

Communication Committee- Brian Whitlock

No report.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

None

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Caldwell motioned for the meeting to be adjourned and Ms. Rodrigo seconded. After a unanimous voice vote, Ms. Gavin adjourned the meeting at 2:00 PM.