**Minnesota Board of Dentistry**
335 Randolph Avenue, Suite 250
St. Paul, MN 55102
Office: (612) 617-2250
MN Relay Service: (800) 627-3529
www.mn.gov/boards/dentistry

# Public Board Meeting Minutes

Friday, July 10, 2026
8:30 am
335 Randolph Avenue, Room 104
St. Paul, MN 55102
and
Open Webex/Teleconference Meeting

Call to Order
Ashley Johnson called the meeting to order at 8:30 am.

Board Members Present
Ashley Johnson, DMD, President
Trina Courtright, DH, ADT Vice President
Peter Cannon, DDS, Secretary
Samuel Ankrah, MPA
Laurie Goldenberg, DDS, MD
Linda Gustafson
Rick Nolting, DDS, MS
Jodie Quinn, LDA

Board Staff Present
Joyce Nelson, Interim Executive Director
Deborah Endly, Compliance Officer
Kathy Johnson, Legal Analyst
Amy Johnson, Licensing/ Prof. Dev. Analyst
Jennifer Lindsey, Administrative Specialist
Panhia Lor, Administrative Specialist
Mary Luecke, Executive Admin Assistant
James Luquette, Administrative Specialist
Kara Schaeffer, Investigator

Board Members Absent
Mark Roszkowski, DDS

Approval of Agenda
The July 10, 2026 Public Board Meeting agenda was unanimously approved.

Review and Approval of Past Meeting Minutes
Minutes from the April 10, 2026 Public Board Meeting were reviewed and unanimously approved.

**Professional Association and Dental Education Reports**

- **Anoka-Ramsey Community College** – no written report was provided.
- ***American Board of Dental Examiners*** – Stephen Prisby referenced the written report.
- ***Central Regional Dental Testing Service*** – a written report was provided.
- ***Metro State University*** – Andrea Jordan referenced the written report.

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- ***Minnesota Dental Association (MDA)*** – Hanna Nguyen-Dao referenced the written report.
- ***Minnesota Dental Assistants Association (MnDAA)*** – no written report was provided.
- ***Minnesota Dental Hygienists' Association (MnDHA)*** – Jeanne Anderson referenced the written report.
- ***Minnesota Dental Hygiene Educators Association (MDHEA)*** – no written report was provided.
- ***Minnesota Educators of Dental Assistants (MEDA)*** – Jackie Johnson referenced the written report.
- ***Minnesota Dental Therapy Association (MDTA)*** – Elizabeth Branca referenced the written report.
- ***Minnesota State University, Mankato*** – no written report was provided.
- ***University of Minnesota School of Dentistry*** – a written report was provided.

**Executive Director's Report**
Interim Executive Director Joyce Nelson thanked board members, agency partners, and dedicated board staff for their support during the last three months. Day-to-day operations have been maintained along with all state reporting obligations. She referenced her written report.

***Manager's Financial Report***
Interim Executive Director Joyce Nelson referred the board to the financial report included in the board meeting materials.

**Board Staff Reports**

***Licensing Report***
Joyce Nelson referenced the written report.

***Practitioner Review Committee Reports***
Joyce Nelson referenced the written report.

**Board Committee Reports**

- ***Executive Committee*** – no report
- ***Sedation Committee*** – no report.
- ***Allied Dental Committee*** – Trina Courtright referenced the written report and announced the Committee is recommending the approval of the MEDA curriculum.

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Trina Courtright made a motion to approve the MN Expanded Functions Curriculum for Licensed Dental Assistants - Minnesota Educators of Dental Assistants (MEDA) 2026. Rick Nolting second. (See attached)

| | |
|---|---|
| VOTE: | |
| For: | 8 |
| Opposed: | 0 |
| RESULT: | Motion passed |

Trina Courtright reported the Allied Dental Committee will continue discussion of a variance request from Dr. Allan Schwartz to instruct a Minnesota licensed dental hygienist through a course designed as local anesthesia for licensed dental assistants. The Allied Dental Committee may request feedback from the Sedation Committee once more information is available.

- ***Policy Committee*** – no report
- ***Professional Development and Jurisprudence Committee*** – no report
- ***Licensure and Credentials Committee*** – Rick Nolting referenced the written report.
- ***HPSP*** – Samuel Ankrah referenced the written report.
- ***Clinical Licensure Exam Committee*** – no report

**Unfinished Business**
None

**New Business**

a. Dental-Dental Hygiene Interstate Compact Update
Rick Nolting reported the Compact Commission has not reached agreement regarding the definition of clinical assessment. Many states, including Minnesota, want to require a hands-on test demonstrating psychomotor skills and not just a written test. The American Association of Dental Boards has submitted a letter supporting inclusion of hands-on testing.

b. Licenses for Ratification
Trina Courtright made a motion to approve the licenses for ratification requests. Peter Cannon second.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| VOTE: | For: | 8 |
| | Opposed: | 0 |
| RESULT: | Motion passed | |

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c. Licenses for Reinstatement

Trina Courtright made a motion to approve the licenses for reinstatement requests. Rick Nolting second.

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|---|---|---|
| VOTE: | For: | 8 |
| | Opposed: | 0 |
| RESULT: | Motion passed | |

d. Travel Authorizations

2026 Dental Testing & Regulatory Summit October 14 – 18, 2026 (3 attendees)

Laurie Goldenberg made a motion to approve the travel authorizations. Linda Gustafson second.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| VOTE: | For: | 8 |
| | Opposed: | 0 |
| RESULT: | Motion passed | |

Executive Director Finalist Candidate Interview

The Executive Director Selection Committee was Ashley Johnson, board president; Jodie Quinn, board member; and Tracey Sigstad, State of MN Department of Administration SmArt director. Board members interviewed finalist candidate Valare Falkner for the position of executive director of the Minnesota Board of Dentistry.

Peter Cannon made a motion to appoint Valare Falkner as executive director of the Minnesota Board of Dentistry. Rick Nolting second.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| VOTE: | For: | 8 |
| | Opposed: | 0 |
| RESULT: | Motion passed | |

Announcements

None

Adjourn

The Board agreed unanimously to adjourn at 10:40 am.

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Reviewed by:

Ashley Johnson DMD

Ashley Johnson, DMD, Board President

October 9, 2026
Date