

**MINNESOTA BOARD OF NURSING
BOARD MEETING MINUTES – PUBLIC SESSION
June 4, 2026**

President Jessica Miehe called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. on June 4, 2026, at 1210 Northland Drive, Suite 120, Mendota Heights, MN 55120. The meeting was held as a hybrid meeting. A roll call of Board members was completed and a quorum declared. All votes were recorded by roll call.

<u>Members Present</u>	<u>Members Absent</u>
Katlynn Berntson Trisha Jensen Rhonda Johnson Jennifer Knaack Jacqueline Lloyd Cunningham Katherine Lynch Jessica Miehe Joseph Owen Cindy Petty Tracy Sonterre-Rieger Patrick Soria Kenneth Toenjes Maria Tran	Sandra Anderson Latasha Lee
<u>Staff (present at various times)</u>	<u>Staff (present at various times)</u>
Dana Baker Judy Berger JaCinda Downs Samantha Eix Mariclaire England Caren Gaytko Lynne Haggard Sherry Hoffman Karen Holicky Heidi Kostelac Leslie Larson	Megan Leach Zachary Leonard Sheryl Meyer Kate Reimers Sandy Shaviss Deb Schuhmacher Kristi Testa Melissa Wolfe
<u>Legal Counsel</u>	
Hans Anderson, AAG Molly Kleist, AAG	

Mission Statement

T. Jensen read the Board mission statement to remind members of the Board's purpose:
"The mission of the Minnesota Board of Nursing is to protect the public's health and safety through regulation of nursing education, licensure and practice."

Approval of Board Meeting Agenda

Motion by K. Berntson, seconded by K. Lynch, to approve the board meeting agenda.

Vote: Yes – 11 (Berntson, Jensen, Johnson, Knaack, Lynch, Miehe, Owen, Petty, Sonterre-Rieger, Soria, Toenjes,);

No – 0; Abstain – 0; Absent – 4 – (Anderson, Lee, Lloyd Cunningham, Tran)

Motion Carried

President's Report

President Miehe reminded board members of virtual meeting etiquette. President Miehe asked board members interested in attending the annual NCSBN meeting to let her or the executive assistant know. The meeting is being held August 19-21, in Chicago.

Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Gaytko gave an oral report on the following: Licensing has migrated to a new Amazon phone platform. Turnaround time for issuing licenses continues to be 24 hours. Nursing Practice has more discipline and compliance cases than they have ever had; currently have 1,733 cases, with almost 900 cases open. Cases over a year have decreased to 18%. Continue to efficiently move through cases despite somewhat compromised nursing practice staffing and are meeting weekly to prioritize cases. Two open nursing practice positions but hope to have them filled after July 4, which will help with caseloads. Leadership and teams have been participating in HR-led focus sessions.

Consent Agenda

Agenda Item	Attachment
Board Meeting Minutes: April 2, 2026	III.A
Financial Reports: Receipts FY26 & Manager's FY26	III.B.1, III.B.2
Licensure Statistics FY26: Mar-Apr 2026	III.C
HPSP Q3 Report FY26	III.D
Executive Committee Meeting Minutes: May 20, 2026	III.E
Education Committee Meeting Minutes: March 20, 2026	III.F
Education Committee Meeting Minutes: April 2, 2026	III.G
Complaint Resolution Committee Meeting Minutes: Dec 4, 2025	III.H
Complaint Resolution Committee Meeting Minutes: Feb 5, 2026	III.I

Motion by T. Sonterre-Rieger, seconded by T. Jensen, to approve the consent agenda.

Vote: Yes – 13 (Berntson, Jensen, Johnson, Knaack, Lloyd Cunningham, Lynch, Mieh, Owen, Petty, Sonterre-Rieger, Soria, Toenjes, Tran);

No – 0; Abstain – 0; Absent – 2 (Anderson, Lee)

Motion Carried

New Board Member Affirmation of Accountability and Responsibility

New board members, Jennifer Knaack, RN, and Kenneth Toenjes, Public member, took the oath of accountability and responsibility.

Public Comment

Public comment requested but person absent. Per President Mieh, statement to be provided in the June board meeting minutes.

To the Members of the Board of Nursing, I respectfully ask the Board to consider the full professional context of a nurse's practice when reviewing complaints or disciplinary matters.

When concerns are raised regarding a nurse, I encourage the Board to evaluate not only the specific allegation, but also the nurse's overall record of practice, including years of service, performance evaluations, demonstrated competency, patient outcomes, and evidence of safe and effective care.

I also encourage the Board to carefully distinguish between workplace or employment-related disputes and conduct that constitutes unsafe practice, negligence, professional misconduct, or actual patient harm. Concerns arising from communication differences, interpersonal conflicts, or employer performance-management processes may not, on their own, be reliable indicators of professional incompetence.

In situations involving a Performance Improvement Plan (PIP), consideration should be given to whether the nurse was provided a fair opportunity to complete the process, whether objective measures of competency were used, whether documented progress was made, and whether due process and fair evaluation procedures were followed. An incomplete PIP should be considered within its broader context rather than viewed in isolation.

I respectfully encourage a review process that is balanced, evidence-based, and proportional to the nature and severity of the concerns presented. Such an approach helps protect the public while also ensuring fairness, professional accountability, and due process for healthcare professionals.

Application for Initial Program Approval – Herzing University Diploma Practical Nursing

Deb Schuhmacher, Director of Education, reported that based on the evidence submitted in the application and verified in the site visit, surveyors recommend the board grant initial approval to Herzing University Diploma in Practical Nursing program, St. Louis Park, Minnesota. Initial approval would continue as long as the program is in compliance with Minnesota Rules 6301.2360 subpart 3 and all other applicable rules.

Motion by K. Lynch, seconded by T. Jensen, to grant initial approval to Herzing University, St. Louis Park, Minnesota, Diploma in Practical Nursing program.

Vote: Yes – 13 (Berntson, Jensen, Johnson, Knaack, Lloyd Cunningham, Lynch, Miehle, Owen, Petty, Sonterre-Rieger, Soria, Toenjes, Tran);
No – 0; Abstain – 0; Absent – 2 (Anderson, Lee)

Motion Carried
Attachment IV.D

Report to Board with Consent of Program – Ridgewater Associate Degree Nursing Program - Recommendation for Reprimand

Deb Schuhmacher, Director of Education, stated the Review Panel recommends the Board issue a Reprimand to Ridgewater College Associate Degree Nursing Program for non-compliance with Minnesota Rule 6301.2340, subpart 3.A.(9)(e) because during the spring and fall 2025 semesters one nursing faculty member had an encumbered registered nursing license.

Motion by K. Berntson, seconded by T. Jensen, to issue a reprimand to Ridgewater College Associate Degree Nursing Program for non-compliance with Minnesota Rule 6301.2340, subpart 3.A.(9)(e).

Vote: Yes – 11 (Berntson, Jensen, Johnson, Lloyd Cunningham, Lynch, Miehle, Petty, Sonterre-Rieger, Soria, Toenjes, Tran);
No – 0; Abstain – 2 (Knaack, Owen); Absent – 2 (Anderson, Lee)

Motion Carried
Attachment IV.E

2025 Annual Nursing Education Program Report

Deb Schuhmacher, Director of Education, gave a PowerPoint presentation on the 2025 annual nursing education program report.

Committee/Task Force Updates

Updates were received from the Executive Committee, Education Committee, and Nursing Practice Committee. The executive committee reviewed the strategic plan and are working on learning moments, outreach events, and improving the Board website. The education committee has been holding lunch 'n learns to inform education directors of the annual compliance survey. Nursing practice committee has continued to make updates to the statements on the Board website. Working on final statement of accountability and will bring the updated statement to the next board meeting.

Board Development/Learning Moment

Joseph Owen, Board Vice President, gave a PowerPoint presentation on reduction of stigma among healthcare providers in opioid use disorder (OUD) and medications for opioid use disorder (MOUD).

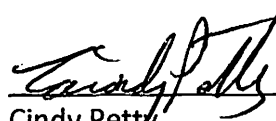
Core Values – Integrity

President Miehle led board members in the core value of integrity – enforcing laws and rules ethically.

Adjourn

President Miehle adjourned the public board meeting at 11:09 a.m.

Recorder:



Cindy Petty
Secretary

Attest:



Jessica Miehle
President