

MINNESOTA BOARD OF NURSING
BOARD MEETING MINUTES – PUBLIC SESSION
August 6, 2026

President Jessica Miehle called the meeting to order at 8:46 a.m. on August 6, 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 Miehle Joseph Owen Cindy Petty Kerry Scott Tracy Sonterre-Rieger Kenneth Toenjes Maria Tran	Sandra Anderson Patrick Soria
Staff (present at various times)	Staff (present at various times)
Dana Baker Judy Berger Jennifer Blinderman Samantha Eix Mariclaire England Caren Gaytko Lynne Haggard Sherry Hoffman Karen Holicky Lajeana Iverson	Heidi Kostelac Megan Leach Zachary Leonard Sheryl Meyer Kate Reimers Angela Serfling Sandy Shaviss Deb Schuhmacher Melissa Wolfe
Legal Counsel	
Hans Anderson, AAG	

Mission Statement

J. Miehe 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 C. Petty, seconded by J. Miehe, to approve the board meeting agenda.

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

No – 0; Abstain – 1 (Scott); Absent – 2 – (Anderson, Soria)

Motion Carried

President's Report

President Miehe stated that board members and the public received emails that looked like they came from the Board of Nursing but were a phishing scam. Information has been placed on the Board of Nursing website. President Miehe asked the board members and public to reach out to the Board of Nursing if there are questions about the validity of emails received.

Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Gaytko gave an oral report on the following: Licensing: Turnaround time for issuing licenses continues to be 24 hours after submission of paperwork.

Nursing Practice and Compliance: as of 8/3/26, 1,807 open cases, on 7/2 there were 1,761.

Total open cases- 824 cases, last time 804 were open; 757 are regular open cases, 67 are Operation Nightingale cases.

Number of complaints waiting for coding: 983, previously was 957. We have 0 Nightingale cases waiting.

Cases coded: 32, 10 last time. Age of complaints >1 year: approximately 21%, although numerous complaints >1 year are being dismissed or going to this board meeting, and many older cases are going to hearings at the October and December board meetings.

The focus in the ensuing weeks, with the Executive Committee, is to continue to closely monitor specific and measurable goals for compliance.

The Board of Nursing did a retrospective historical look at closing of cases.

NUMBER OF COMPLAINTS RECEIVED				
FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY26 YTD
750	1,222	1,238	1,738	2,188

FY=Fiscal Year; starts July 1 of current year, ends June 30 the following year.

For FY26, Nursing Practice was fully staffed for only two months of the year.

AVERAGE DATES TO CLOSE				
FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY26 YTD
321	345	165	154	54

The Board hired a new nurse practice specialist, Jennifer Blinderman. Two additional candidates have accepted job offers and will begin employment in the next few months. We have onboarded three new board members: Jennifer Knaack, Ken Toenjes, Kerry Scott.

New Board Member Affirmation of Accountability and Responsibility

New public board member, Kerry Scott, took the oath of accountability and responsibility.

Public Comment **None**

Consent Agenda

Agenda Item	Attachment
Board Meeting Minutes- Public Session: June 4, 2026	III.A
Financial Reports: Receipts FY26 & Manager's FY26	III.B.1, III.B.2
Licensure Statistics FY26: May-Jun 2026	III.C
HPSP Q4 Report FY26	III.D
Executive Committee Meeting Minutes: July 21, 2026	III.E
Education Committee Meeting Minutes: May 28, 2026	III.F
Education Committee Meeting Minutes: June 4, 2026	III.G
Education Committee Meeting Minutes: November 18, 2025	III.H
Nursing Practice Committee Meeting Minutes: April 2, 2026	III.I
Nursing Practice Committee Meeting Minutes: June 4, 2026	III.J
Complaint Resolution Committee Meeting Minutes: April 2, 2026	III.K

Motion by K. Lynch, seconded by C. Petty, to approve the consent agenda.

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

No – 0; Abstain – 1 (Scott); Absent – 2 (Anderson, Soria)

Motion Carried

Reports/Actions

Continuing Program Approval of Accredited Programs

Deb Schuhmacher, Director of Education, requested the Board grant continuing program approval to the following nursing program:

- Minnesota State University, Moorhead Baccalaureate Degree Nursing Program

School was accredited previously but changed accrediting bodies. School has met CNEA (National League for Nursing's Commission for Nursing Education Accreditation) requirement and all other board approval rules.

Motion by K. Berntson, seconded by M. Tran, to grant continuing program approval to the above-listed nursing program based on compliance with all applicable rules.

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

No – 0; Abstain – 1 (Scott); Absent – 2 (Anderson, Soria)

Motion Carried
Attachment IV.A

Recommendation – Capella University Associate Degree Nursing Program Letter of Intent

Deb Schuhmacher, Director of Education, stated the Education Committee recommends the Board approve Capella University for a proposed associate degree nursing program, outlined in their letter of intent. This is phase 1 of a 3-phase process to grant initial approval by the Board of Nursing. If phase 1 is approved, they move to phase 2, which is a full application and survey visit, which then goes to the Board for possible approval. Proposed start date of January 2028. Program is seeking ACEN (Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing) accreditation. The institution is HLC (Higher Learning Commission) accredited.

The nursing program provides online distance education and will only admit students with states that have availability for clinical placement.

Motion by C. Petty, seconded by K. Lynch to approve the Letter of Intent submitted by Capella University to establish an Associate Degree Nursing Program, as they have met all requirements intending to establish a nursing program.

Yes – 13 (Berntson, Jensen, Johnson, Knaack, Lee, Lloyd Cunningham, Lynch, Miede, Owen, Petty, Sonterre-Rieger, Toenjes, Tran);

No – 0; Abstain – 1 (Scott); Absent – 2 (Anderson, Soria)

Motion Carried
Attachment IV.B

Recommendation --- College of St. Scholastica MSN Letter of Intent

Deb Schuhmacher, Director of Education, stated the Education Committee recommends the Board approve the Letter of Intent from College of St. Scholastica to establish an entry-level Master of Science degree in nursing program. This is a transition from a second bachelor's degree pathway, which is indicated in the letter of intent. Proposed start date is September 2027. They will be submitting a substantive change to CCNE (Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education) because of this transition.

Motion by C. Petty, seconded by T. Sonterre-Rieger, to approve the Letter of Intent submitted by College of St. Scholastica to establish an entry-level Master of Science degree in nursing program.

Yes – 13 (Berntson, Jensen, Johnson, Knaack, Lee, Lloyd Cunningham, Lynch, Miede, Owen, Petty, Sonterre-Rieger, Toenjes, Tran);

No – 0; Abstain – 1 (Scott); Absent – 2 (Anderson, Soria)

Motion Carried
Attachment IV.C

Recommendation – Revise Score Requirements on the Occupational English Test (OET)

Deb Schuhmacher, Director of Education, reported that the Education Committee recommends revising the score requirements for the Occupational English Test to bring it in line with the recent adjustment of OET score requirements by HRSA (The Health Resources & Services Administration) based on the concordant study of OET and IELTS score requirements.

Current Minnesota Board of Nursing score requirements are 350 for speaking and 300 for all other modules (reading, writing, listening, speaking). The recommended changes are to have minimum score requirements of 320 in listening, 340 in reading, 350 in writing, and 360 in speaking.

Motion by T. Sonterre-Rieger, seconded by C. Petty, to approve the change to the Occupational English Test score requirements as listed above. These changes will be implemented on January 1, 2027.

Yes – 13 (Berntson, Jensen, Johnson, Knaack, Lee, Lloyd Cunningham, Lynch, Miehe, Owen, Petty, Sonterre-Rieger, Toenjes, Tran);

No – 0; Abstain – 1 (Scott); Absent – 2 (Anderson, Soria)

Motion Carried
Attachment IV.D

Report of Program Closure Notification – Rasmussen University, Moorhead Associate Degree Nursing Program

Deb Schuhmacher, Director of Education, asked the Board to consider accepting the notification of voluntary closure of the Associate Degree Nursing Program at Rasmussen University, Moorhead. They have met the components of Minnesota Rule 6301.2370 - Voluntary Closure of Nursing Education Programs. The closure is planned for December 31, 2027, with a final cohort of students graduating in December 2027.

Motion by C. Petty, seconded by T. Jensen, that the Board accept the notice of voluntary closure of Rasmussen University, Moorhead Professional Nursing Associate Degree Program and thereby authorize board staff to remove the program from the list of board approved programs once the Board has been notified of the actual date of program closure.

Yes – 13 (Berntson, Jensen, Johnson, Knaack, Lee, Lloyd Cunningham, Lynch, Miehe, Owen, Petty, Sonterre-Rieger, Toenjes, Tran);

No – 0; Abstain – 1 (Scott); Absent – 2 (Anderson, Soria)

Motion Carried
Attachment IV.E

Summary of Plans of Corrective Action for 2025

Deb Schuhmacher, Director of Education, gave a PowerPoint presentation on the Summary of Plans of Corrective Action for 2025.

Committee/Task Force Updates

Updates were received from the Executive Committee, Education Committee, and Nursing Practice Committee. The executive committee asked Nursing Practice to add NOROS, NOHAN and appeals cases in ALIMs. There is a workaround until the permit is received. Looking at adding Operation Nightingale information on the Board of Nursing website. President Miehe asked board members to let the Executive Committee know if they would like to share information for the Board Learning Moment.

The Education Committee is looking at revising the letter sent to various higher education administrations about how the Board can provide support to faculty members and giving guidelines on submitting a letter of intent to meet the goal of acceptance of the letter of intent.

Complaint Resolution Committee has been working on practice penalties.

The Nursing Practice Committee has completed the revisions of the Statement of Accountability for Utilization of Integrative Therapies in Nursing Practice and will submit it to the October board meeting for approval. The Nursing Practice Committee will not meet today.

President Miehe asked Kerry Scott, public board member, to give a formal introduction of herself to the Board.

Board Development/Learning Moment

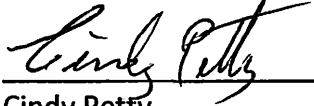
Trisha Jensen, LPN board member, gave a PowerPoint presentation on the AACN (American Academy of Ambulatory Care Nursing) LPN (Licensed Practical Nurse)/LVN (Licensed Vocational Nurse) Listening Session that she attended last month.

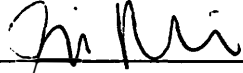
Core Values – Responsiveness

President Miehe led board members in the core value of responsiveness – taking the initiative to communicate openly.

Adjourn

President Miehe adjourned the public board meeting at 10:11 a.m. Meeting was followed by committee meetings from 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Recorder: 
Cindy Petty
Secretary

Attest: 
Jessica Miehe
President