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COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
BUREAU OF PROFESSIONAL AND OCCUPATIONAL AFFAIRS

F I N A L M I N U T E S

MEETING OF:

STATE BOARD OF NURSING

TIME: 9:00 A.M.

Held at

PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF STATE

2525 North 7th Street

CoPA HUB, Eaton Conference Room

Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17110

as well as

VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS

December 4, 2025

State Board of Nursing
December 4, 2025

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BOARD MEMBERS:

- Colby P. Hunsberger, DNP, RN, CNEcl, Chair
- Arion R. Claggett, Acting Commissioner, Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs
- Donald H. Bucher, DNP, CRNP, ACNP-BC, FAANP, Vice Chair
- Kathryn L. Capiotis, MSN, BSN, RN
- Laura Frank, PhD, RD, LDN
- Susan Hellier, PhD, DNP, FNP-BC
- Brandy Hershberger, DNP, MSN, RN, CEN
- Sue E. Hertzler, LPN
- David Scher, MPH, MSN, RN, CEN
- Tina D. Siegel, LPN

COMMONWEALTH ATTORNEYS AND LEGAL OFFICE STAFF:

- Judith Pachter Schulder, Esquire, Board Counsel
- Megan E. Castor, Esquire, Board Counsel
- Ashley Keefer, Esquire, Board Counsel
- Cathy A. Tully, Esquire, Board Counsel
- Tiffanie Camarota, Esquire, Board Counsel
- Lindsay Szymanski, Esquire, Board Counsel
- David Schertz, Esquire, Board Prosecutor
- Codi Tucker, Esquire, Senior Board Prosecutor and Board Prosecution Co-Liaison
- T'rese Evancho, Esquire, Board Prosecutor and Board Prosecution Co-Liaison
- Kathryn Bellfy, Esquire, Board Prosecutor
- Garrett Rine, Esquire, Board Prosecutor
- Caitlin B. Everetts, Esquire, Board Prosecutor
- Matthew Fogal, Esquire, Board Prosecutor
- Matthew Sniscak, Esquire, Board Prosecutor
- Alex Capitello, Legal Analyst, Office of Prosecution
- Kathleen Mullen, Esquire, Executive Deputy Chief Counsel, Office of Chief Counsel

DEPARTMENT OF STATE AND BOARD STAFF:

- Wendy J. Miller, MSN, RN, Executive Secretary
- Cynthia K. Miller, Board Administrator
- Kelly Hoffman, MSN, RN, Nursing Education Advisor
- Tracy Scheirer, PhD, MSN, RN, CMSRN, CNE, Nursing Education Advisor

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE AND BOARD STAFF: (Cont.)

Linda Kmetz, PhD, RN, Nursing Education Advisor
Susan Bolig, MSN, RN, Nursing Practice Advisor
Dulcey Frantz, DNP, RN, RAC-C, Nursing Practice
Advisor
Leslie House, MSN, RN, Nursing Practice Advisor
Sue Petula, PhD, MSN, RN, NEA-BC, FRE, Nursing
Education Advisor
Andrew LaFratte, Deputy Policy Director, Department
of State
Willow Marsh, Legislative Aide, Department of State

ALSO PRESENT:

Kathleen Rundquist, MSN, RN, Practical Nursing
Program Director, Franklin County Career and
Technology Center
Denise Vanacore, PhD, ANP-BC, FNP-BC, PMHNP-BC, Vice
Dean and Professor, Holy Family University School
of Nursing & Health Sciences
Elizabeth Menschner, DNP, MAS, MSN, RN, NEA-BC,
Executive Director, Pennsylvania Organization of
Nurse Leaders
Lisa Urban, MSN, RN, Practical Nursing Program
Director, Greater Altoona Career and Technology
Center
Bailey Shafer, MSN, RN, Practical Nursing Program
Director, Erie County Community College
Sandra Cohen, MSN, CRNP, CNE, Senior Associate Dean,
St. Luke's School of Nursing
P. Daniel Altland, Esquire, Pennsylvania Association
of Nurse Anesthetists
Misha Patel, Esquire, Assistant General Counsel,
Pennsylvania Medical Society
Joseph A. Paletta, Esquire, Paletta Law
Wesley Rish, Esquire, Rish Law Firm
Marcia Landman, MSN-FNP, BSN, RN, Practical Nursing
Director, United Career Institute
Heather Haines, MSN, RN, Practical Nursing Program
Director, Mifflin County Academy of Science and
Technology
Janet Yontas, BSN, MSN, Practical Nursing Program
Director, Career Technology Center of Lackawanna
County

State Board of Nursing
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ALSO PRESENT: (Cont.)

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7 Rachael Silveira, Nightingale College
8 Larissa McDonnell, DNP, RN, CCRN, CCNS, NEA-BC, MSN,
9 Director of Nursing Professional Development,
10 Children's Hospital of Philadelphia
11 Mindy Guinard, EdD, Director of Nursing & Health
12 Sciences, Wilson College
13 Laurie Badzek, LLM, JD, MS, RN, FNAP, FAAN,
14 Pennsylvania State University College of Nursing
15 Katie Gruber, MSW, CADC, Case Manager, Nurses' Health
16 Program, Foundation of the Pennsylvania Medical
17 Society
18 Stacy Delaney, MSN, RN, Practical Nursing Program
19 Director, Delaware County Technical Schools
20 Susan Leight, EdD, DNP Program Director, Ross and
21 Carol Nese College of Nursing, Penn State
22 University
23 Judith A. Neubauer, MSN, DNP, Associate Dean and
24 Program Director, Graduate Nursing, Neumann
25 University
26 Patty Fitzgerald, DNP, RN, CNE, CHSE, College of
27 Nursing, Pennsylvania State University
28 Riley P. Bauer, Children's Hospital of Philadelphia
29 Elizabeth Munkenbeck, Executive Director,
30 Pennsylvania Coalition of Nurse Practitioners
31 Margaret "Peggy" Pearl, Concepts Management Group
32 Kristin Sagedy, PhD, RN, Associate Dean, Frances M.
33 Maguire College of Nursing and Health Professions,
34 Gwynedd Mercy University
35 Christine Scott, Staff, Delaware County Intermediate
36 Unit
37 Patricia A. Hubbs, RN, BSN, MBA, Children's Hospital
38 of Philadelphia
39 Alissa Smethers, PhD, RD, LDN, Consumer Protection
40 Coordinator, Pennsylvania Academy of Nutrition and
41 Dietetics
42 Jean Marie Truman, DNP, MSN, BSN, Associate Professor
43 of Nursing, Director of Nursing, Division of
44 Biological and Health Services, University of
45 Pittsburgh
46 Jane Tang, PhD, RN, NE-BC, Professor, Dean, Frances
47 M. Maguire College of Nursing and Health
48 Professions, Gwynedd Mercy University
49 Sharon Powell-Laney, EdD, MSN, RN, Director, The
50 Rapha School

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ALSO PRESENT: (Cont.)

Will Anderson, Western Governors University
Veronica Lacambra, DNP, RN, Western Governors
University
Louise S. Frantz, RN, BSN, MHA, Ed, Practical Nursing
Program Coordinator, Penn State University Berks
Campus
Linnette Knight, MEd, Case Manager, Nurses' Health
Program, Pennsylvania Medical Society
Jordan Fuhrman, Government Relations Specialist,
Pennsylvania State Nurses Association
A.J.
Angela Marie Jacobs, CRNA, UPMC Mercy
Allison Walker, Sargent's Court Reporting Service,
Inc.

1 ***

2 State Board of Nursing

3 December 4, 2025

4 ***

5 The regularly scheduled meeting of the State
6 Board of Nursing was held on Wednesday, December 4,
7 2025. Colby P. Hunsberger, DNP, RN, CNEcl, Chair,
8 called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

9 ***

10 Introduction of Board Members

11 [Colby P. Hunsberger, DNP, RN, CNEcl, Chair,
12 requested an introduction of Board members. A quorum
13 was present.]

14 ***

15 Introduction of Board Staff

16 [Colby P. Hunsberger, DNP, RN, CNEcl, Chair,
17 requested an introduction of Board staff.]

18 ***

19 Introduction of Board Counsel

20 [Colby P. Hunsberger, DNP, RN, CNEcl, Chair,
21 requested an introduction of Board Counsel.]

22 ***

23 Introduction of Board Prosecutors

24 [Colby P. Hunsberger, DNP, RN, CNEcl, Chair,
25 requested an introduction of Board Prosecutors.]

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2

Introduction of Attendees

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[Cynthia K. Miller, Board Administrator, provided an
4 introduction of virtual attendees. In-person
5 attendees introduced themselves.]

6

7

[Judith Pachter Schulder, Esquire, Board Counsel,

8

advised that the meeting was being recorded and those

9

who continued to participate were giving their

10

consent to be recorded. She asked that the use of AI

11

devices be discontinued.]

12

13

Adoption of Agenda

14

CHAIR HUNSBERGER:

15

The Agenda for today's meeting is

16

before you. Are there any corrections?

17

Can I have a motion to adopt?

18

MS. HERTZLER:

19

So moved, Hertzler.

20

DR. BUCHER:

21

Second, Bucher.

22

CHAIR HUNSBERGER:

23

All those in favor? Opposed?

24

Abstentions?

25

[The motion carried unanimously.]

1 ***

2 Adoption of Minutes - October 27, 2025

3 [It was noted that because the October meeting was
4 moved until the end of October, there are no minutes
5 available for Board review.]

6 ***

7 Report of Prosecutorial Division

8 [Colby P. Hunsberger, DNP, RN, CNEcl, Chair, noted
9 Agenda Items 2 through 8, 52, and 53 were VRP Consent
10 Agreements.]

11 ***

12 [T'rese Evancho, Esquire, Board Prosecutor, on behalf
13 of Adrienne Doll, Esquire, Board Prosecutor,
14 presented Agenda Items 9 and 10.]

15 ***

16 [T'rese Evancho, Esquire, Board Prosecutor, presented
17 Agenda Item 11.]

18 ***

19 [Matthew Fogal, Esquire, Board Prosecutor, presented
20 Agenda Items 12 and 13. Wesley Rish, Esquire, Rish
21 Law Firm, Respondents' Counsel, offered to answer any
22 questions regarding both cases.]

23 ***

24 [Garrett Rine, Esquire, Board Prosecutor, presented
25 Agenda Item 14.]

1 ***

2 [David Schertz, Esquire, Board Prosecutor, presented
3 Agenda Items 15 and 54. Joseph A. Paletta, Esquire,
4 Paletta Law, Respondent's Counsel for Item 15,
5 provided a statement on behalf of his client.]

6 ***

7 [Matthew Sniscak, Esquire, Board Prosecutor,
8 presented Agenda Item 16.]

9 ***

10 Regulation Update

11 [Judith Pachter Schulder, Esquire, Board Counsel,
12 reported there were no new updates for the
13 regulations in progress. She was continuing to work
14 on the Preamble and Regulatory Analysis Form for
15 Regulation 16A-5141, Nursing Education Programs;
16 Regulation 16A-5145, CRNA Licensure; 16A-5150, CRNP
17 Prescribing and Dispensing; and 16A-5151, LPN
18 Pronouncement of Death. She added the Board adopted
19 each of these regulations, and it was a matter of
20 preparing the related packages.]

21 ***

22 Pennsylvania Legislative Update

23 [Judith Pachter Schulder, Esquire, Board Counsel,
24 reported there were several House and Senate Bills of
25 interest. House Bill 1925 relates to the use of AI

1 in facilities.

2 House Bill 1993 relates to the use of AI in
3 mental health therapy. She noted part of the bill is
4 a prohibition against using AI to make independent
5 therapeutic decisions, directly interacting with
6 clients or patients, generating therapeutic
7 communications, or detecting emotions and mental
8 states.

9 House Bill 1323 concerns the use of the
10 designation APRN (Advanced Practice Registered
11 Nurse). Ms. Pachter Schulder noted the bill would
12 require the Bureau to issue a certification for APRNs
13 and only to people with a master's degree or above.
14 In addition, the Board would be required to post a
15 list of the individuals or licensees who could use
16 APRN.

17 Ms. Pachter Schulder reported House Bill 2030 is
18 the APRN Compact, similar to the NLC Compact. She
19 noted while there are states who have joined the APRN
20 Compact, that Compact is not yet active as there are
21 not enough states participating. She added Senate
22 Bill 25, the Scope of Practice Bill, has been before
23 the legislature multiple times. She further added
24 Senate Bill 25 and House Bill 2030 may need to be
25 passed together or at least Senate Bill 25 before

1 House Bill 1323.

2 Ms. Pachter Schulder mentioned Senate Bill 614,
3 Primary Care Preceptor Program, and Senate Bill 1041,
4 Complex Care Assistant.]

5 ***

6 Report of Chairperson - No Report.

7 ***

8 Report of Acting Commissioner - No report.

9 ***

10 Report of Committees - Probable Cause

11 [Sue E. Hertzler, LPN, reported the Probable Cause

12 Committee moved on four Petitions for Appropriate

13 Relief, 29 Petitions for Mental and Physical

14 Examination, and one Petition for Immediate Temporary

15 Suspension that was approved on November 14, 2025.]

16 ***

17 Report of Committees - Application Review

18 [Colby P. Hunsberger, DNP, RN, CNEcl, Chair, reported

19 the Committee met multiple times and moved cases

20 forward.]

21 ***

22 Report of Committees - Advanced Practice

23 [Donald H. Bucher, DNP, CRNP, ACNP-BC, FAANP, Vice

24 Chair, noted the Committee had met a few times to

25 discuss education.]

1 ***

2 Report of Committees - RN/PN Practice, Education and
3 Regulation - No Report.

4 ***

5 Report of Committees - Dietitian-Nutritionist - No
6 Report

7 ***

8 Report of Board Members Who Attended a Meeting on
9 Behalf of the Board

10 [Colby P. Hunsberger, DNP, RN, CNEcl, Chair, reported
11 visiting Chicago in November along with Tracy
12 Scheirer, PhD, MSN, RN, CMSRN, CNE, Nursing Education
13 Advisor. Drs. Hunsberger and Scheirer were selected
14 by NCSBN as members of the NCLEX Item Review
15 Subcommittee (NIRSC). The NIRSC is responsible for
16 auditing and validating test questions developed for
17 the NCLEX® exam.]

18 ***

19 Report of Executive Secretary - No Report.

20 ***

21 [Colby P. Hunsberger, DNP, RN, CNEcl, Chair, exited
22 the meeting at 9:27 a.m. for recusal purposes.]

23 ***

24 VICE CHAIR BUCHER ASSUMED THE CHAIR

25 ***

1 Appointment - The Rapha School Practical Nursing
2 Program - Extension of Provisional Status
3 [Judith Pachter Schulder, Esquire, Board Counsel,
4 explained that The Rapha School was before the Board
5 to request an extension of provisional status for its
6 Practical Nursing Program. She noted programs are
7 permitted to be on provisional status for two years
8 before they need to request an extension. Ms.
9 Pachter Schulder reviewed the pass rate for the
10 program over the last several years: 60% in 20-21,
11 85.17% in 21-22, 76.19% in 22-23, 78.57% in 23-24,
12 and 72.22% in 24-25. She asked Dr. Powell-Laney to
13 discuss the scores from 2021 to 2024 and then the
14 performance improvement plan that had been provided
15 to the Board.

16 Sharon Powell-Laney, RN, MSN, EdD, Director, The
17 Rapha School, provided a brief background of the
18 school. She stated her school tries to pinpoint
19 areas of difficulty for students early on in the
20 school year to assist the students. She noted her
21 school year does not follow the NCSBN data collection
22 year. She explained that the 2024-2025 class
23 graduated 16 individuals; 15 took the NCLEX®, and 12
24 passed, which would be a pass rate of 80 percent.
25 However, there were leftover students from the

1 previous year. She stated that when developing an
2 improvement plan, she considers the improvement from
3 class to class.

4 Ms. Pachter Schulder asked Dr. Powell-Laney to
5 redirect her time frame to what NCLEX® uses, as the
6 dates are set by the regulations. She understood Dr.
7 Powell-Laney wanted to use graduation dates, but that
8 was not instructive in terms of the extension
9 request.

10 Dr. Powell-Laney responded that changes are made
11 per class and not by NCLEX® year. Ms. Pachter
12 Schulder reminded Dr. Powell-Laney that the program
13 must follow the regulations.

14 Dr. Powell-Laney stated that there is an ongoing
15 improvement plan, as Rapha is on its third year of
16 provisional status. She explained that the school
17 uses UWorld as their NCLEX® predictor. If a student
18 falls below the 80th percentile, the student is
19 offered a remediation plan before taking the NCLEX®.
20 She noted two of the recent students who failed the
21 NCLEX® were predicted to pass above 80 percent and,
22 therefore, were not offered a remediation plan prior
23 to testing. She added two other students were given
24 remediation plans. One of those students did not
25 follow her plan, failed the NCLEX®, and has

1 subsequently retaken the NCLEX® and passed. The
2 second student followed her remediation plan, passed
3 the NCLEX® in October, and will be on the next NCLEX®
4 report. She added another student who took the exam
5 in the 2024-2025 exam year actually graduated in
6 2020.

7 Ms. Pachter Schulder explained that while the
8 regulations require an explanation from a graduate
9 who does not take the NCLEX® within one year of
10 graduation, the regulations do not bar a graduate
11 from taking the exam outside of that timeframe. She
12 added the Board attempted but was not successful in
13 passing a regulation that would have required a
14 remediation plan for such people.

15 Ms. Pachter Schulder asked Dr. Powell-Laney how
16 many graduates since 2017 had not taken the NCLEX®.
17 Dr. Powell-Laney stated there were three. Ms.
18 Pachter Schulder asked what attempts and efforts the
19 program was making to confirm the three individuals
20 were properly prepared. She noted it was not an
21 obligation of the program, but the individuals would
22 count against the program's pass rate.

23 Dr. Powell-Laney explained a situation from 2024
24 in which a person had to obtain Board approval to
25 take the NCLEX®. She added the individual came to

1 her, she gave him a remediation plan, he paid for the
2 NCLEX® through Pearson Vue but has not taken the
3 NCLEX®. She added she had not heard from him since
4 then. She explained another student had asked if Dr.
5 Powell-Laney would provide a letter to the Board
6 allowing her to take NCLEX®. Dr. Powell-Laney noted
7 the student had since obtained her license.

8 Ms. Pachter Schulder asked Dr. Powell-Laney to
9 share some highlights from Rapha's improvement plan.
10 She asked how the Board can assure itself that the
11 program will go in an opposite direction from the
12 declining pass rates from the last four years.

13 Dr. Powell-Laney stated the pass rates have all
14 been in the 70s, and the program is accredited. She
15 added the pass rate used to be lower.

16 Ms. Pachter Schulder agreed that prior to October
17 1, 2010, the regulations set a lower pass rate of 70
18 percent and a 60 percent pass rate prior to October
19 1, 2009. Ms. Pachter Schulder noted that the
20 accreditors having a 70 percent pass rate was not
21 helpful to Dr. Powell-Laney's argument for an
22 extension since the Board's regulations require a
23 minimum 80 percent pass rate. She added that the
24 regulation is similar to regulations in other states.

25 Dr. Powell-Laney stated Rapha has an obligation

1 for retention for both financial aid and the
2 accreditors. She added Rapha's retention rate was 89
3 percent for last year and has been 100 percent for
4 many years. She noted an obligation to help students
5 who continue to meet objectives.

6 Ms. Pachter Schulder asked what kind of help was
7 being provided. She suggested it was likely
8 tutorials and extra clinical work but wanted
9 confirmation it was not grade inflation.

10 Dr. Powell-Laney confirmed it was not grade
11 inflation. She explained that when a student fails
12 their first test, the school meets with them to
13 determine if the student should study a different
14 way.

15 Ms. Pachter Schulder asked if that was how
16 students were currently being assisted; in what way
17 would Rapha improve on the assistance since the pass
18 rate continued to be low?

19 Dr. Powell-Laney noted a change from ATI as a
20 predictor to UWorld. She added Rapha is now using
21 case studies from UWorld and other vendors like
22 Lippincott in place of some of the clinical homework
23 that was originally being used such as care plans.
24 She further added she did not think the care plans
25 were assisting her students. She explained that as

1 of January 2025, students have been using case
2 studies to duplicate clinical judgement scenarios
3 from NCSBN. She mentioned sending teachers to
4 workshops to help integrate the clinical judgement
5 model into day-to-day nursing tests and medical-
6 surgical tests.

7 Ms. Pachter Schulder asked how many staff had
8 attended the training and how the training was being
9 relayed to the remaining members of the staff.

10 Dr. Powell-Laney explained the school has a small
11 staff consisting of two part-time evening instructors
12 with herself and one full-time instructor in the day
13 program. She stated the instructor who attended the
14 training shared her slides with the other staff
15 members. She added that based on NCSBN program
16 reports, the students seem low in basic care and
17 comfort. As a result, she is integrating
18 Fundamentals of Nursing into Med-Surg Level III to
19 ensure students do not forget the Fundamentals. She
20 noted a concern that there is a focus on the clinical
21 judgement model, which is a concern for students who
22 are low on critical thinking scores. She provided an
23 example of one student.

24 Ms. Pachter Schulder requested clarification on
25 the TEAS score accepted by Rapha based on the example

1 student. Dr. Powell-Laney stated the minimum
2 accepted TEAS score is 50 percent, and the student
3 came from another school and had a 52 percent.

4 Ms. Pachter Schulder asked if Rapha had
5 considered changing the TEAS score accepted, given
6 the statements concerning students struggling to pass
7 with a 52 percent TEAS score. Dr. Powell-Laney
8 expressed concerns about raising the score as it may
9 eliminate accepting people into the program who have
10 passed.

11 Ms. Pachter Schulder stated a conundrum for the
12 Board was the program accepting students which it
13 knew may be problematic in terms of passing the
14 NCLEX®. She added the regulations require the program
15 to teach their students such that at least 80 percent
16 of first-time test takers pass the NCLEX®. She noted
17 Rapha has an obligation to educate an accepted
18 student to a point where the student can pass NCLEX®
19 regardless of their initial TEAS score.

20 Dr. Powell-Laney stated Rapha looked at
21 increasing its TEAS score, as well as increasing the
22 pass rate on school examinations from 75 percent to
23 80 percent. She expressed concerns that it would
24 have eliminated four people from entering the program
25 who eventually passed boards. She added Rapha is

1 cognizant of a nursing shortage and is trying to help
2 the community. She explained that it was easy to have
3 a good NCLEX® pass rate if a program has a low
4 retention rate. She added Rapha wants a high
5 retention rate and a high pass rate. She expressed
6 confidence that the school would get to that point.

7 Ms. Pachter Schulder reiterated the Board's
8 concern that the program has been in place since 2017
9 with very few years of a minimum pass rate. She
10 added four of the past five years have been below 80
11 percent.

12 Dr. Powell-Laney responded that Rapha continually
13 makes changes. To increase the school's examination
14 pass rate to 80 percent, she suggested it would hurt
15 more people than would help.

16 Dr. Bucher respected the fact that Dr. Powell-
17 Laney wanted every student to be successful in
18 graduating from the program; however, he doubted
19 moving the pass rate to 80 percent would hurt more
20 people. He added it may prevent some people from
21 moving on and may require some people to have
22 extended remediation, but that would assist those
23 people. He stated just getting people to pass the
24 program only to not be successful in passing boards
25 is not helping the students, as the students come out

1 with an education that cannot be used.

2 Dr. Powell-Laney responded that two students from
3 last year are repeating level one in the part-time
4 program, as the students did not pass in the first
5 year. She stated faculty at Rapha discussed
6 solutions. She added, for the current year, all of
7 the students passed the MSN1 final, but she had
8 concerns about a couple of students.

9 Ms. Pachter Schulder asked what proactive steps
10 were being taken with the students Dr. Powell-Laney
11 had concerns about. Dr. Powell-Laney responded that
12 the students are doing peer and teacher tutoring.
13 She added a graduate of Rapha's LPN program helps
14 tutor students to find the best way for them to
15 study. She noted the current young class, and when
16 students out of high school have difficulty in math,
17 then Rapha has to reteach them math.

18 Ms. Pachter Schulder explained that once Rapha
19 takes the student on, the student is Rapha's
20 responsibility, and the student having a low TEAS
21 score cannot justify the low pass rates since Rapha
22 admitted these students knowing their deficiencies.
23 She asked Dr. Powell-Laney to explain to the Board
24 what difference was occurring at the present time
25 compared to six months ago to ensure the pass rate

1 would be increased.

2 Dr. Powell-Laney stated Rapha was now using
3 Lippincott textbooks. Ms. Pachter Schulder asked
4 when they started with Lippincott. Dr. Powell-Laney
5 responded it was a current change, and Lippincott was
6 providing a trial of the new MSN2 textbook that comes
7 with interactive scenarios. She stated homework
8 would now be based on the recommendations of
9 Lippincott. She added students would have case study
10 scenarios and would follow their textbook closer.
11 She also stated Rapha would stringently assist
12 students with tutoring if needed.

13 Ms. Wendy Miller asked if Dr. Powell-Laney had
14 sat down with faculty and mapped out each student
15 from their TEAS to the grades accomplished in each
16 course to the grade from the comprehensive predictor
17 to the student passing or failing NCLEX®. Dr. Powell-
18 Laney stated she had.

19 Ms. Wendy Miller then asked if there could be an
20 issue with grade inflation if there are successful
21 students who are not successful on the NCLEX®. She
22 added 80 percent is the bare minimum for Rapha's
23 comprehensive predictor and asked if it had
24 considered raising the score.

25 Dr. Powell-Laney stated 80 percent had been

1 predictive in the past. She added that the two
2 students who failed from the last year consistently
3 scored about 80 percent.

4 Ms. Pachter Schulder pointed out that while Dr.
5 Powell-Laney stated the predictor had been
6 successful, the pass rate had not been met during
7 2022-2023 and 2023-2024. She asked how Dr. Powell-
8 Laney accounted for the low pass rate. Dr. Powell-
9 Laney stated she had asked faculty if the predictor
10 should be a condition of graduation.

11 Ms. Wendy Miller stated if there was a cutoff of
12 93 percent on the predictor and whether students who
13 did not achieve 93 percent were required to do
14 remediation, which she added could help.

15 Dr. Powell-Laney countered students who scored 80
16 percent are required to do remediation. She added
17 she could recommend remediation for some students,
18 but if they still meet graduation requirements, the
19 student would still be taking the NCLEX®.

20 Dr. Powell-Laney asked the Board what changes
21 should be made to the program. Ms. Pachter Schulder
22 explained that Rapha sets their program requirements,
23 not the Board.

24 Mr. Scher asked what the ideal candidate for the
25 LPN program would be. Dr. Powell-Laney responded the

1 ideal candidate would have algebra, chemistry, and
2 four years of English.

3 Ms. Pachter Schulder noted the final form
4 regulations have the requirements incorporated within
5 curriculum instead of being requirements to enter a
6 program. Dr. Powell-Laney confirmed the requirements
7 were still her ideal candidate. Ms. Pachter Schulder
8 asked if Dr. Powell-Laney's candidates met her
9 requirements.

10 Dr. Powell-Laney stated her new candidates do
11 meet her requirements as they are the current
12 requirements of Pennsylvania high school graduates.
13 She commented that the older classes may not have had
14 the same high school requirements, but they all had
15 over a 50 percent TEAS score.

16 Ms. Pachter Schulder pointed out Rapha sets their
17 TEAS score requirement. Dr. Powell-Laney researched
18 other schools in the region before establishing the
19 score.

20 Dr. Powell-Laney explained that for graduates who
21 did not pass the NCLEX® the first time, many pass the
22 second time. She stated that she believes Rapha is
23 doing everything it could to get its graduates to
24 pass NCLEX® short of changing their program pass rate.

25 Dr. Powell-Laney noted that she knew the Board

1 did not make recommendations but was under the
2 impression based upon the discussion that it wanted
3 her to increase the TEAS score pass rate as well as
4 change the program pass rate from 75 percent to 80
5 percent. Ms. Pachter Schulder stated the Board had
6 not suggested by their questions that Rapha should
7 change the specific pass rates. She requested Dr.
8 Powell-Laney convince the Board of why Rapha should
9 be permitted to stay on provisional status.

10 Dr. Powell-Laney stated Rapha has more students
11 pass than students who failed. She brought up the
12 example of the student who waited to test and then
13 passed as an example of someone who did remediation
14 before testing and was successful. She added Rapha
15 provides a great service to the community. She
16 anticipates the program will achieve 80 percent and
17 will be graduating 33 students if the current numbers
18 stand. She also added that just one additional
19 student passing would have made the difference in the
20 last test year.

21 Ms. Pachter Schulder provided data on the number
22 of Rapha students who took and failed the NCLEX® for
23 each of the last five years.

24 Dr. Powell-Laney stated the current year would be
25 the first full year in which it would be able to see

1 all of the changes that have been made. She
2 requested an extension in grace as changes are being
3 made. She further added Rapha has an obligation to
4 students and does not want a 50 percent retention
5 rate with a 100 percent pass rate.

6 Dr. Hershberger asked a clarifying question
7 regarding the student whose remediation plan was to
8 study for a month before taking NCLEX®. She asked
9 where the recommendation came from and if Dr. Powell-
10 Laney thought it was most beneficial for students to
11 wait to take the NCLEX®.

12 Dr. Powell-Laney replied that in the particular
13 student's case, waiting was most beneficial. She
14 stated the student was a transfer with low TEAS score
15 and consistently scored 79 to 80 percent on her
16 course examinations. The UWorld predictor showed she
17 was falling behind in critical thinking and
18 prioritization, which is why she was recommended to
19 focus on those areas of study.

20 Dr. Hershberger asked how Rapha students were
21 rating UWorld. Dr. Powell-Laney stated graduate
22 surveys reflected students like UWorld. They noted
23 UWorld being almost 100 percent like the actual exam
24 with the same colors, mechanization, and navigation.

25 Dr. Hershberger recommended Dr. Powell-Laney look

1 at the data before making rash decisions about
2 changing the path forward.

3 Dr. Powell-Laney stated she sensed the Board
4 thought she should make a big change. Ms. Pachter
5 Schulder reiterated that the program determines what
6 changes are made.

7 Ms. Hertzler asked if there were any
8 instructional staff beyond Dr. Powell-Laney, the one
9 full-time instructor, and the two part-time evening
10 instructors. Dr. Powell-Laney confirmed there was
11 also a per diem clinical instructor. Dr. Powell-
12 Laney also stated that when faculty meetings are
13 held, all of the faculty attend, and everyone seems
14 to be unanimous when they vote on making changes.

15 Ms. Hertzler asked how long the instructors have
16 been with the program and how often faculty meetings
17 are held. Dr. Powell-Laney stated the full-time
18 instructor had been with the program for six years,
19 and the evening instructors had been with Rapha for
20 four years. She stated faculty meetings are held
21 every three months, with July being the meeting that
22 specifically discusses faculty and educational
23 effectiveness. She added that since the program has
24 been on provisional status, every faculty meeting
25 involves what is being done to make students

1 successful.

2 Ms. Hertzler pointed out that page three of the
3 Program Improvement Plan states the faculty would
4 begin to give homework to students based on results
5 of the first UWorld self-assessment taken in March.
6 She asked if the homework was in addition to
7 regularly assigned homework or was new homework.

8 Dr. Powell-Laney stated the homework would be in
9 addition to regularly assigned homework. She added
10 the homework would target content that particular
11 students scored low in on the assessment.

12 Ms. Hertzler requested clarification on the
13 tutoring being provided. Dr. Powell-Laney stated
14 that in addition to the LPN graduate, teachers tutor
15 as well. She personally provides much of the tutoring
16 for level two. For level three, students are
17 provided with an NCLEX® prep book, and each day a few
18 questions are reviewed. She confirmed that her
19 instructors also use NCLEX® style questions on their
20 exams.

21 Ms. Pachter Schulder asked how many students had
22 been admitted for the current year and how many for
23 next August. Dr. Powell-Laney confirmed that 20
24 students had been admitted in August 2025, but no
25 students had been admitted for August 2026. She

1 added Rapha typically looks at TEAS scores beginning
2 in February for the following August.

3 In response to a question by Ms. Hertzler, Dr.
4 Powell-Laney confirmed her full-time instructor would
5 be in charge of a homework remediation program
6 starting in February.

7 Dr. Powell-Laney concluded that she hoped the
8 Board would extend their provisional status as she
9 believed Rapha does a lot of good. She also noted
10 that out of the 120 graduates from Rapha's program,
11 none have had their licenses suspended or revoked.]

12 ***

13 [The Board recessed from 10:23 a.m. until 10:34 a.m.]

14 ***

15 CHAIR HUNSBERGER RESUMED THE CHAIR

16 ***

17 For the Board's Information - 2024-2025 NCLEX® Pass
18 Rate Results

19 [Kelly Hoffman, MSN, RN, Nursing Education Advisor,
20 provided the Board with data regarding the NCLEX® pass
21 rate results for the 2024-2025 exam year. She
22 explained the exam year extends from October 1st of
23 one year to September 30th of the subsequent year,
24 and the pass rate standard is 80 percent of first-
25 time test takers since 2010.

1 For 2024-2025, Ms. Hoffman shared eight RN
2 programs would be moving to provisional status, and
3 one would be coming off of provisional status and
4 moving to full approval status. She noted an
5 increase in the number of programs on provisional
6 approval status over the previous two years.

7 Ms. Hoffman reported an analysis of national pass
8 rate data ranks Pennsylvania sixth in the total
9 number of first-time RN test takers, and Pennsylvania
10 holds the highest RN pass rate of the top six states.
11 She added Pennsylvania had 7,797 test takers of which
12 7,051 passed making the pass rate 90.43 percent. She
13 also noted the number of RN test takers in
14 Pennsylvania decreased by 324 compared to 2023-2024,
15 and the pass rate decreased by four percent.
16 Nationally, the numbers of RN test takers increased
17 by over 19,000, but the pass rate decreased by five
18 percent.

19 Ms. Hoffman reported that as of December 2025,
20 there are 94 Board-approved pre-licensure RN programs
21 in Pennsylvania, 28 associate degree programs, 48
22 baccalaureate degree programs, 14 RN diploma
23 programs, and four direct entry masters. In 2025,
24 one RN program voluntarily closed, and one new RN
25 program was approved to open.

1 Recusal Presentation

2 [Judith Pachter Schulder, Esquire, Board Counsel,
3 presented the biannual Sunshine Act and Recusal
4 Guidelines Presentation. She summarized that the
5 Sunshine Act ensures transparency in government by
6 requiring open meetings for all official actions and
7 deliberations involving agency matters. Any time a
8 quorum of Board members meets to discuss Board
9 business, the meeting must be publicly advertised.
10 Deliberations are defined as discussions intended to
11 lead to decisions, and official actions include votes
12 or policy decisions.

13 Public notice of meetings must be issued at the
14 beginning of the calendar year and at least three
15 days in advance, with any changes requiring 24-hour
16 notice. Emergency meetings are exempt but must be
17 justified. All meetings and agendas are posted
18 publicly, including in the newspaper where the
19 meetings are held and on the Board's website.

20 Ms. Pachter Schulder noted that amendments to the
21 Sunshine Act in 2021 require that if the agenda
22 changes within 24 hours of the meeting, an amended
23 agenda must be published afterward. Meeting
24 locations and agendas must be made available in
25 advance, and discussions outside the posted agenda

1 are only allowed if there is a natural connection.
2 All votes must be publicly casted, so virtual
3 participant members must have cameras on. Meeting
4 minutes must include the time, place, attendance, and
5 substance of discussions, though not verbatim.
6 Executive Sessions may be held for limited purposes,
7 such as discussing litigation strategy, deliberation
8 matters, or personnel issues, though personnel issues
9 typically fall outside Board's purview. Executive
10 Sessions must be announced with reasons and remain
11 confidential even after the meeting.

12 She warned that violations of the Sunshine Act
13 can invalidate meeting actions and lead to litigation
14 or attorney fees. Criminal penalties are rare and
15 require District Attorney action. She clarified that
16 actions of Board committees like the Application
17 Committee or Probable Cause Committee are not
18 considered to be a meeting if there is no quorum and
19 if actions are preliminary or administrative.

20 Regarding recusals, Ms. Pachter Schulder outlined
21 the types of recusals and the impact of those
22 recusals. Mandatory recusals include involvement in
23 prosecution, such as being a complainant, or having a
24 direct financial interest. Strongly recommended
25 recusals include personal connections or outside

1 knowledge of a case. Discretionary recusals apply
2 when impartiality is not certain. She advised Board
3 members to consult Counsel in advance when unsure
4 whether to recuse. Abstentions from voting occur,
5 for example, when a member was unable to review the
6 materials for the meeting or the member is uncertain
7 which way to vote, but she reminded members that
8 those who abstain are prevented from requesting
9 reconsideration of a vote. Abstentions count toward
10 the quorum, but recusals may impact whether a vote
11 may take place depending on the number required by
12 statute to take action.

13 She also detailed conflict-of-interest rules.
14 Professional members may not serve as officers or
15 agents of statewide professional associations, and
16 public members may not be part of the regulated
17 profession or have immediate family members who are.
18 Public members must not hold any other appointed
19 office in the Commonwealth.

20 Acting Commissioner Claggett commented there had
21 recently been some board members from various boards
22 who were serving on statewide associations because
23 they spoke to the association's attorneys and not to
24 Board Counsel. He reminded Board members to always
25 ask Board Counsel before signing up for a statewide

1 association to avoid conflicts. Ms. Pachter Schulder
2 noted the conflict arises often with regard to
3 political action committees.]

4 ***
5 Public Comment - None.

6 ***
7 [Pursuant to Section 708(a)(5) of the Sunshine Act,
8 at 11:02 a.m., the Board entered into Executive
9 Session for the purpose of conducting quasi-judicial
10 deliberations on the matters on the Agenda under the
11 Report of Board Counsel and the Report of the
12 Prosecutorial Division. The Board returned to Open
13 Session at 12:10 p.m. It was stated Board members
14 who recuse themselves will be noted in the motions.]

15 ***
16 MOTIONS

17 MS. PACHTER SCHULDER:

18 Is there a motion to approve the
19 Consent Agreements at Items 2 through
20 8, 52, and 53, all of which being VRP
21 Consent Agreements?

22 DR. BUCHER:

23 So moved, Bucher.

24 MR. SCHER:

25 Second, Scher.

1 CHAIR HUNSBERGER:

2 All those in favor? Any opposed?

3 Any abstentions?

4 [The motion carried. Dr. Frank abstained from voting
5 on the matter.]

6 ***

7 MS. PACHTER SCHULDER:

8 Is there a motion to adopt the
9 following Consent Agreements for which
10 there are no recusals, and that's Item
11 No. 14, 25-51-012708, and Item No. 16,
12 25-51-003588?

13 MS. HERTZLER:

14 So moved, Hertzler.

15 DR. BUCHER:

16 Second, Bucher.

17 CHAIR HUNSBERGER:

18 All those in favor? Any opposed? Any
19 abstentions?

20 [The motion carried. Dr. Frank abstained from voting
21 on the matter. The Respondents are as follows:
22 Agenda Item No. 14, Case No. 25-51-012708, Mary
23 Hohman Holt, RN; and Agenda Item No. 16, Case No. 25-
24 51-003588, Jared Makori Monda, RN, LPN.]

25 ***

1 So moved, Bucher.

2 MS. CAPIOTIS:

3 Second, Capiotis.

4 CHAIR HUNSBERGER:

5 All those in favor? Opposed?

6 Abstentions?

7 [The motion carried. Ms. Hertzler and Mr. Scher were
8 recused from deliberations and voting on the motion.
9 Dr. Frank abstained from voting on the matter. The
10 Respondent for Item No. 9, Case No. 24-51-011179, is
11 Sarah Rebecca Monroe, RN; Item No. 10, Case No. 25-
12 51-005900, is Stacie Jo Frasco, RN; and Item No. 54,
13 Case No. 24-51-018956, is John W. Zielinski, RN.]

14 ***

15 MS. PACHTER SCHULDER:

16 Is there a motion to adopt the Consent
17 Agreement at Item No. 11, Case No. 23-
18 51-018771, for which member Hertzler is
19 recused?

20 DR. BUCHER:

21 So moved, Bucher.

22 MR. SCHER:

23 Second, Scher.

24 CHAIR HUNSBERGER:

25 All those in favor? Any opposed?

1 Abstentions?

2 [The motion carried. Ms. Hertzler was recused from
3 deliberations and voting on the matter. Dr. Frank
4 abstained from voting on the matter. The Respondent
5 at Item No. 11, Case No. 23-51-018771, is Amanda P.
6 Reha, RN.]

7 ***

8 New Business - CRNP Program Faculty Waiver Request

9 MS. PACHTER SCHULDER:

10 Item No. 29, is there a motion to grant
11 a three-month waiver of clinical
12 practice under Section 21.367(b)(3) for
13 Marci L. Zsamboky, DNP, CRNP, PMHNP-BC,
14 PMHCNS-BC, CNE?

15 DR. BUCHER:

16 So moved, Bucher.

17 DR. HERSHBERGER:

18 Second, Hershberger.

19 CHAIR HUNSBERGER:

20 All those in favor? Any opposed?

21 Abstentions?

22 [The motion carried. Dr. Frank abstained from voting
23 on the matter.]

24 ***

25 Report of Board Counsel - Miscellaneous Deliberations

1 MR. SCHER:

2 Second, Scher.

3 CHAIR HUNSBERGER:

4 All those in favor? Any opposed?

5 Abstentions?

6 [The motion carried. Dr. Frank abstained from voting
7 on the matter.]

8 ***

9 MS. PACHTER SCHULDER:

10 Is there a motion to grant the motion
11 for rehearing in the matter at Item No.
12 33, TerryL Lashekia Rena Underwood,
13 Case No. 25-51-007555?

14 DR. BUCHER:

15 So moved, Bucher.

16 MS. HERTZLER:

17 Second, Hertzler.

18 CHAIR HUNSBERGER:

19 All those in favor? Any opposed?

20 Abstentions?

21 [The motion carried. Dr. Frank abstained from voting
22 on the matter.]

23 ***

24 MS. PACHTER SCHULDER:

25 Is there a motion at Item No. 55 for

1 Case No. 24-51-002714, to deny the
2 request for a stay?

3 DR. BUCHER:

4 So moved, Bucher.

5 MS. HERTZLER:

6 Second, Hertzler.

7 CHAIR HUNSBERGER:

8 All those in favor? Any opposed?

9 Abstentions?

10 [The motion carried. Dr. Frank abstained from voting
11 on the matter.]

12 ***

13 Report of Board Counsel - Motions to Enter Default
14 and Deem Facts Admitted/Motions for Judgement on
15 the Pleadings

16 MS. PACHTER SCHULDER:

17 Is there a motion to deem the facts
18 admitted, enter a default, and
19 authorize Counsel to prepare an
20 Adjudication and Order in the matter at
21 Item No. 34, Raianna Elum, LPN, Case
22 No. 20-51-009397?

23 MS. HERTZLER:

24 So moved, Hertzler.

25 DR. BUCHER:

1 Second, Bucher.

2 CHAIR HUNSBERGER:

3 All those in favor? Any opposed?

4 Abstentions?

5 [The motion carried. Dr. Frank abstained from voting
6 on the matter.]

7 ***

8 Report of Board Counsel - Hearing Examiner Proposals

9 MS. PACHTER SCHULDER:

10 Is there a motion to authorize Counsel
11 to prepare Adjudications and Orders in
12 the matters: Item No. 35, Michael
13 David Bragg, RN, Case No. 22-51-017329;
14 Item No. 36, Marcia Nicola Carridise,
15 Case No. 25-51-003181; Item No. 37,
16 Khyla S. Martinez, LPN, Case No. 24-51-
17 017819; Item No. 38, Kylie Hoyt
18 Roberts, LPN, Case No. 23-51-010769;
19 Item No. 39, Phillip G. Romanelli, RN,
20 Case No. 24-51-016465; and Item No. 41,
21 Tarah Garcia Legitime, LPN, Case No.
22 24-51-010654?

23 DR. BUCHER:

24 So moved, Bucher.

25 MS. HERTZLER:

1 Scher are recused, and that's Item No.
2 43, Darian Leigh Crofutt, LPN, Case No.
3 24-51-019469; Item No. 46, Mary Kathryn
4 Hogan, RN, Case No. 24-51-013846; and
5 Item 48, Stacy D. Shepard, LPN, Case
6 No. 25-51-002483?

7 DR. BUCHER:

8 So moved, Bucher.

9 MS. CAPIOTIS:

10 Second, Capiotis.

11 CHAIR HUNSBERGER:

12 All those in favor? Any opposed?

13 Abstentions?

14 [The motion carried. Ms. Hertzler and Mr. Scher were
15 recused from deliberations and voting on the matter.
16 Dr. Frank abstained from voting on the matter.]

17 ***

18 VICE CHAIR BUCHER ASSUMED THE CHAIR

19 ***

20 The Rapha School Practical Nursing Program -
21 Extension of Provisional Status

22 MS. PACHTER SCHULDER:

23 Is there a motion to grant an extension
24 until April 21, 2026, but not allow the
25 program to admit students until after a

1 presentation and determination at the
2 April 2026 Board meeting, at which time
3 the Rapha School must demonstrate that
4 they have drilled down into the program
5 and looked at the data on the entire
6 program and make recommendations and a
7 plan for improvement of the minimum
8 pass score?

9 MR. SCHER:

10 So moved, Scher.

11 DR. HERSHBERGER:

12 Second, Hershberger

13 VICE CHAIR BUCHER:

14 All those in favor? Any opposed?

15 Abstentions?

16 [The motion carried. Dr. Hunsberger was recused from
17 deliberations and voting on the matter. Dr. Frank
18 abstained from voting on the matter.]

19 ***

20 CHAIR HUNSBERGER RESUMED THE CHAIR

21 ***

22 Adjournment

23 CHAIR HUNSBERGER:

24 Is there any additional business to
25 come before the Board? Hearing none,

1 may I have a motion for adjournment?

2 MS. HERTZLER:

3 So moved, Hertzler.

4 DR. BUCHER:

5 Second, Bucher.

6 CHAIR HUNSBERGER:

7 All in favor?

8 ***

9 [There being no further business, the State Board of
10 Nursing Meeting adjourned at 12:22 p.m.]

11 ***

12 CERTIFICATE

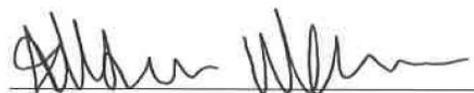
13

14 I hereby certify that the foregoing summary
15 minutes of the State Board of Nursing meeting, was
16 reduced to writing by me or under my supervision, and
17 that the minutes accurately summarize the substance
18 of the State Board of Nursing meeting.

19

20

21



22

Allison Walker,

23

Minute Clerk

24

Sargent's Court Reporting

25

Service, Inc.

26

STATE BOARD OF NURSING
REFERENCE INDEX

December 4, 2025

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8		
9	9:00	Public Session
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11	9:00	Official Call to Order
12		
13	9:01	Introduction of Board Members
14		
15	9:02	Introduction of Attendees
16		
17	9:06	Adoption of Agenda
18		
19	9:07	Report of Prosecutorial Division
20		
21	9:21	Regulation Update
22		
23	9:22	Pennsylvania Legislative Update
24		
25	9:25	Report of Committees
26		
27	9:26	Report of Board Members
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29	9:27	Appointment - The Rapha School
30		
31	10:23	Recess
32		
33	10:35	For the Board's Information
34		
35	11:02	Executive Session
36		
37	12:10	Return to Open Session
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39	12:10	Motions
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41	12:15	Report of Board Counsel
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43	12:22	Adjournment
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