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 PHYSICAL THERAPY

TIME: 10:36 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

May 28, 2026

State Board of Physical Therapy
May 28, 2026

BOARD MEMBERS:

Geraldine M. Grzybek, Physical Therapist, Chairperson
Arion R. Claggett, Acting Commissioner of Professional and Occupational Affairs
Robert Bonacci, M.D., Secretary of Health Designee
Jeremy Robb, Attorney General's Office Designee
Craig Ruby, Physical Therapist, Secretary
Ian S. Steele, Physical Therapist
Krista Wolfe, Physical Therapist, Vice Chair

BUREAU PERSONNEL:

Sean Barrett, Esquire, Board Counsel
William A. Newport, Esquire, Board Prosecution Liaison
J. Karl Geschwindt, Esquire, Senior Board Prosecutor and Prosecution Liaison
Emyline Breckenridge, Esquire, Board Prosecutor
Paul Keller, Acting Board Administrator
Addie Abelson, Esquire, Regulatory Counsel
Jacqueline Wolfgang, Esquire, Senior Regulatory Counsel
Stephanie Dunkerley, Legal Analyst, Office of General Counsel
Taylor Koch, Fiscal Chief, Bureau of Finance and Procurement
Amanda Richards, Fiscal Supervisor, Bureau of Finance and Procurement
Jesse Goldman

ALSO PRESENT:

Melissa Dehoff, Director, Rehabilitation Services Divisions, Rehabilitation & Community Providers
Jacob Hill, Sargent's Court Reporting Services, Inc.

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State Board of Physical Therapy

May 28, 2026

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[Pursuant to Section 708(a)(5) of the Sunshine Act, at 10:00 a.m. the Board entered into Executive Session with Sean Barrett, Esquire, Board Counsel, for the purpose of conducting quasi-judicial deliberations on a number of matters currently pending before the Board and to receive advice of counsel. The Board returned to open session at 10:36 a.m.]

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The regularly scheduled meeting of the State Board of Physical Therapy was held on Thursday, May 28, 2026.

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Official Call to Order

[Geraldine M. Grzybek, PT, GCS, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 10:38 a.m.]

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[Sean Barrett, Esquire, Board Counsel, noted the meeting was being recorded and voluntary participation constituted consent to be recorded.

Mr. Barrett also noted the Board entered into

Executive Session prior to the meeting and conducted quasi-judicial deliberations with the advice of counsel.]

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Roll Call of Board Members and Bureau Personnel

[Geraldine M. Grzybek, PT, GCS, Chairperson, provided a roll call of Board Members and Bureau personnel. A quorum was noted to be present.]

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Introduction of Attendees

[Paul Keller, Acting Board Administrator, provided an introduction of attendees.]

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Approval of Minutes of the March 26, 2026 meeting

CHAIR GRZYBEK:

Our first order of business is to approve the Minutes of our March 26, 2026 meeting. Does anyone have any corrections, edits, additions or deletions?

Hearing none, get ready for the vote. All in favor of adopting the Minutes from the March 26, 2026 meeting of this Board, signify by saying aye; oppose, nay.

Grzybek, aye; Claggett, aye; Bonacci, abstain; Robb, aye; Ruby, aye; Steele, aye.

[The motion carried. Dr. Bonacci abstained from voting on the motion.]

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Report of Regulatory Counsel

[Addie Abelson, Esquire, Regulatory Counsel, reported the Board had two regulations currently on the status report. The first, 16A-6519, had no significant updates. Regarding 16A-6523, Licensure by Endorsement, she noted the Board approved the regulation at the September 26, 2025 meeting; however, the exposure draft originally released March 20, 2020. She explained Regulatory Counsel prefers the exposure draft be released within four years, so there are not issues with Independent Regulatory Review Commission (IRRC). She recommended the exposure draft be released again to ensure the Board has updated stakeholder engagement.]

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MS. ABELSON:

I believe the Board would entertain a motion to release an exposure draft on

16A-6523, to release this exposure draft on Licensure by Endorsement.

CHAIR GRZYBEK:

Is there a motion?

MR. RUBY:

Ruby, so moved.

CHAIR GRZYBEK:

Thank you. Is there a second?

MS. WOLFE:

Wolfe, second.

CHAIR GRZYBEK:

It's been moved and seconded. We'll go through the vote.

Grzybek, aye; Claggett, aye; Bonacci, aye; Robb, aye; Ruby, aye; Steele, aye; Wolfe, aye.

[The motion carried unanimously.]

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Appointment - Annual Budget Presentation

[Amanda Richards, Fiscal Supervisor, Bureau of Finance and Procurement (BFP), gave the annual budget presentation. She reviewed a six-year history of the licensed population of the Board, noting the current biannual licensee population is 29,065, an increase of 449 licensees over the prior biannual period. She next reviewed a breakdown of the license classes. She noted the Board last approved a fee increase in 2008 and waived fees in FY2021.

Regarding revenue, Ms. Richards explained BFP looks at revenue on a biennial basis. The current biennium is projected to be slightly increased from the prior biennium. She noted 96.9 percent of revenue for the Board comes from applications and renewals. She next explained expenses which are broken into two main categories, administrative and legal. Within the main categories, expenses hit in three ways: Direct charges, timesheet based, and license population. Licensee population expenses are expenses shared by all boards relative to how many licensees each board has. She noted the prior biennium the Board had about $1.9 million in expenses while the current biennium is projected at about $3 million in expenses. She noted the bulk of the increase is due to the licensing modernization project.

In conclusion, Ms. Richards explained, when the expenses and revenues are brought together, the Board's bottom line is slowly decreasing as the expenses are exceeding the incoming revenue. Due to this, BFP recommended a fee increase.]

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[Taylor Koch, Fiscal Chief, Bureau of Finance and Procurement, reviewed the fee package proposal. He noted most of the information would be the same as the budget presentation; however, he would highlight a few items. He pointed out the licensee counts being used for the proposal were the same counts from the budget presentation. He presented a more extensive breakdown of the revenue, noting with the current renewal fees along with the licensee numbers. He noted BFP’s projected renewal revenue and the approximate figure to be derived from application fees.

Mr. Koch reviewed the Board's expenses. He noted, in addition to the licensing modernization expenses, the overall economy is getting more expenses. He added, with one month left in FY2025, BFP was confident the expenses would align with projections. In reviewing the current financial outlook, the Board had a good track record with the last increase being 18 years ago.

Mr. Koch explained how BFP derives a fee proposal. He noted application fees are looked at first. He explained application fees are not designed to make a profit and are only to cover the actual processing fees for each application type. He used the CE provider application as an example, noting the current fee was $40; however, it actually costs $180 to process the application. He indicated the application fees FY2028 were raised to the face value with an additional five percent increase in the following two biennium to keep pace with the economy. He noted, after accounting for the increases in application fees, the Board would still be running in the red so BFP next turned to renewal fees.

Mr. Koch stated, for renewal fees, BFP was recommending a 12 percent increase for December 2028. He explained it takes two to two-and-a-half years for the implementation of fee increases due to the regulatory process. For December 2026, the current fees would remain active. He also noted there was a five percent increase recommended for the 2030 and 2032 renewals. In bringing all of the numbers together, he demonstrated with the increases the Board would start to have a surplus with the 2028 renewals. He indicated the goal is to have the revenues outpace the expenditures. He summarized the overall impact of the increases.

Chair Grzybek asked if there was a sense of how many more installments there would be of payments for the licensing modernization project.

Mr. Koch explained the expenses for the licensing modernization project were structured in incremental stages with the bulk of the front-loaded costs being in FY24 and FY25. He showed how the costs were mainly housed in the Board Administration expenses. After FY25, the anticipated costs will be maintenance costs to keep the program running. He reviewed how the projected costs will level off for future fiscal years.

Mr. Koch thanked the Board for their time. He indicated Regulatory Counsel would need a vote on the fee package to begin drafting the package.]

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MS. ABELSON:

Typically, at this point, we would ask for the Board to entertain a motion to allow Regulatory Counsel to move forward with the drafting of a fee increase package.

CHAIR GRZYBEK:

Is there a motion?

[Mr. Steele indicated he had a budget question. Chair Grzybek asked if the motion could be moved forward prior to discussion. Mr. Barrett confirmed the order would be okay.]

MR. RUBY:

Ruby, so moved.

CHAIR GRZYBEK:

Is there a second?

MS. WOLFE:

Wolfe, second.

CHAIR GRZYBEK:

Thank you so much. Is there discussion? Mr. Steele?

[Mr. Steele questioned the tiered fee increases and proposed having the first fee increase be at the indicated end amount rather than small incremental increases every two years.

Mr. Koch indicated the incremental increases was an IRRC advisement. Jacqueline Wolfgang, Esquire, Senior Regulatory Counsel, advised IRRC wanted to ensure the fees were appropriate for each biennium. She noted the concept was a graduated fee package will generate needed revenue without overcharging the regulated community.]

CHAIR GRZYBEK:

Are there any other points for discussion? Hearing none, are you ready for the vote?

All those in favor, please signify by saying aye; opposed, nay; or abstain.

Grzybek, aye; Claggett, aye; Bonacci, aye; Robb, aye; Ruby, aye; Steele, aye, Wolfe, aye.

[The motion carried unanimously.]

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[Ms. Abelson apologized but noted there needed to be a motion indicating the Board is adopting the proposed increase as well as the package.]

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MR. BARRETT:

So based on discussion in public session, I believe the Board Chairperson would entertain a motion to adopt the proposed fee increase and direct Counsel to draft a regulatory package consistent with those fee increases.

CHAIR GRZYBEK:

I believe that is correct Mr. Barrett.

Is there a motion?

MR. RUBY:

Ruby, so moved.

CHAIR GRZYBEK:

Thank you. Is there a second?

MS. WOLFE:

Wolfe, second.

CHAIR GRZYBEK:

It's been moved and seconded. We're ready for the vote.

All those in favor, please signify by saying aye, nay, or abstain.

Grzybek, aye; Claggett, aye; Bonacci, aye; Robb, aye; Ruby, aye; Steele, aye; Wolfe, aye.

[The motion carried unanimously.]

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Report of Board Counsel

MR. BARRETT:

Based on Executive Session deliberations, I believe the Board Chair would entertain a motion to grant the Motion to Deem Facts Admitted and to direct Counsel to draft an Adjudication and Order consistent with

Executive Session discussions at Item No. 4, Kelly Anne McIntee, Case No. 25-65-005173.

CHAIR GRZYBEK:

Is there a motion?

MR. RUBY:

Ruby, so moved.

CHAIR GRZYBEK:

Is there a second?

MS. WOLFE:

Wolfe, second.

CHAIR GRZYBEK:

It's been moved and seconded.

All those in favor, signify appropriately.

Grzybek, aye; Claggett, aye; Bonacci, aye; Robb, aye; Ruby, aye; Steele, aye; Wolfe, aye.

[The motion carried unanimously.]

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MR. BARRETT:

Moving on to No. 5, and just for the record, Chairperson Grzybek was recused from any discussion on this matter.

Based on Executive Session deliberations, I believe the Board Chair would entertain a motion to grant the Motion to Deem Facts Admitted and direct Board Counsel to draft an Adjudication and Order consistent with Executive Session deliberations for Kyle Thomas Batemen, Case No. 24-65-007175.

CHAIR GRZYBEK:

Is there a motion?

MR. RUBY:

Ruby, so moved.

CHAIR GRZYBEK:

Is there a second?

MS. WOLFE:

Wolfe, second.

CHAIR GRZYBEK:

It's been moved and seconded.

We're going for the vote.

Grzybek, recuse; Claggett, aye; Bonacci, aye; Robb, aye; Ruby, aye; Steele, aye; Wolfe, aye.

[The motion carried. Chair Grzybek was recused from deliberations and voting on the motion.]

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MR. BARRETT:

Item No. 6, under Proposed Adjudications and Orders. Once again, Chairperson Grzybek was recused from any deliberation in this matter.

Based on Executive Session deliberations, I believe the Board Chair would entertain a motion to adopt the Proposed Adjudication and Order for Melanie Joy Conner, Case No. 25-65-001499.

CHAIR GRZYBEK:

Thank you. Is there a motion?

MR. RUBY:

Ruby, so moved.

CHAIR GRZYBEK:

Is there a second?

MS. WOLFE:

Wolfe, second.

CHAIR GRZYBEK:

Any further discussion? Hearing none.

Grzybek, recuse; Claggett, aye;

Bonacci, aye; Robb, aye; Ruby, aye;
Steele, aye; Wolfe, aye.

[The motion carried. Chair Grzybek was recused from deliberations and voting on the motion.]

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MR. BARRETT:

Based on Executive Session deliberations, I believe the Board Chair would entertain a motion to approve the Final Adjudications and Orders at Item No. 7, Timothy Wayne Dawes, Case No. 24-65-015145; and Item No. 8, Justin Charles Burger, Case No. 21-65-017744.

CHAIR GRZYBEK:

Is there a motion?

MR. RUBY:

Ruby, so moved.

CHAIR GRZYBEK:

Is there a second?

MS. WOLFE:

Wolfe, second.

CHAIR GRZYBEK:

It's been moved and seconded.

We'll go for the vote.

Grzybek, aye; Claggett, aye; Bonacci, aye; Robb, aye; Ruby, aye; Steele, aye; Wolfe, aye.

[The motion carried unanimously.]

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Report of Board Counsel - Miscellaneous

[Sean Barrett, Esquire, Board Counsel, reported Act 12 of 2026, previously HB 1251, was passed on May 6, 2026 and will go into effect 60 days from May 6. The act allows physical therapists to accept referrals from midwives in addition to dentists and podiatrists for treatment of a condition within their scope of practice. He noted the act was straightforward, and the Board would not have to do any writing.

Mr. Barrett referred to Agenda Item No. 10, noting at least one school sent correspondence regarding the early exam and where the school tells the Board the student is on track to graduate but then does not graduate. He noted the concern was that the regulations are silent on the particular situation. He stated the Board's response is that the schools should make their determinations in good faith in determining if a student is on track to graduate.]

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Report of the Prosecution - No Report

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Report of Board Chairperson

[Geraldine Grzybek, Physical Therapist, Chairperson, shared she was invited to speak to the Doctor of Physical Therapy Class of 2026 at Slippery Rock University on May 5, 2026. The two-hour program highlighted Board activities and laws and regulations of physical therapist practice and physical therapist assistance regardless of jurisdiction of practice. Her overall message was that licensure is a privilege, not a right and a working knowledge of the Practice Act, rules, and regulations that accompany their practice in their jurisdiction of practice is essential for all physical therapists and physical therapist assistants.

Regarding Federation of State Board of Physical Therapy (FSBPT) updates, Chair Grzybek reported the Federation Compact Commission website was recently updated. She encouraged everyone to visit fccpt.org. She announced FSBPT was seeking ideas and suggestions for the annual meeting in the fall. She urged anyone with ideas to submit them directly to FSBPT staff. She also provided updates on the 2026 FSBPT elections. She stated, at the delegate assembly in October, two directors and one member of a nominating committee will be elected. She thanked Ms. Wolfe for serving as a director and for her willingness to run for another term of service.

Chair Grzybek noted Mr. Steele would be representing Pennsylvania at the FSBPT Leadership Issues Forum on July 18 and 19, 2026. She noted Ms. Wolfe would also be attending as an FSBPT Board Director. Chair Grzybek pointed out FSBPT recently highlighted the rule that cell phones are prohibited at the Prometric Test Center at any point during examinations including breaks. Violations will result in immediate session terminations and the session will be included in the six-time lifetime limit.

Chair Grzybek extended appreciation to Mr. Barrett who fielded several questions and emails from her over the last two months. She appreciated his speed and wisdom. She also thanked Mr. Keller, David Schenck, and Nichole Maloney for supporting the work of the Board.]

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Report of Acting Commissioner - No Report.

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Report of Board Administrator

MR. BARRETT:
Based on Executive Session deliberations, I believe the Board Chair would entertain a motion to grant the initial applications of Alexandra Vlade and Emmily Bishop, Item No. 11 and No. 12.

CHAIR GRZYBEK:
Is there a motion?

MR. RUBY:
Ruby, so moved.

CHAIR GRZYBEK:
Thank you. Is there a second?

MS. WOLFE:
Wolfe, second.

CHAIR GRZYBEK:
It's been moved and seconded.
All those in favor signify by saying aye; oppose, nay.

Grzybek, aye; Claggett, aye; Bonacci, aye; Robb, aye; Ruby, aye; Steele, aye; Wolfe, aye.

[The motion carried unanimously.]

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MR. BARRETT:

At Item No. 13, based on Executive Session deliberations, I believe the Board Chair would entertain a motion to rescind the provisional denial and grant the initial application of Yesha Desai, Item No. 13.

CHAIR GRZYBEK:

Is there a motion?

MR. RUBY:

Ruby, so moved.

CHAIR GRZYBEK:

Is there a second?

MS. WOLFE:

Wolfe, second.

CHAIR GRZYBEK:

It's been moved and seconded. We'll go to the vote.

Grzybek, aye; Claggett, aye; Bonacci, aye; Robb, aye; Ruby, aye; Steele, aye; Wolfe, aye.

[The motion carried unanimously.]

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Public Comment Period - No Comments.

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Adjournment

CHAIR GRZYBEK:

At this point in time, I think this meeting is adjourned.

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[There being no further business, the State Board Physical Therapy Meeting adjourned at 11:23 a.m.]

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CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that the foregoing summary minutes of the State Board of Physical Therapy meeting, was reduced to writing by me or under my supervision, and that the minutes accurately summarize the substance of the State Board of Physical Therapy meeting.

Jacob Hill

Jacob Hill,
Minute Clerk
Sargent's Court Reporting
Service, Inc.

STATE BOARD OF PHYSICAL THERAPY
REFERENCE INDEX

May 28, 2026