

**IDAHO BOARD OF COSMETOLOGY**  
**Bureau of Occupational Licenses**  
700 West State Street, P.O. Box 83720  
Boise, ID 83720-0063

**Conference Call Minutes of 2/17/2015**

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Debra J Hummel - Chair  
Merrilyn Cleland  
Bonnie D. Sermon  
Linda Swope  
Christy L Duplantie

**BUREAU STAFF:** Tana Cory, Bureau Chief  
Dawn Hall, Administrative Support Manager  
Roger Hales, Naylor and Hales

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 AM MST by Debra J Hummel.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Ms. Cory updated the Board on bills in the Legislature. Ms. Cory said that there were some questions regarding the demonstration permit legislation in committee regarding the location and one suggestion was changing the word, "location" to "city."

Ms. Swope made a motion to pull the demonstration permit legislation back in order to better understand the concerns of the Legislature and to work with those who had questions and concerns. It was seconded by Ms. Sermon. Motion carried.

Ms. Cory discussed with the Board the request for a postcard to be sent if the School Owner Association's bill to reduce hours is printed. She requested direction from the Board regarding whether the Board should send a postcard even though the sponsor of the bill typically takes responsibility for notifying interested parties. The Board decided that the sponsor's lack of notification and involvement of others in the process is an issue the Board can discuss with Legislators when the bill is heard. The Board decided not to send a postcard.

Ms. Duplantie said that the Board really needs more information on the issue of lowering the instructional hours for a cosmetology license. She noted the Board's concerns about which areas schools will cut in their curriculum if hours were reduced from 2,000 hours to 1,600 hours.

Ms. Cleland also noted Ms. Ellis's previously stated concern that students are getting bored at 1,600 hours. Ms. Swope said that if the students are getting bored, then maybe the Board needs to consider the curriculum that is being taught.

The Board listened to a recording of Ms. Ellis's presentation to the House Business Committee regarding the proposed bill to reduce instructional hours. The Board then discussed the issues Ms. Ellis raised in her testimony.

With regard to Ms. Ellis's assertion that students get bored at 1,500 hours, Ms. Hummel commented that a student's boredom does not mean that the student is finished learning.

Ms. Cleland addressed Ms. Ellis's comment about the schools that have facilities in other states. She felt that Ms. Ellis's testimony regarding the hours required by other states was not entirely accurate and that her understanding was that some states require fewer instructional hours and some states require more hours. Ms. Cleland also expressed her concerns regarding other of Ms. Ellis's comments. Ms. Cleland expressed a desire for more facts regarding the issues that Ms. Ellis raised in her testimony.

Ms. Sermon said that when the School Owners Association brought the idea to the Board in 2012, she recalled that the Board asked for a survey and more information. She said she would also like to see the survey results from the earlier survey as well as the results that the School Owners Association presented at the last meeting.

Ms. Cory responded that the meeting minutes from the Board's past discussions and consideration of the issue are being compiled as well as the surveys that the School Owners Association conducted. Ms. Cory indicated this information would be sent out after it was gathered.

Ms. Cory gave a history of the issue for the Board. Ms. Cory said that Ms. Ellis is correct that in 2012 this issue was brought to the Board. The School Owners Association did a survey at that time, the results of which are on their website; the results of that survey show that over 60% of the school owners opposed lowering the instructional hours. Ms. Cory reported that when the Board's subcommittee looked at the issue, it recommended no action at that time because the school owners didn't support it. In the minutes from that meeting, Mr. Brunt from the School Owners Association noted the lack of support from the schools owners and that the Association was not moving forward at that time. Ms. Cory stated that lowering the instructional hours had not been discussed since then, until the Board received a letter from a school owner who said she had concerns about a survey that was being conducted regarding lowering the required instructional hours. This correspondence was put on the October 2014 agenda.

Ms. Cory noted that at the October 2014 meeting the school owner who raised the issue with the Board said she was very concerned and opposed to lowering the hours. It was noted that the School Owners Association was at the meeting and did not inform the Board at that time they would propose legislation in 2015 to reduce the number of instructional hours. As reflected in the minutes, the Association said at that time that it had conducted a survey of all the schools; but when asked if the Board could have a copy of the results, Ms. Ellis stated that she was unsure whether she had authorization from the Association to share it. Ms. Cory noted that the Board had talked about doing its own survey.

Ms. Cory reported that the proposed legislation was first sent to her on a Saturday morning in January and that same day Ms. Cory called the Board Chair and forwarded the proposed legislation to her. Ms. Cory said she also emailed Ms. Ellis at that point and directly asked whether this bill would be presented this session, and Ms. Ellis did not respond to that question. Ms. Cory also asked Ms. Ellis whether she wished to be added to the Board's next meeting's agenda to discuss the issue with the Board, and it was at the Board's next meeting that Ms. Ellis presented the proposed bill to the Board and gave the Board an update on the survey that the School Owners Association conducted.

Ms. Cory indicated that at the February 9 meeting of the Board, Ms. Ellis mentioned during her discussion of the survey results that the School Owners Association had concerns about the adequacy of the current testing of students. Ms. Cory reported that Ms. Ellis sent a follow-up email noting disappointment that the Board did not take action at the February 9 meeting regarding the issue of testing. However, Ms. Cory noted that issues regarding the testing of students were not an agenda item for that meeting and no information was formally presented to the Board on that issue. Ms. Cory mentioned that they could work with the Association regarding the Board's process for adding items so that they are properly noticed on the agendas for the Board's consideration.

Mr. Hales said there was a comment from Ms. Ellis that the Board is trying to concentrate on inspections and sanitation and has gotten complacent when it comes to ensuring competency of new licensees and that the Board should focus more on the testing of students. Mr. Hales said it was not clear which issue Ms. Ellis thought the Board should address.

Regarding the proposed legislation to lower instructional hours, Mr. Hales discussed five potential issues in terms of this proposal: (1) there will need to be a change in the curriculum if this passes because the Board and schools will need to pull out 400 hours from the current 2,000-hour curriculum; (2) the Board has heard from business owners that under the present 2,000 hour curriculum, students are barely qualified when they get out of school; (3) the Board is unsure how this will affect Idaho licensees and their ability to move to other states; (4) how will the change affect the cost of tuition; and (5) the apprenticeship program

requiring 4,000 hours will now lack parity with the course of instruction approach. The Board would need time to analyze these and any other impacts the lowering of the hours may have.

Ms. Cleland stated that the Senate Commerce and Human Resources Committee needs to be aware that the Board has never declined to work on this issue but that the Board had not been presented with the proposed bill prior to the legislative session.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Ms. Cleland made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:10 am. It was seconded by Ms. Swope. Motion carried.

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Debra J Hummel, Chair

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Merrilyn Cleland

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Bonnie D. Sermon

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Linda Swope

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Christy L Duplantie

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Tana Cory, Bureau Chief