

NEVADA STATE BOARD OF ACCOUNTANCY
Minutes
November 13, 2024

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Nevada State Board of Accountancy is to protect the welfare of the citizens of the State of Nevada by assuring the competency of person's licensed as Certified Public Accountants (CPAs) and compliance with professional standards by the registered CPA firms.

An open meeting of the Nevada State Board of Accountancy was called to order at 8:00 AM by President, Nikki Etherington at the Nevada Society of CPAs, 5422 Longley Lane, Suite A, Reno, Nevada 89502.

Board Members Present:

Nikki Etherington, President	Rick Arpin, Secretary/Treasurer
Charles Russell	Jannet Vreeland

Board Members Absent:

Rachael Thomsen	Ryan Whitman	Michelle Salazar
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Board Staff Present:

Karen Peterson, Counsel
Viki A. Windfeldt, Executive Director
Leslie C. Walsh, Deputy Director

- A. Call to Order, Roll Call and Establish a Quorum
- B. **Public Comment Section:** In accordance with NRS 241.020 Public Comment will be taken prior to the beginning of the meeting.
Note: No one was present for this section of the public comment agenda item.

◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ CONSENT AGENDA ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆

The Consent Agenda contains matters of routine acceptance. The Board Members may approve the consent agenda items as written or, at their discretion, may address individual items for discussion or change.

- *1. Approval of September 18th & October 24th, 2024 Board Meeting Minutes
(For Possible Action)
- *2. Ratification of Applications for Certified Public Accountant (For Possible Action):
Reciprocity Certification:
- | | | | |
|-----------------|------------------|--------------------|----------------|
| Shane Bien | Keith Bien | Michael Cappetta | Thomas Flores |
| Steve Kim | Karen Kulaga | Dominic Laeno | Michelle Moore |
| Leah Resnick | Jessica Rockliff | Karen Schafer Notz | |
| David Sisk | Nataliya Tatum | Brandon Willis | Craig Weaver |
| Michelle Wilson | Jessica Yi | | |

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Agenda Item 2 Continued

Original Certification:

Ishaan Gandhi	Vanessa McDow	Tien Nguyen	Ronnie Ortiz
Victoria Ramirez	Sharvari Shah	Ryan Taylor	

*3. Approval of Change to License Status (For Possible Action):

Retired Status:

Charlie Burdoin	Daniel Kabat	Kenny Kenneth
Constance Lentz	Teresa Mactaggart	Craig Spraker

Inactive Status: Adrienne Wells

*5. Board Approval of CPA Exam Scores: July 1st – September 30th, 2024
(For Possible Action)

This item was removed from the agenda

*6. Board Approval of Fictitious Firm Name (For Possible Action)

- A. Sunflower CFO PLLC
- B. CPA Fallon LLC

*7. Nothing scheduled under this agenda item.

The consent agenda and supporting documents were reviewed by the Board. Motion was made, seconded and carried to approve the consent agenda items. Board Members abstained from voting on applications for Certification as follows: Nikki Etherington for: Karen Kulaga, Leah Resnick, Karen Schafer Notz, Nataliya Tatum, Victoria Ramirez; Charles Russell for Jessica Rockliff, Craig Weaver.

◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ REGULAR AGENDA ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆

Agenda Item 4: Review and Approval of Finances (For Possible Action)

- A. Monthly Income & Expense in compliance with NRS 622.234

Motion was made, seconded and carried to close one of the Board’s CDs and transfer the funds into the Board’s checking account.

Agenda Item 8: Grievance Report and Grievance Matters (For Possible Action)

Note: NRS 241.020 requires the Board to list individuals that may have administrative action taken against them in connection with the Board’s disciplinary grievance report. The Board may convene in closed session to consider the character, alleged misconduct, professional competence or physical or mental health for any of the grievances filed with or disciplinary action considered by the board.

- A. Review of Grievance Report (For Possible Action)

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Agenda Item 8A Continued

Motion was made, seconded and carried to close the following complaint matters based on lack of cause:

R2024.002

I2024.004

I2024.005

I2024.006.

Board Member Charles Russell abstained based on his position with the Enforcement Committee.

B. Board approval of Stipulated Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, Disciplinary and Consent Order for Ernst & Young LLP (*For Possible Action*):

Motion was made, seconded and carried to approve the Stipulated Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, Disciplinary and Consent Order against Ernst & Young LLP with the following provisions:

1. EY's registration PART-0616 shall be, and hereby is SUSPENDED for a period of 30 days; provided however the suspension is stayed with EY being placed on probation until the undertakings ordered by the SEC are complete and accepted by the SEC. The terms of probation require EY to comply fully with the terms of this Disciplinary Order.
2. During the period of probation, EY shall at all times maintain an active license status with the Board, including during the period of stayed suspension.
3. During the probation period, EY shall provide an annual certification to the Board regarding its compliance with the undertakings required in Paragraphs 38-58 of the Order. The annual certification shall include a general and high-level summary addressing such compliance. The first certification shall provide a certification and include a general and high-level summary addressing compliance for each undertaking completed to date, shall be provided under penalty of perjury and shall be submitted within 30 days of the date of this Consent Order. Thereafter, the annual certification shall be submitted to the Board within ten (10) days of the end of the calendar year and provided under penalty of perjury.
4. EY shall provide the Board the number of Nevada clients (based on principal place of business or headquarters) provided notification of the SEC's Order as required by Paragraph 53 of the undertakings, and a statement confirming that EY complied with such client notification requirement, within thirty (30) days from the date of this Consent Order.
5. EY shall pay a civil penalty of \$5,000.00 within thirty (30) days of the date of this Consent Order.
6. EY shall pay the Board's investigative and attorney's fees and costs of \$12,582.00 incurred in its investigation and associated with this Stipulated Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, Disciplinary and Consent Order. This sum shall be paid by EY within thirty (30) days of the date of this Consent Order.
7. The discipline imposed on EY shall be binding upon and apply to any successors or assigns of EY, including but not limited to any subsequent firm formed by the principals of EY or any purchaser or buyer of all or substantially all of the assets of EY. In the event a proposed purchaser of all or substantially all of the assets of EY is an existing firm registered in at least one state, EY may petition the Board to remove the restriction and continued discipline as it would otherwise apply to the purchaser under this

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Agenda Item 8B Continued

provision. The decision not to apply these disciplinary provisions to any potential purchaser shall be within the sole discretion of the Board. However, if the prospective purchaser has no existing discipline before the Board and otherwise would be considered in good standing with the Board, the decision not to apply these disciplinary provisions to any potential purchaser shall not be unreasonably withheld.

8. EY's failure to comply with any of the terms and conditions of this Consent Order shall result in the immediate suspension of EY's registration PART-0616 without any further action or proceeding before the Board.
9. This Consent Order will be published in accordance with NAC 628.450.

Board member Rick Arpin abstained based on his former position on the Boards Enforcement Committee.

- C. Recommendation of Hearing Officer based on the hearings held against the following licensees for failure to comply with the Board's CPE Documentation Audit (*For Possible Action*): (1) Kate Gilman (2) Joy Kandle

Motion was made, seconded and carried to approve the recommendation of the Hearing Officer to revoke the CPA licenses of Kate Gilman and Joy Kandle based on hearings held for failure to comply with the Board's CPE Documentation Audit.

Board Member Charles Russell abstained based on his position with the Enforcement Committee.

- D. Recommendation of Hearing Officer based on the hearing held against Annette Hall CPA and Hall Family CPA PC for failure to respond to Board Staff and Investigator requests for information (*For Possible Action*)

Motion was made, seconded and carried to approve the recommendation of the Hearing Officer to suspend the license of Ms. Hall until the underlying complaint is resolved. Ms. Hall shall pay the Board's attorney's fees and costs incurred in this matter. Ms. Hall shall also be encouraged to take the enforcement matter seriously.

Board Member Charles Russell abstained based on his position with the Enforcement Committee.

Agenda Item 9: Report of Legal Counsel (*For Possible Action*)

Nothing was discussed under this agenda item.

Agenda Item 10: Report of Executive Director (*For Possible Action*):

Administrative Items:

- A. Review of monthly Board statistics

Executive Director provided the Board with a report of the monthly Board office administrative detail statistics since the last Board meeting.

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Agenda Item 10 Continued

B. Nevada State required reporting - monitoring update
Executive Director provided the Board with an updated report of the State of Nevada required Board reporting.

Agenda Item 10 Continued

Miscellaneous Items:

C. Business & Industry/Boards & Commissions Update
Executive Director provided the Board with an update regarding the meetings held with Business & Industry and the proposed consolidated structure of the title 54 Boards.

D. NASBA Annual Meeting Conference Follow Up
Executive Director provided the Board with an update following the NASBA Annual meeting.

Agenda Item 11: Board approval of Application for CPA Certification for Brian Carson *(For Possible Action)*.

Motion was made, seconded and carried to approve the Application for CPA Certification for Brian Carson based on the information provided. Board member Niki Etherington abstained from the vote.

Agenda Item 12: Board approval of CPA Exam Credit and Notice of Schedule Extension Requests *(For Possible Action)*

Motion was made, seconded and carried to approve the NTS extension request of Natnael Haile.

Motion was made seconded and carried to approve the exam credit extension request of Johana Iglesias. Board member Jannet Vreeland abstained from the vote.

Agenda Item 13: Board review of Individual Experience Review report for Nathan Guzman as conducted by Patrick Thorne, CPA *(For Possible Action)*

Motion was made, seconded and carried to approve the recommendation of Investigator Patrick Thorne CPA, indicating Mr. Guzman does not have the required experience for CPA licensure based on the individual review that was conducted.

Agenda Item 14: Board approval of the 2024 Peer Review Report *(For Possible Action)*

Motion was made, seconded and carried to approve the 2024 Peer Review Report as provided.

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- Agenda Item 15: Board review of the following: *(For Possible Action)*
Appearance 8:30 AM
- A. Uniform Accountancy Act Changes
 - B. Competency Based Experience Pathway

Nicole Neilon, CPA came forward to discuss the above items with the Board. The Board discussed the pathways and the Uniform Accountancy Act proposed changes. It was the decision of the Board to send a response back to NASBA in connection with their review of the information provided. Motion was made, seconded and carried to form a committee to draft a response letter. The Board will reconvene at a special meeting on November 26, 2024 to review and approve the letter.

- Agenda Item 16: Board approval of the Board's Audited Financial Statements for Fiscal Year 2023 – 2024 as provided by the firm Casey Neilon, Inc. *(For Possible Action)*
Presented by Suzanne Olsen, CPA **Appearance 10:00 AM**

Suzanne Olsen, CPA of Casey Neilon Inc., came forward to present the Boards audited financial statements for fiscal year 2023-2024. Motion was made, seconded and carried to approve the financial statements as amended.

- Agenda item 17: Board Member & Staff Required Training – Responsibilities & Duties, Ethics & Government and Sexual Harassment *(For Possible Action)*
Brett Kandt, Esq **Appearance 10:30 AM**

This item has been tabled to a future meeting where all new and existing Board Members will be present in order to receive the required training.

- Agenda Item 18: President's report *(For Possible Action)*

The Board expressed their appreciation of Board Members Kerry Eaton, CPA and Jannet Vreeland for the time serving on the Board of Accountancy.

- Agenda Item 19: Next Board Meeting: January 15, 2025 Las Vegas NV

- C. **Public Comment Section:** In accordance with NRS 241.020 Public Comment will be taken prior to the adjournment of the meeting.

Anna Durst of the Nevada Society of CPAs provided comment regarding the Uniform Accountancy Act Changes and the Competency Based Experience Pathway. She indicated that the Nevada Society of CPAs Board will be sending two separate comment letters for each of the topics. Once they have been prepared and approved Ms. Durst will provide copies to the Board of Accountancy.

- D. Adjournment

