

# ALABAMA BOARD OF ATHLETIC TRAINERS

## Board Meeting Minutes February 15, 2022 Briarwood Christian School, Birmingham, Alabama

### Members Present

Robert Agee, MD  
Stephen Guthrie  
Clarke Jackson  
Chris King  
Eric Law, MD  
Wes Richardson  
James Robinson, MD  
Kyle Southall  
Ciara Taylor  
Lydia Thurston

### Members Absent

### Others Present

Leah Taylor, Executive Secretary

The Alabama Board of Athletic Trainers met on February 15, 2022, at the Briarwood Christian School in Birmingham, Alabama. Chairman King declared a quorum present and called the meeting to order at 6:36 p.m. He welcomed everyone and thanked them for their attendance. Chairman King explained that the Board was offering the opportunity to any member of the public who wished to make comments regarding the proposed administrative rules published December 30, 2021, regarding Physician Supervision of Athletic Trainers. He asked if anyone was in attendance who wished to make public comments regarding the rules. There were none present wishing to speak, so Chairman King continued with the meeting without calling a public hearing.

Chairman King called for consideration of the minutes of the December 7, 2021, meeting of the Athletic Trainers Board contained in the meeting folder and called for discussion or corrections. (Attachment 1).

***A motion was made by Dr. James Robinson to approve the minutes of the December 7, 2021, meeting as written. The motion was seconded by Dr. Eric Law and was unanimously approved.***

Chairman King called on Leah Taylor to present the Financial Report. (Attachment 2) There was a brief discussion.

***A motion was made by Kyle Southall and seconded by Lydia Thurston to accept the Financial Report as submitted. Motion was approved unanimously.***

Calling the members' attention to the Administrative Rules covering Physician Supervision of Athletic Trainers in the meeting packet (Attachment 3), he announced that there were no comments made during the comment period nor did anyone appear for a public hearing before the Board placing us in the position to certify and adopt the rules as published.

***Kyle Southall moved that the Board certify and adopt the administrative rules regarding Physician Supervision of Athletic Trainers without change from those published for comment for certification to the Legislative Services Agency. Dr. James Robinson provided the second, and the motion passed unanimously.***

Chairman King explained that the next step would be for Ms. Taylor to certify the rules with Legislative Services Agency no later than February 18, 2022, for a notice of certification to be published in the February 28<sup>th</sup> Alabama Administrative Monthly. The rules will become effective 45 days later on April 14, 2022.

Chairman King then reported on the status of a contract for Board Services. He explained that since our December meeting, the Director of Purchasing had approved an emergency contract of Board services which will cover the period of February 1, 2022 – January 31, 2023. A brief discussion followed.

Chairman King recognized Leah Taylor to bring a report on the continuing 2022 License Renewal process. She presented a renewal status report (Attachment 4) showing the current status of license renewals. Following was a brief discussion of the renewal status report.

Chairman King then presented a listing of 117 renewed licenses needing Board ratification, a list of whom is attached hereto and made a part hereof. (Attachment 5) Following discussion, Chairman King called for a motion.

***Wes Richardson moved that the Board ratify the renewed licenses of all 117 licensees presented. Dr. James Robinson provided the second to the motion, and it carried unanimously.***

Moving into New Business, Chairman King reported that, based upon our new administrative rules regarding physician supervision, it will be necessary to “retire” what has been known as the Physician Consent Form and replace it with the Physician/Athletic Trainer Registration Application (Attachment 6). The new form will incorporate the revised language now contained in our law and administrative rules and conform to the upcoming new procedures. The new form will serve as the Physician’s application and registration form and will contain more information to clarify the role of the supervising physician, the observance of the standard general protocol, and qualifications for supervising an athletic trainer. Although the paper form will not be used very often, it provides the model for the development of the on-line form.

A lengthy discussion followed with various comments and concerns being expressed. The concern was not about the form or its contents, but reflected the concerns of notifying the physicians in advance of the form’s implementation of new restrictions and qualifications so that that a crisis situation is not created in the midst of Fall sports, especially



football. Various suggestions were made regarding updating the online platform with Alabama Interactive and sending a letter to the physicians who are most likely to be affected by the restricted number of athletic trainers that may be supervised. Email and paper letters were discussed. Ms. Taylor explained that she and Chairman King has discussed a letter announcing the changes and including the new protocol. It was generally agreed that advance notification to the physician and athletic trainers is essential for a smoother transition; however, it was not clear if the letter should come from ABME or ABAT. Having a representative from Alabama Interactive attend our May meeting was also discussed.

***A motion was made by Stephen Guthrie and seconded by Dr. James Robinson to accept the Physician/Athletic Trainer Registration Application as presented. The motion carried unanimously.***

Chairman King then presented a revised Application for Licensure (Attachment 7) which conforms with the new language in our law and administrative rules. It also provides the athletic trainer with more information regarding the qualifications and restrictions regarding supervising physicians. This form will be the model for the on-line initial Application for Licensure, and a similar version will be used as the model for the online Renewal Application. Discussion followed, and concerns regarding advance notification were heard as well as the need for on-line instructions and prompts.

***Dr. James Robinson made the motion that the Application for Licensure be accepted as presented. Lydia Thurston provided the second, and the motion passed unanimously.***

Chairman King then reminded everyone of the annual requirement to file a Statement of Economic Interests utilizing the on-line platform on the Ethic Commission's web site. He stated that a reminder notice is contained in the meeting packet (Attachment 8). A brief discussion followed.

Chairman King then recognized Kyle Southall to report on the 2021 Grant Funds received by ALATA. The report is contained in the meeting folder (Attachment 9). It was reported that due to a lack of scholarship applicants, the excess scholarship funds were used to offset some of the production cost expenses which were much higher than expected. The Board expressed agreement in the use of the 2021 grant funds. Mr. Southall also reported that the grant funds have enabled ALATA to keep the meeting registration fees from increasing which benefits each and every athletic trainer by providing quality continuing education at a more affordable price.

At Chairman King's invitation, Kyle Southall presented ALATA's 2022 Education Grant Funds application (Attachment 10). Discussion followed, and the Board agreed they would like to award the grant of \$12,000 as outlined in the Application and will consider the subsequent \$1,000 per year increases up to \$15,000 on a year-to-year basis based upon the justification in the Grant Application and the Board's ability to provide the funds. Mr. Southall reported that they expect to be able to reduce this year's registration fee to \$75-80 due to grant funds, and suggestions for additional ways to benefit the attendees were discussed for future consideration. Ways of assisting athletic trainers experiencing financial hardship attend the

annual meeting were discussed.

***Dr. Robert Agee moved that the Board award ALATA an education grant in the total amount of \$12,000 for education-related expenses associated with the ALATA 2022 annual meeting to be expended as proposed in the Grant Request Application. Ciara Taylor provided the second, and the motion passed with nine Ayes and one abstention.***

Chairman King then presented the names of 13 new licensees for license confirmation/ratification, a list of whom is attached hereto and made a part hereof. (Attachment 11)

***Dr. Eric Law moved that the Board ratify the licenses of all 13 licensees presented. Dr. Robert Agee provided the second to the motion, and it carried unanimously.***

Chairman Chris King reminded the members that ALATA will be conducting our upcoming Board Election to fill the expiring term of Clarke Jackson, who is eligible to serve another term. ALATA will coordinate with Ms. Taylor in establishing the timing of nominations and other aspects of the process so that she can fulfill her obligations regarding notifications. Dr. Agee's term also expires 12/31/2022, but MASA is the appointing authority for that position. Dr. Agee is also eligible to serve another term.

Chairman King recognized Kyle Southall to bring the ALATA report. He proudly reported that ALATA has established an Opportunity Grant in support of its members. The grant is designed to help athletic trainers who are in need of certain essential items, such as a starter kit with supplies, and unable to purchase them themselves. Although the grant is geared toward athletic trainers just beginning to practice, it is not restricted to just that group. He also reported that the ALATA Annual Meeting will take place June 3-5 in Birmingham. More details will be announced later.

Chairman King announced that the Board's next meeting will take place on Saturday, June 4, in Birmingham. The location and more details will be announced once ALATA has established the location and times.

Before adjourning the meeting, Chairman King and the Board took a moment to congratulate Dr. Robinson on his retirement from the University of Alabama. There being no other business, Chairman King declared the meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Chris King, Chairman



Lydia Thurston, Secretary