Department of Licensing and Consumer Protection
Occupational and Professional Licensing
District of Columbia Board of Barber and Cosmetology

MEETING MINUTES
October 5, 2026

The District of Columbia Board of Barber and Cosmetology (Board) held its monthly meeting on **Monday, October 5th, virtually via Zoom Teleconference.** In this Public Meeting and Executive Session, the Board discussed old and new business, regulations, complaints, and investigations.

Dr. Anwar Saleem, Board Chair, called the public meeting to order at **10:09 am** and attendance was taken.

Board Members Present: *Dr. Anwar Saleem (Chair), Ms. Ajia Minnis, Ms. Korie Booker, Ms. Whitney McGill, Jared Scott, Dr. Kimberley Grimes, Mr. Vernon Martin and Ms. Vonetta Dumas Jennings.*

Board Members Absent:. *Mr. David Cavalcante and Mr. Dennis Smith.*

Staff Members Present: *Mr. Matthew Santiago-Cok (Legal Counsel), Mr. Kevin Cyrus (Education Coordinator) Ms. Irina Moore (Exam Coordinator), Mr. Demetrius Norman (Chief Customer Experience Officer), Ms. Kiyana Rayfield (Paralegal). Ms. Taylor Coleman (Policy Analyst), Ms. Allison Brown (Policy Analyst), Mr. Jesse Shredrick (Program Manager) and Ms. Kimberly Troxler (Board Administrator).*

Staff Members Absent: *April Randall (Legislative Director) and Shakira Richardson (Program Manager, CPU).*

Agenda Item: COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

- **Armenetta Holsey –** Listening as an observer.
- **Amina Ndiaye** – Listening as an observer.
- **Angela Enwezor –** Listening as an observer**.**
- **Assista Traore –** Listening as an observer.
- **Didi Green** – Had a questions regarding instructor licenses. Explained the requirements. Also wants to start a small concierge team for seniors in Ward 4. Would like to do hair in the home. Dr. Saleem referred to DOH.
- **Elizabeth –** Had questions regarding offering exams in French, particularly for those seeking licensure as braiders. Ms. Moore said we are working on expanding language offerings for the exam. Also had a concern about braiding classes in the school curriculum. Ms. Minnis explained that the new 200-hour curriculum for braiders now includes actual braiding courses.
- **Elisa Kim (Nail Saloon)** – Listening as an observer.

- **Hauping** – Had questions about starting a program for permanent makeup. Awaiting Board discussion of pending application.
- **Edward Norris** – No response.
- **Latoya Liles Walker –** Had questions regarding the reasons for changing the hours for the instructor licenses. Ms. Minnis responded citing it was a way of eliminating barriers for those who have the ability to teach and lead students.
- **Margurite** – No response.
- **Salamita Sangare** – Expressed concerns about offering the exam in French and adding braiding instruction to the curriculum.

Agenda Item: EXECUTIVE SESSION – CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC

We will now go into executive session, which is closed to the public, in order to consult with our attorneys to seek legal advice; to discuss disciplinary matters; and to deliberate upon decisions in adjudication actions and proceedings, as provided by D.C. Code § 2-575(b)(4)(A), § 2-575(b)(9), and § 2-575(b)(13). We will resume the public portion of the meeting at the conclusion of the executive session. Please stand by for our return if you are participating online.

Upon a motion duly made by Ms. Ajia Minnis, and properly seconded by Ms. Korie Booker, the Board voted unanimously to enter Executive Session via individual roll call.

Agenda Item: CORRESPONDENCE

- None

Agenda Item: BOARD COMMITTEES

- **Apprenticeship Committee (Mr. Jared Scott – Chair), Dr. Grimes, and Mr. Martin)**
  - There was a sub-committee meeting to discuss the changes to the regulations to remove the 500-hour classroom theory requirement (DCMR 3704.5) for all apprentices. Mr. Scott made the point that there's oversight through the Department of Employment Services (DOES) and shops/Salons must present a curriculum. Dr. Saleem wants further discussion based on some upcoming nationwide changes concerning schools that will presented under new business.

- **Legislative Committee**
  - Mr. Santiago-Cok (Legal Counsel), spoke about a unisex license for shops and salons. He and Ms. Randall (Legislative Director) are working on proposed legislation to present to the Board.

- **Education Committee** (**Kevin Cyrus, Education Coordinator**)
  - **Education Report – Continuing Education (CE) Applications**

- **Shawntay's School of Creative Nails**
  Maximizing Salon Success - Classroom / Zoom
  Salon Health, Safety & Infection Control - Classroom / Zoom
- **Thrive Hair Bar, LLC**
  Two Strand Twists 101 - Classroom / Zoom
  Two Strand Flat Twists 101 - Classroom / Zoom
- **Tsunami Hair Studio, LLC**
  Hair Braiding Pre-License Course - Classroom

Upon a motion duly made by Mr. Vernon Martin and seconded by Ms. Korie Booker, the Board voted unanimously to approve the applications for continuing education courses.

As owner of Thrive Hair Bar, LLC, Ms. Ajia Minnis was asked to recuse herself from voting.

- **Practitioner's Forum 2027 –** Looking ahead, Mr. Cyrus and Ms. Minnis discussed increasing the social media presence to attract more participants to the event. A concerned was raised about ensuring that it's advertised only for licensed professionals. It was suggested only releasing the location of the venue to registered licensees.

Agenda Item: OLD BUSINESS

- **None**

Agenda Item: NEW BUSINESS

- **National Apprenticeship Legislation Effecting the Industry –** Mr. Martin discussed the issues concerning Federal legislation under the One Big Beautiful Act eliminating Pell Grants and other aid for students & beauty schools, and the importance of developing a strong apprenticeship program as a work around for those unable to afford school tuition. He cited The American Association of Career Schools (AACS) efforts to appeal the ruling and recommended getting the City Council on Board. Dr. Saleem suggested forming a sub-committee.

Agenda Item: REPORTS

- **Practical Exam Report – September 2026**

Upon a motion duly made by Mr. Vernon Martin and seconded by Ms. Ajia Minnis, the Board voted unanimously to accept the September Practical Exam Report.

Agenda Item: RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Complaints**

    - **Proposed Rule Making to Delay the Implementation of the Training Hours for Braiders & Natural Hair** – The changes will take effect on May 22, 2027.

      Upon a motion duly made by Ms. Ajia Minnis and seconded by Ms. Korie Booker, the Board voted unanimously to approve the updated proposed rulemaking.

    - **Nicolette Harrison** – Unlicensed activity. Licensee has since come into compliance and license has been reinstated.

      Upon a motion duly made by Ms. Ajia Minnis and seconded by Ms. Korie Booker, the Board voted unanimously to dismiss the complaint.

    - **Danyil Lancaster –** Unlicensed activity. Licensee has pending application on file. Awaiting additional documents.

      Upon a motion duly made by Ms. Ajia Minnis and seconded by Ms. Korie Booker, the Board voted unanimously to defer until next board meeting to give CPU the opportunity to conduct 1 more site visit in October as recommended by legal counsel.

    - **Anthony Robinson –** Unlicensed activity. Licensee has pending application on file. Awaiting additional documents.

      Upon a motion duly made by Ms. Ajia Minnis and seconded by Ms. Korie Booker, the Board voted unanimously to defer until next board meeting to give CPU the opportunity to conduct 1 more site visit in October as recommended by legal counsel.

Agenda Item: ADJOURNMENT

- Meeting Ended at **12:17pm**

    - *Upon a motion duly made by Ms. Ajia Minnis and seconded by Mr. Vernon Martin, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting.*

Respectfully submitted,

Anwar Saleem

Dr. Anwar Saleem, Board Chair

November 2, 2026

Date

Minutes Recorded & Prepared by: Ms. Kimberly Troxler, Board Administrator