GEORGIA BOARD OF DENTISTRY
Virtual Dental Hygiene Committee Meeting
May 5, 2026 Minutes

The following Committee members were present:
Ms. Misty Mattingly, Committee Chair
Dr. David Reznik, Board President
Ms. Lisa Selfe
Dr. Glenn Maron
12 Total Attendees including:
Valerie Dangler
Jon Hoin
Anita La Tourette
Margaret Conrad
Hammond Waddell

Staff present:
Ms. Itovia Evans, Deputy Director – Licensing
Mr. Stacy Altman, Deputy Director – Compliance & Investigation
Ms. Kimberly Holland, Compliance Investigator
Ms. Angela Johnson, Board Administrative Support

Suzanne Newkirk
Yvette Fletcher Sanders
Lamara Moore
Janelle Adams

Open Session

Ms. Selfe established that a quorum was present and called the meeting to order at 05:11 p.m.

Ms. Selfe welcomed attendees. She apologized for the delayed start due to technical difficulties with Microsoft Teams that affected members' ability to join.

Approval of Minutes
Dr. Reznik made a motion to approve the Public Session minutes from the January 7, 2026, meeting. Ms. Mattingly seconded, and the Committee voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

Discussion
Expanding Laser Use to Include Photobiomodulation (PBM) Therapy - Rule 150-5-.08. Use of a Dental Diode Laser by a Dental Hygienist
The Committee reviewed proposed amendments to the dental hygiene laser rule concerning the use of photobiomodulation (PBM) by dental hygienists under direct supervision. The primary discussion centered on the placement and wording of the PBM language within the rule.

Dr. Reznik expressed concern that placing photobiomodulation language at the beginning of the rule shifted the focus away from the rule's primary purpose, which is regulating the use of dental diode lasers by dental hygienists. He supported allowing PBM but recommended relocating the language to a separate subsection rather than making it the opening provision.

The Committee discussed whether PBM should include treatment of herpetic lesions and aphthous ulcers. Dr. Reznik opposed expanding the rule in a manner that could be interpreted as authorizing dental hygienists to treat soft tissue lesions, stating that diagnosis and treatment of such conditions remain within the dentist's scope of practice. Other participants noted that hygienists in several states have used PBM for these purposes under dentist supervision for many years.

After discussion, the Committee agreed to revise the rule by:
- Retaining the existing language governing the use of dental diode lasers by dental hygienists under direct supervision.
- Moving the photobiomodulation language to a separate subsection.

- Adding language specifying that PBM procedures performed by a dental hygienist must be non-ablative and may not involve cutting, coagulation, vaporization, or tissue ablation.

Due to technical difficulties and temporary loss of a quorum, the Committee paused formal action until an additional Board member joined the meeting.

Once a quorum was reestablished with Dr. Maron joining the call, Dr. Reznik made a motion to approve the revised language and forward the proposed amendment to the full Board for consideration. Dr. Maron seconded, and the Committee voted in favor of the motion.

Dr. Reznik thanked everyone for attending and expressed his appreciation for the public's participation. He emphasized the importance of continuing efforts to improve access to dental care throughout Georgia.

There was no Executive Session.

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 5:55 p.m.

The next scheduled meeting of the Hygiene Committee will be determined at a later date.

Minutes recorded by Angela C. Johnson, Board Administrative Secretary
Edited by J. Clinton Joiner, II, Executive Director