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The North Dakota State Board of Cosmetology held a special meeting on Friday, May 24, 2024, at :30 p.m. at the board office, 4719 Shelburne St., Suite 1, Bismarck, N.D., also via zoom.

Present:

D'Arlyn Bauer, PHD, RN, Board President Maureen Wanner, Cosmetologist, Board Vice President, acting Secretary Emily Wilcox, Cosmetologist

Not Present Cindy Ripplinger, Cosmetologist Miranda Stanley, FNP

D'Arlyn opens the meeting at 4:35 pm to discuss a public statement from ND State Board of Cosmetology Regarding Hair Society Institute of Cosmetology.

It is the board's intention to be as transparent as possible to the students and the public.

D'Arlyn made a motion to approve the following statement and have it published on our social media sites and website:

To Our Community,

We at the ND State Board of Cosmetology want to address recent concerns regarding the Hair Society Institute of Cosmetology. We understand this situation has caused some anxiety, and we want to assure everyone we are handling this matter with the utmost care and transparency.

It's important to us that everyone involved receives fair and due process within the scope of our authority. Our decisions are based on the facts available to us, and we depend on the documentation provided to be honest and accurate.

The ND State Board of Cosmetology is responsible for ensuring public safety, which includes overseeing schools and students to ensure adequate training. The students' education and future are our top priorities. We do not intend to close the school unless it becomes necessary due to continued non-compliance with required standards. We are committed to working with the Hair Society Institute of Cosmetology to address any issues and ensure that students receive the quality education they deserve.

The Board is addressing complaints that fall within our scope of authority, including the failure to maintain accurate and up-to-date student records, not employing the required number of full-time instructors, implementing temporary operating hours, and ensuring all student contracts are updated to reflect these temporary changes.

Regarding allegations of unprofessional conduct, it's important to note that the Board rarely has the authority to deem actions unprofessional unless a civil action has been taken against the school and they have lost the case.

We will take steps in the best interest of the students and the community while upholding the laws, rules and regulations of NDCC ch. 43-11 and NDAC Title 32. Thank you for your understanding and support as we navigate this challenging situation.

Emily seconded the motion. All voting: Emily (y), Maureen (y), D'Arlyn (y). Motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 5:05 pm.