# School Ethics Commission Meeting Public Session Minutes

# **April 21, 2020**

Chairperson Robert Bender called the meeting of the School Ethics Commission (Commission) to order at 9:33 a.m.

Notice of the meeting was provided to the State House Press Corps and the Secretary of State and filed as required by the Open Public Meetings Act.

#### I. Roll Call

Roll Call	Robert Bender	Michael Carucci	Michael Collins	Mark Finkelstein	Dennis Roberts	Jude A. Tanella	Richard Tomko	Total
Present	X		X	X	X*	X	X	5
Absent		X						2

Also in attendance were Kathryn Whalen, Director, Offices of School Ethics and Compliance, staff member Jeannine Pizzigoni, and Deputy Attorney General (DAG) Jaclyn Frey. Everyone in attendance at the meeting participated via telephone due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

\*Commissioner Roberts joined the meeting at 9:52 a.m.

#### II. First Public Comment

At the start of the meeting, Director Whalen explained to the public (who also accessed the meeting by telephone due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic) how the meeting would be conducted. More specifically, it was explained that the public would be afforded the opportunity to provide public comment regarding his/her case; the Commission would then adjourn to executive session (on a different conference line); the Commission would return to public at approximately 12:00 p.m.; at that time, members of the public would be afforded another opportunity to provide public comment in connection with his/her case; and then the Commission would vote on matters pertinent to its business.

9:34 a.m. Gavin Rozzi, the named Complainant in C73-19, noted his attendance but did not offer any public comments.

No other member of the public appeared and/or offered public comments.

#### III. Executive Session

Vote

Vote	Robert Bender	Michael Carucci	Michael Collins	Mark Finkelstein	Dennis Roberts	Jude A. Tanella	Richard Tomko	Total
Yes	X		X	X		X	X	5
No								0
Abstention								0

#### IV. Return to Public/Second Public Comment

At **12:01 p.m.**, a motion was made by Jude Tanella, and seconded by Michael Collins, to return to public session for the purpose of receiving public comment/testimony.

Vote

Vote	Robert Bender	Michael Carucci	Michael Collins	Mark Finkelstein	Dennis Roberts	Jude A. Tanella	Richard Tomko	Total
Yes	X		X	X	X	X	X	6
No								0
Abstention								0

12:02 p.m. Gavin Rozzi, the named Complainant in C73-19, again noted his attendance, and indicated that he would be relying on the papers as submitted. Mr. Rozzi also thanked the Commission for its consideration.

12:03 p.m. Cathy Gurbisz, the named Respondent in C05-20, noted her attendance, and inquired about the process and procedure moving forward. Director Whalen explained the process to Respondent, including that a decision would be sent to her on today's date, and also encouraged Ms. Gurbisz to contact the office with any other questions or concerns. Ms. Gurbisz did not offer any other public comment.

12:04 p.m. Richard Bidnick, a member of the public, noted his attendance but did not offer any public comment regarding any matter.

# V. Complaints to Review

C09-19 Motion was made by Mark Finkelstein, and seconded by Dennis Roberts, to draft a decision as discussed.

Vote

Vote	Robert Bender		Mark Finkelstein	Dennis Roberts	Jude A. Tanella	Richard Tomko	Total
Yes	X	X	X	X	X	X	6
No							0
Abstention							0

C72-19 Motion was made by Dennis Roberts, and seconded by Mark Finkelstein, to draft a decision as discussed.

Vote

Vote	Robert Bender	Michael Carucci		Mark Finkelstein	Dennis Roberts	Jude A. Tanella	Richard Tomko	Total
Yes	X		X	X	X	X	X	6
No								0
Abstention								0

C73-19 and C02-20 (Consolidated) Motion was made by Richard Tomko, and seconded by Jude Tanella, to draft a decision as discussed.

Vote

Vote		Michael Carucci		Mark Finkelstein	Dennis Roberts	Jude A. Tanella	Richard Tomko	Total
Yes	X		X	X	X	X	X	6
No								0
Abstention								0

C75-19 Motion was made by Richard Tomko, and seconded by Dennis Roberts, to draft a decision as discussed.

Vote

Vote	Robert Bender	Michael Carucci	Michael Collins	Mark Finkelstein	Dennis Roberts	Jude A. Tanella	Richard Tomko	Total
Yes	X		X	X	X	X	X	6
No								0
Abstention								0

**C04-20** Motion was made by Jude Tanella, and seconded by Dennis Roberts, to draft a decision as discussed.

# Vote

Vote	Robert Bender	Michael Carucci		Mark Finkelstein	Dennis Roberts	Jude A. Tanella	Richard Tomko	Total
Yes	X		X	X	X	X	X	6
No								0
Abstention								0

# Orders to Show Cause

**T12-19** Motion was made by Mark Finkelstein, and seconded by Jude Tanella, to adopt the Order to Show Cause as written, and to mail it.

Vote	Robert Bender	Michael Carucci		Mark Finkelstein	Dennis Roberts	Jude A. Tanella	Richard Tomko	Total
Yes	X		X	X	X	X	X	6
No								0
Abstention								0

T13-19 Motion was made by Mark Finkelstein, and seconded by Jude Tanella, to adopt the Order to Show Cause as written, and to mail it.

Vote

Vote	Robert Bender	Michael Carucci	Michael Collins	Mark Finkelstein	Dennis Roberts	Jude A. Tanella	Richard Tomko	Total
Yes	X		X	X	X	X	X	6
No								0
Abstention								0

**T14-19** Motion was made by Mark Finkelstein, and seconded by Jude Tanella, to adopt the Order to Show Cause as written, and to mail it.

#### Vote

Vote	Robert Bender	Michael Carucci		Mark Finkelstein	Dennis Roberts	Jude A. Tanella	Richard Tomko	Total
Yes	X		X	X	X	X	X	6
No								0
Abstention								0

T15-19 Motion was made by Mark Finkelstein, and seconded by Jude Tanella, to adopt the Order to Show Cause as written, and to mail it.

Vote	Robert Bender	Michael Carucci		Mark Finkelstein	Dennis Roberts	Jude A. Tanella	Richard Tomko	Total
Yes	X		X	X	X	X	X	6
No								0
Abstention								0

T16-19 Motion was made by Mark Finkelstein, and seconded by Jude Tanella, to adopt the Order to Show Cause as written, and to mail it.

Vote	Robert Bender	Michael Carucci	Michael Collins	Mark Finkelstein	Dennis Roberts	Jude A. Tanella	Richard Tomko	Total
Yes	X		X	X	X	X	X	6
No								0
Abstention								0

T17-19 Motion was made by Mark Finkelstein, and seconded by Jude Tanella, to adopt the Order to Show Cause as written, and to mail it.

#### Vote

Vote	Robert Bender	Michael Carucci	Michael Collins	Mark Finkelstein	Dennis Roberts	Jude A. Tanella	Richard Tomko	Total
Yes	X		X	X	X	X	X	6
No								0
Abstention								0

**T18-19** Motion was made by Mark Finkelstein, and seconded by Jude Tanella, to adopt the Order to Show Cause as written, and to mail it.

Vote	Robert Bender		Mark Finkelstein	Dennis Roberts	Jude A. Tanella	Richard Tomko	Total
Yes	X	X	X	X	X	X	6
No							0
Abstention							0

**T19-19** Motion was made by Mark Finkelstein, and seconded by Jude Tanella, to adopt the Order to Show Cause as written, and to mail it.

Vote	Robert Bender	Michael Carucci	Michael Collins	Mark Finkelstein	Dennis Roberts	Jude A. Tanella	Richard Tomko	Total
Yes	X		X	X	X	X	X	6
No								0
Abstention								0

**T20-19** Motion was made by Mark Finkelstein, and seconded by Jude Tanella, to adopt the Order to Show Cause as written, and to mail it.

#### Vote

Vote	Robert Bender	Michael Collins	Mark Finkelstein	Dennis Roberts	Jude A. Tanella	Richard Tomko	Total
Yes	X	X	X	X	X	X	6
No							0
Abstention							0

**T21-19** Motion was made by Mark Finkelstein, and seconded by Jude Tanella, to adopt the Order to Show Cause as written, and to mail it.

Vote	Robert Bender		Mark Finkelstein	Dennis Roberts	Jude A. Tanella	Richard Tomko	Total
Yes	X	X	X	X	X	X	6
No							0
Abstention							0

**T22-19** Motion was made by Mark Finkelstein, and seconded by Jude Tanella, to adopt the Order to Show Cause as written, and to mail it.

Vote

Vote	Robert Bender	Michael Carucci	Michael Collins	Mark Finkelstein	Dennis Roberts	Jude A. Tanella	Richard Tomko	Total
Yes	X		X	X	X	X	X	6
No								0
Abstention								0

**T23-19** Motion was made by Mark Finkelstein, and seconded by Jude Tanella, to adopt the Order to Show Cause as written, and to mail it.

#### Vote

Vote	Robert Bender		Mark Finkelstein	Dennis Roberts	Jude A. Tanella	Richard Tomko	Total
Yes	X	X	X	X	X	X	6
No							0
Abstention							0

**T24-19** Motion was made by Mark Finkelstein, and seconded by Jude Tanella, to adopt the Order to Show Cause as written, and to mail it.

Vote	Robert Bender		Mark Finkelstein	Dennis Roberts	Jude A. Tanella	Richard Tomko	Total
Yes	X	X	X	X	X	X	6
No							0
Abstention							0

**T25-19** Motion was made by Mark Finkelstein, and seconded by Jude Tanella, to adopt the Order to Show Cause as written, and to mail it.

Vote	Robert Bender	Michael Carucci	Michael Collins	Mark Finkelstein	Dennis Roberts	Jude A. Tanella	Richard Tomko	Total
Yes	X		X	X	X	X	X	6
No								0
Abstention								0

**T26-19** Motion was made by Mark Finkelstein, and seconded by Jude Tanella, to adopt the Order to Show Cause as written, and to mail it.

#### Vote

Vote	Robert Bender	Michael Carucci	Michael Collins	Mark Finkelstein	Dennis Roberts	Jude A. Tanella	Richard Tomko	Total
Yes	X		X	X	X	X	X	6
No								0
Abstention								0

**T27-19** Motion was made by Mark Finkelstein, and seconded by Jude Tanella, to adopt the Order to Show Cause as written, and to mail it.

Vote		Michael Carucci		Mark Finkelstein	Dennis Roberts	Jude A. Tanella	Richard Tomko	Total
Yes	X		X	X	X	X	X	6
No								0
Abstention								0

**T28-19** Motion was made by Mark Finkelstein, and seconded by Jude Tanella, to adopt the Order to Show Cause as written, and to mail it.

Vote	Robert Bender	Michael Carucci	Michael Collins	Mark Finkelstein	Dennis Roberts	Jude A. Tanella	Richard Tomko	Total
Yes	X		X	X	X	X	X	6
No								0
Abstention								0

**T29-19** Motion was made by Mark Finkelstein, and seconded by Jude Tanella, to adopt the Order to Show Cause as written, and to mail it.

#### Vote

Vote	Robert Bender	Michael Carucci		Mark Finkelstein	Dennis Roberts	Jude A. Tanella	Richard Tomko	Total
Yes	X		X	X	X	X	X	6
No								0
Abstention								0

**T30-19** Motion was made by Mark Finkelstein, and seconded by Jude Tanella, to adopt the Order to Show Cause as written, and to mail it.

Vote		Michael Carucci		Mark Finkelstein	Dennis Roberts	Jude A. Tanella	Richard Tomko	Total
Yes	X		X	X	X	X	X	6
No								0
Abstention								0

**T31-19** Motion was made by Mark Finkelstein, and seconded by Jude Tanella, to adopt the Order to Show Cause as written, and to mail it.

Vote	Robert Bender	Michael Carucci	Michael Collins	Mark Finkelstein	Dennis Roberts	Jude A. Tanella	Richard Tomko	Total
Yes	X		X	X	X	X	X	6
No								0
Abstention								0

**T32-19** Motion was made by Mark Finkelstein, and seconded by Jude Tanella, to adopt the Order to Show Cause as written, and to mail it.

#### Vote

Vote			Mark Finkelstein	Dennis Roberts	Jude A. Tanella	Richard Tomko	Total
Yes	X	X	X	X	X	X	6
No							0
Abstention							0

**T33-19** Motion was made by Mark Finkelstein, and seconded by Jude Tanella, to adopt the Order to Show Cause as written, and to mail it.

Vote		Michael Carucci		Mark Finkelstein	Dennis Roberts	Jude A. Tanella	Richard Tomko	Total
Yes	X		X	X	X	X	X	6
No								0
Abstention								0

# VI. Decisions to Adopt as Written

**C09-15** Motion was made by Dennis Roberts, and seconded by Richard Tomko, to adopt the decision as written.

Vote

Vote	Robert Bender	Michael Carucci	Michael Collins	Mark Finkelstein	Dennis Roberts	Jude A. Tanella	Richard Tomko	Total
Yes	X			X	X		X	4
No								0
Abstention			X			X		2

C60-19 Motion was made by Dennis Roberts, and seconded by Richard Tomko, to adopt the decision as written.

Vote

Vote	Robert Bender	Michael Collins	Mark Finkelstein	Dennis Roberts	Jude A. Tanella	Richard Tomko	Total
Yes	X		X	X		X	4
No							0
Abstention		X			X		2

C62-19, C69-19, and C70-19 (Consolidated) Motion was made by Dennis Roberts, and seconded by Richard Tomko, to adopt the decision as written.

Vote

Vote		Michael Carucci		Mark Finkelstein	Dennis Roberts	Jude A. Tanella	Richard Tomko	Total
Yes	X			X	X		X	4
No								0
Abstention			X			X		2

C63-19 Motion was made by Dennis Roberts, and seconded by Mark Finkelstein, to adopt the decision as written.

# Vote

Vote	Robert Bender	Michael Carucci	Michael Collins	Mark Finkelstein	Dennis Roberts	Jude A. Tanella	Richard Tomko	Total
Yes	X			X	X			3
No								0
Abstention			X			X	X	3

**C67-19** Motion was made by Dennis Roberts, and seconded by Richard Tomko, to adopt the decision as written.

# Vote

Vote	Robert Bender	Michael Carucci		Mark Finkelstein	Dennis Roberts	Jude A. Tanella	Richard Tomko	Total
Yes	X			X	X		X	4
No								0
Abstention			X			X		2

C68-19 Motion was made by Dennis Roberts, and seconded by Mark Finkelstein, to adopt the decision as written.

Vote		Michael Carucci		Mark Finkelstein	Dennis Roberts	Jude A. Tanella	Richard Tomko	Total
Yes	X			X	X			3
No								0
Abstention			X			X	X	3

C74-19 Motion was made by Dennis Roberts, and seconded by Richard Tomko, to adopt the decision as written.

Vote

Vote	Robert Bender		Mark Finkelstein	Dennis Roberts	Jude A. Tanella	Richard Tomko	Total
Yes	X		X	X		X	4
No							0
Abstention		X			X		2

**C01-20** Motion was made by Dennis Roberts, and seconded by Richard Tomko, to adopt the decision as written.

# Vote

Vote	Robert Bender	Michael Carucci		Mark Finkelstein	Dennis Roberts	Jude A. Tanella	Richard Tomko	Total
Yes	X			X	X		X	4
No								0
Abstention			X			X		2

C05-20 Motion was made by Dennis Roberts, and seconded by Richard Tomko, to adopt the decision as written.

Vote	Robert Bender		Mark Finkelstein	Dennis Roberts	Jude A. Tanella	Richard Tomko	Total
Yes	X		X	X		X	4
No							0
Abstention		X			X		2

# VII. Advisory Opinions

**A09-20** Motion was made by Richard Tomko, and seconded by Mark Finkelstein, to draft correspondence requesting additional information.

Vote

Vote	Robert Bender	Michael Carucci		Mark Finkelstein	Dennis Roberts	Jude A. Tanella	Richard Tomko	Total
Yes	X		X	X	X	X	X	6
No								0
Abstention								0

**A05-20** Motion was made by Richard Tomko, and seconded by Dennis Roberts, to adopt the advisory opinion as written.

# Vote

Vote	Robert Bender	Michael Carucci		Mark Finkelstein	Dennis Roberts	Jude A. Tanella	Richard Tomko	Total
Yes	X			X	X		X	4
No								0
Abstention			X			X		2

**A06-20** Motion was made by Richard Tomko, and seconded by Dennis, to adopt the advisory opinion as written.

Vote		Michael Carucci		Mark Finkelstein	Dennis Roberts	Jude A. Tanella	Richard Tomko	Total
Yes	X			X	X		X	4
No								0
Abstention			X			X		2

**A07-20** Motion was made by Richard Tomko, and seconded by Dennis Roberts, to adopt the advisory opinion as written.

Vote

Vote	Robert Bender	Michael Carucci	Michael Collins	Mark Finkelstein	Dennis Roberts	Jude A. Tanella	Richard Tomko	Total
Yes	X			X	X		X	4
No								0
Abstention			X			X		2

**A08-20** Motion was made by Richard Tomko, and seconded by Dennis Roberts, to adopt the advisory opinion as written.

Vote

Vote	Robert Bender	Michael Carucci		Mark Finkelstein	Dennis Roberts	Jude A. Tanella	Richard Tomko	Total
Yes	X			X	X		X	4
No								0
Abstention			X			X		2

# VIII. Administrative Dismissals

C06-20 This was on the agenda for informational purposes only.

#### IX. Other Business

C10-20 A motion was made by Richard Tomko, and seconded by Dennis Roberts to draft correspondence informing the parties this matter will be held in abeyance.

Vote

Vote	Robert Bender	Michael Collins	Mark Finkelstein	Dennis Roberts	Jude A. Tanella	Richard Tomko	Total
Yes	X	X	X	X	X	X	6
No							0
Abstention							0

Chairperson to select nominating committee (3 persons) to select nominee for Chairperson (July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021). This matter was on the agenda for informational purposes only.

**Discussion of 2021 Commission meeting dates/times**. This matter was on the agenda for informational purposes only.

#### X. Minutes

Motion was made by Dennis Roberts, and seconded by Richard Tomko, to adopt the minutes of the special meeting (public and executive) conducted on March 27, 2020, as written.

Vote

Vote		Michael Carucci		Mark Finkelstein	Dennis Roberts	Jude A. Tanella	Richard Tomko	Total
Yes	X			X	X		X	4
No								0
Abstention			X			X		2

# XI. Adjournment

At 12:17 p.m., a motion was made by Michael Collins, and seconded by Richard Tomko, to adjourn.

Vote

Vote	Robert Bender	Michael Carucci	Michael Collins	Mark Finkelstein	Dennis Roberts	Jude A. Tanella	Richard Tomko	Total
Yes	X		X	X	X	X	X	6
No								0
Abstention								0

Submitted by:
Jeannine Pizzigoni
Approved by:
Approved by.
Kathryn A. Whalen, Director