

School Ethics Commission Meeting Public Session Minutes

August 25, 2026

Chairperson Roberts called the regularly scheduled meeting of the School Ethics Commission (Commission or SEC) 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	Michael Carucci	Mark Finkelstein	Patricia Gois	Dennis Roberts	Carol E. Sabo	Richard Tomko	Total
Present	X ¹	X ²	X ³	X	X	X ⁴	6
Absent							0

Also, in attendance were Brigid Martens, Director; Dana Jones and Jeannine Pizzigoni, staff members for the Office of School Ethics and Anna Toor and Colin Klika,⁵ Deputy Attorneys General (DAG).

II. First Public Comment

There were not any members of the public present.

III. Executive Session

At 9:36 a.m., the following Resolution was read:

Whereas, the Open Public Meetings Act (*N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 et seq.*) authorizes the Commission, a public body, to meet in Executive Session under certain circumstances; and

Whereas, the Open Public Meetings Act requires that the Commission adopt a Resolution at a public meeting to go into Executive Session; and

Now therefore be it resolved that, consistent with the provisions of *N.J.A.C. 10:4-12(b)*, the Commission will adjourn to Executive Session to discuss matters which, by

¹ Commissioner Carucci attended the meeting virtually.

² Commissioner Finkelstein attended the meeting virtually.

³ Commissioner Gois attended the meeting virtually.

⁴ Commissioner Tomko attended the meeting virtually.

⁵ DAG Klika left the meeting at 9:39 a.m. after updating the Commission on the matter.

statute, are regarded as confidential and also to discuss matters possibly involving litigation: C93-22; C107-22; C54-24; C98-25 and C99-25 (Consolidated); C15-26; C28-26; C31-26; C32-26; C33-26; C34-26 and C35-26 (Consolidated); C90-24; C105-25; C11-26; C20-26; C23-26; C24-26; C25-26; C30-26; T02-26; T03-26; T04-26; T05-26; A15-26; A16-26; T01-26; T06-26; Doctrine of Necessity submitted by the Cedar Grove Board of Education; DAG Colin Klika to present a settlement offer in connection with C48-24; Adopt a Resolution of Censure in connection with C64-22, C77-22 and C92-22 (Consolidated); Consider Complainant's request to supplement the Complaint in connection with C82-26; Provide an update on the Commissioner of Education's decision related to C75-18; and Provide an update on the status of the matter in connection with C101-24; and

Now therefore be it further resolved that the Commission will return to open session to conduct business at the conclusion of Executive Session.

Motion was made by Carol E. Sabo, and seconded by Michael Carucci, to adjourn to Executive Session to discuss the matters set forth in the foregoing Resolution.

Vote

Vote	Michael Carucci	Mark Finkelstein	Patricia Gois	Dennis Roberts	Carol E. Sabo	Richard Tomko	Total
Yes	X	X	X	X	X	X	6
No							0
Abstention							0

IV. Return to Public

At **11:22 a.m.**, a motion was made by Carol E. Sabo, and seconded by Mark Finkelstein, to return to public session for the purpose of receiving public comment/testimony, and to vote on matters discussed in Executive Session (as appropriate).

Vote

Vote	Michael Carucci	Mark Finkelstein	Patricia Gois	Dennis Roberts	Carol E. Sabo	Richard Tomko	Total
Yes	X	X	X	X	X	X	6
No							0
Abstention							0

V. Complaints to Review

C93-22 Motion was made by Mark Finkelstein, and seconded by Patricia Gois, to draft a decision as discussed.

Vote

Vote	Michael Carucci	Mark Finkelstein	Patricia Gois	Dennis Roberts	Carol E. Sabo	Richard Tomko	Total
Yes		X	X	X	X		4
No							0
Abstention	X ⁶					X ⁷	2

⁶ Commissioner Carucci has a conflict, and therefore, he did not participate in the discussion and/or vote related to this matter.

⁷ Commissioner Tomko has a conflict, and therefore, did not participate in the discussion and/or vote related to this matter.

C107-22 Motion was made by Patricia Gois, and seconded by Mark Finkelstein, to draft a decision as discussed.

Vote

Vote	Michael Carucci	Mark Finkelstein	Patricia Gois	Dennis Roberts	Carol E. Sabo	Richard Tomko	Total
Yes	X	X	X	X	X	X	6
No							0
Abstention							0

C54-24 Motion was made by Mark Finkelstein, and seconded by Carol E. Sabo, to draft a decision as discussed.

Vote

Vote	Michael Carucci	Mark Finkelstein	Patricia Gois	Dennis Roberts	Carol E. Sabo	Richard Tomko	Total
Yes	X	X	X	X	X	X	6
No							0
Abstention							0

C98-25 and C99-25 (Consolidated) Motion was made by Richard Tomko, and seconded by Patricia Gois, to draft a decision as discussed.

Vote

Vote	Michael Carucci	Mark Finkelstein	Patricia Gois	Dennis Roberts	Carol E. Sabo	Richard Tomko	Total
Yes	X	X	X	X	X	X	6
No							0
Abstention							0

C15-26 Motion was made by Dennis Roberts, and seconded by Patricia Gois, to draft a decision as discussed.

Vote

Vote	Michael Carucci	Mark Finkelstein	Patricia Gois	Dennis Roberts	Carol E. Sabo	Richard Tomko	Total
Yes	X	X	X	X	X		5
No							0
Abstention						X ⁸	1

C28-26 Motion was made by Michael Carucci and seconded by Patricia Gois, to draft a decision as discussed.

Vote

Vote	Michael Carucci	Mark Finkelstein	Patricia Gois	Dennis Roberts	Carol E. Sabo	Richard Tomko	Total
Yes	X	X	X	X	X		5
No							0
Abstention						X ⁹	1

C31-26 Motion was made by Dennis Roberts, and seconded by Mark Finkelstein, to draft a decision as discussed.

Vote

Vote	Michael Carucci	Mark Finkelstein	Patricia Gois	Dennis Roberts	Carol E. Sabo	Richard Tomko	Total
Yes	X	X	X	X	X	X	6
No							0
Abstention							0

⁸ Commissioner Tomko has a conflict, and therefore, did not participate in the discussion and/or vote related to this matter.

⁹ Commissioner Tomko has a conflict, and therefore, did not participate in the discussion and/or vote related to this matter.

C32-26 Motion was made by Patricia Gois, and seconded by Carol E. Sabo, to draft a decision as discussed.

Vote

Vote	Michael Carucci	Mark Finkelstein	Patricia Gois	Dennis Roberts	Carol E. Sabo	Richard Tomko	Total
Yes	X	X	X	X	X	X	6
No							0
Abstention							0

C33-26 Motion was made by Richard Tomko, and seconded by Mark Finkelstein, to draft a decision as discussed.

Vote

Vote	Michael Carucci	Mark Finkelstein	Patricia Gois	Dennis Roberts	Carol E. Sabo	Richard Tomko	Total
Yes	X	X	X	X	X	X	6
No							0
Abstention							0

C34-26 and C35-26 (Consolidated) Motion was made by Mark Finkelstein, and seconded by Patricia Gois, to draft a decision as discussed.

Vote

Vote	Michael Carucci	Mark Finkelstein	Patricia Gois	Dennis Roberts	Carol E. Sabo	Richard Tomko	Total
Yes		X	X	X	X		4
No							0
Abstention	X ¹⁰					X ¹¹	2

¹⁰ Commissioner Carucci has a conflict, and therefore, did not participate in the discussion and/or vote related to this matter.

¹¹ Commissioner Tomko has a conflict, and therefore, did not participate in the discussion and/or vote related to this matter.

VI. Decisions to Adopt as Written¹²

C90-24 Motion was made by Richard Tomko, and seconded by Carol E. Sabo, to adopt the decision as written.

Vote

Vote	Michael Carucci	Mark Finkelstein	Patricia Gois	Dennis Roberts	Carol E. Sabo	Richard Tomko	Total
Yes	X	X	X	X	X	X	6
No							0
Abstention							0

C105-25 Motion was made by Richard Tomko, and seconded by Carol E. Sabo, to adopt the decision as written.

Vote

Vote	Michael Carucci	Mark Finkelstein	Patricia Gois	Dennis Roberts	Carol E. Sabo	Richard Tomko	Total
Yes	X	X	X	X	X	X	6
No							0
Abstention							0

C11-26 Motion was made by Richard Tomko, and seconded by Carol E. Sabo, to adopt the decision as written.

Vote

Vote	Michael Carucci	Mark Finkelstein	Patricia Gois	Dennis Roberts	Carol E. Sabo	Richard Tomko	Total
Yes	X	X	X	X	X	X	6
No							0
Abstention							0

¹² Director Martens briefed the Commission on each matter, except for C30-26. Dana Jones briefed the Commission on C30-26.

C20-26 Motion was made by Richard Tomko, and seconded by Carol E. Sabo, to adopt the decision as written.

Vote

Vote	Michael Carucci	Mark Finkelstein	Patricia Gois	Dennis Roberts	Carol E. Sabo	Richard Tomko	Total
Yes	X	X	X	X	X	X	6
No							0
Abstention							0

C23-26 Motion was made by Richard Tomko, and seconded by Carol E. Sabo, to adopt the decision as written.

Vote

Vote	Michael Carucci	Mark Finkelstein	Patricia Gois	Dennis Roberts	Carol E. Sabo	Richard Tomko	Total
Yes	X	X	X	X	X	X	6
No							0
Abstention							0

C24-26 Motion was made by Richard Tomko, and seconded by Carol E. Sabo, to adopt the decision as written.

Vote

Vote	Michael Carucci	Mark Finkelstein	Patricia Gois	Dennis Roberts	Carol E. Sabo	Richard Tomko	Total
Yes	X	X	X	X	X	X	6
No							0
Abstention							0

C25-26 Motion was made by Richard Tomko, and seconded by Carol E. Sabo, to adopt the decision as written.

Vote

Vote	Michael Carucci	Mark Finkelstein	Patricia Gois	Dennis Roberts	Carol E. Sabo	Richard Tomko	Total
Yes	X	X	X	X	X	X	6
No							0
Abstention							0

C30-26 Motion was made by Richard Tomko, and seconded by Carol E. Sabo, to adopt the decision as written.

Vote

Vote	Michael Carucci	Mark Finkelstein	Patricia Gois	Dennis Roberts	Carol E. Sabo	Richard Tomko	Total
Yes	X	X	X	X	X	X	6
No							0
Abstention							0

Orders to Show Cause

T02-26 Motion was made by Carol E. Sabo, and seconded by Patricia, to adopt the decision as written.

Vote

Vote	Michael Carucci	Mark Finkelstein	Patricia Gois	Dennis Roberts	Carol E. Sabo	Richard Tomko	Total
Yes	X	X	X	X	X	X	6
No							0
Abstention							0

T03-26 Motion was made by Carol E. Sabo, and seconded by Patricia Gois, to adopt the decision as written.

Vote

Vote	Michael Carucci	Mark Finkelstein	Patricia Gois	Dennis Roberts	Carol E. Sabo	Richard Tomko	Total
Yes	X	X	X	X	X	X	6
No							0
Abstention							0

T04-26 Motion was made by Carol E. Sabo, and seconded by Patricia Gois, to adopt the decision as written.

Vote

Vote	Michael Carucci	Mark Finkelstein	Patricia Gois	Dennis Roberts	Carol E. Sabo	Richard Tomko	Total
Yes	X	X	X	X	X	X	6
No							0
Abstention							0

T05-26 Motion was made by Carol E. Sabo, and seconded by Patricia Gois, to adopt the decision as written.

Vote

Vote	Michael Carucci	Mark Finkelstein	Patricia Gois	Dennis Roberts	Carol E. Sabo	Richard Tomko	Total
Yes	X	X	X	X	X	X	6
No							0
Abstention							0

VII. Advisory Opinions

A15-26 Motion was made by Patricia Gois, and seconded by Carol E. Sabo, to adopt the advisory opinion as written and to make public.

Vote

Vote	Michael Carucci	Mark Finkelstein	Patricia Gois	Dennis Roberts	Carol E. Sabo	Richard Tomko	Total
Yes	X	X	X	X	X	X	6
No							0
Abstention							0

A16-26 Motion was made by Mark Finkelstein, and seconded by Carol E. Sabo, to draft the advisory opinion as discussed.

Vote

Vote	Michael Carucci	Mark Finkelstein	Patricia Gois	Dennis Roberts	Carol E. Sabo	Richard Tomko	Total
Yes	X	X	X	X	X	X	6
No							0
Abstention							0

VIII. Administrative Dismissals

T01-26 This matter was on the agenda for informational purposes only.

T06-26 This matter was on the agenda for informational purposes only.

IX. Other Business

Doctrine of Necessity: submitted by the Cedar Grove Board of Education. This matter was on the agenda for informational purposes only.

DAG Klika to present a settlement offer in connection with C48-24. Motion was made by Michael Carucci, and seconded by Carol E. Sabo, to accept the settlement offer.

Vote

Vote	Michael Carucci	Mark Finkelstein	Patricia Gois	Dennis Roberts	Carol E. Sabo	Richard Tomko	Total
Yes	X	X	X	X	X	X	6
No							0
Abstention							0

Adopt a Resolution of Censure in connection with C64-22, C77-22 and C92-22 (Consolidated). Motion was made by Dennis Roberts, and seconded by Carol E. Sabo, to table this matter.

Vote

Vote	Michael Carucci	Mark Finkelstein	Patricia Gois	Dennis Roberts	Carol E. Sabo	Richard Tomko	Total
Yes	X	X	X	X	X	X	6
No							0
Abstention							0

Consider Complainant's request to supplement the Complaint in connection with C82-26. Motion was made by Carol E. Sabo, and seconded by Mark Finkelstein, to deny the request.

Vote

Vote	Michael Carucci	Mark Finkelstein	Patricia Gois	Dennis Roberts	Carol E. Sabo	Richard Tomko	Total
Yes	X	X	X	X	X	X	6
No							0
Abstention							0

Provide an update on the Commissioner of Education’s decision related to C75-18.

This matter was on the agenda for informational purposes only.

Provide an update on the status of the matter in connection with C101-24. This matter was on the agenda for informational purposes only.

X. Minutes

Motion was made by Carol E. Sabo, and seconded by Dennis Roberts, to adopt the minutes of the regularly scheduled meeting (public and executive) conducted on July 28, 2026.

Vote

Vote	Michael Carucci	Mark Finkelstein	Patricia Gois	Dennis Roberts	Carol E. Sabo	Richard Tomko	Total
Yes		X		X	X	X	4
No							0
Abstention	X ¹³		X ¹⁴				2

XI. Second Public Comment

There were not any members of the public present.

¹³ Commissioner Carucci was not present at the meeting on July 28, 2026, and therefore, did not participate in the vote.

¹⁴ Commissioner Gois was not present at the meeting on July 28, 2026, and therefore, did not participate in the vote.

XII. Adjournment

At 11:32 a.m., a motion was made by Carol E. Sabo, and seconded by Mark Finkelstein, to adjourn.

Vote

Vote	Michael Carucci	Mark Finkelstein	Patricia Gois	Dennis Roberts	Carol E. Sabo	Richard Tomko	Total
Yes	X	X	X	X	X	X	6
No							0
Abstention							0

Submitted by:

Jeannine Pizzigoni

Approved by:

Brigid C. Martens, Director
School Ethics Commission