

MINUTES OF MEETING
NEW JERSEY PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT RELATIONS COMMISSION
January 28, 2021
10:00 a.m. by Phone
495 West State Street
Trenton, New Jersey

The meeting was called to order by Chair Joel M. Weisblatt.

Present were:

Commissioners:

John Bonanni
Craig Ford
David Jones
Pasquale Papero
Paula Voos

Also present were:

Christine Lucarelli-Carneiro, General Counsel
John Boppert, Deputy General Counsel
Frank Kanther, Deputy General Counsel
Ramiro Perez, Deputy General Counsel
Grace Xanthacos, who acted as Stenographer

At the commencement of the meeting, Chair Weisblatt, pursuant to Section 5 of the Open Public Meetings Act, entered this announcement into the minutes of the meeting:

Adequate notice has been provided by the dissemination of a written "Annual Notice of Meeting." On December 10, 2020 a copy of such notice was:

- (a) prominently posted in a public place at the offices of the Public Employment Relations Commission;
- (b) e-mailed to the business offices of the Trenton Times and the Courier Post;
- (c) posted on the agency's web site.

Furthermore on January 22, 2021, copies of an additional written "Notice of Meeting" were posted and sent in a similar manner.

The first item for consideration was the minutes of the December 10, 2020 meeting. Commissioner Bonanni moved the minutes and Commissioner Papero seconded the motion. The motion to adopt the minutes was unanimously approved (Chair Weisblatt, Commissioners Bonanni, Ford, Jones, Papero and Voos).

Chair Weisblatt initially reported that the Counsel Staff had successfully achieved a dismissal from the Third Circuit Court of Appeals of suits filed in the Smith and Fisher matters. He commended Counsel Staff for their hard work and good results.

Chair Weisblatt also updated the Commission as to the Agency's performance during the pandemic noting that there were certain disputes specifically arising out of the circumstances of the virus, involving school districts. Impasse procedures are being applied in an adaptive manner to these non-traditional negotiations disputes.

Finally, Chair Weisblatt noted the transition to the electronic distribution of Commission decision materials. Questions as to that process were discussed and addressed, including the need to provide certain Commissioners with PERC-dedicated laptops to further the switch to electronic distribution.

General Counsel Lucarelli-Carneiro commented on the recently issued Third Circuit decision in Smith, as well as the Lutter case pending in federal district court. She further noted that

PERC filed a brief in support of the petition for certification in the Diguqliemo matter.

The next item on the agenda was to discuss a matter that was attorney client privileged that required the Commission to enter into Executive Session.

Commissioner Jones made a motion to move into Executive Session and Commissioner Voos seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved (Chair Weisblatt, Commissioners Bonanni, Ford, Jones, Papero and Voos).

The Commission returned to the regular Commission meeting from Executive Session.

Chair Weisblatt directed the Commissioners to the agenda.

The first case for consideration was Ridgefield Park Board of Education and Ridgefield Park Administrators Association, Docket No. CO-2018-099. Commissioner Bonanni moved the draft decision and Commissioner Voos seconded the motion. The motion to adopt the draft decision was unanimously approved (Chair Weisblatt, Commissioners Bonanni, Ford, Jones, Papero and Voos).

The next case for consideration was Mercer County Prosecutor's Office and PBA Local 339, Docket No. IA-2020-008. Commissioner Ford moved the draft decision and Commissioner Voos seconded the motion. Commissioner Papero was recused from voting on this matter because he is employed by Mercer County and Crivelli & Barbati represents PBA Local 339. The motion to adopt

the draft decision was unanimously approved (Chair Weisblatt, Commissioners Bonanni, Ford, Jones and Voos).

The next case for consideration was South Orange Village and South Orange SOA Local 12A, Docket No. SN-2021-004. Commissioner Bonanni moved the draft decision and Commissioner Ford seconded the motion. The motion to adopt the draft decision was approved by a vote of five in favor (Chair Weisblatt, Commissioners Bonanni, Ford, Papero and Voos) and one opposed (Commissioner Jones).

The next case for consideration was Township of Monroe and United Service Workers Union Local 255 IUJAT, Docket No. SN-2021-007. Commissioner Bonanni moved the draft decision and Chair Weisblatt seconded the motion. The motion to adopt the draft decision was approved by a vote of five in favor (Chair Weisblatt, Commissioners Bonanni, Papero, Voos and Jones) and one opposed (Commissioner Ford).

The next case for consideration was Winslow Township Fire District 1 Board of Fire Commissioners and IAFF Local 3249, Docket No. SN-2021-012. Commissioner Jones moved the draft decision and Commissioner Papero seconded the motion. The motion to adopt the draft decision was unanimously approved (Chair Weisblatt, Commissioners Bonanni, Ford, Jones, Papero and Voos).

The next case for consideration was Buena Regional School District Board of Education and Buena Regional School District Support Staff Association, Docket No. SN-2021-014. Commissioner Jones moved the draft decision and Commissioner Voos seconded the motion. The motion to adopt the draft decision was unanimously approved (Chair Weisblatt, Commissioners Bonanni, Ford, Jones, Papero and Voos).

The Chair asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Papero made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Commissioner Voos seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved (Chair Weisblatt, Commissioners Bonanni, Ford, Jones, Papero and Voos). The meeting was then adjourned.

The next meeting is scheduled to be held on Thursday, February 25, 2021.