

MINUTES OF MEETING  
NEW JERSEY PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT RELATIONS COMMISSION  
December 21, 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:

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 December 15, 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 November 23, 2021 meeting. Commissioner Papero moved the minutes and Commissioner Ford seconded the motion. The motion to adopt the minutes was unanimously approved (Chair Weisblatt, Commissioners Ford, Jones, Papero and Voos).

The Chair reported that our caseload continues to keep us active and challenged. The Agency is committed to servicing the parties at the highest possible level despite being somewhat hampered by the effects of the Coronavirus on our processes. We have placed a new emphasis on timely attention to cases and have instituted some new approaches to making sure any existing backlog is reduced, eventually to be eliminated. In certain areas of our jurisdiction we have accomplished that.

The Chair also reported that last night, the Agency fulfilled its annual statutory responsibility to conduct specific training for the panel of interest arbitrators. The Director of Conciliation and Arbitration and the General Counsel led the program with significant contributions from each Deputy General Counsels. It was a successful event and we hope that it may lead to fewer remands of IA awards and perhaps more voluntary settlements of those disputes.

Lastly, the Chair reported that the schedule for Commission meetings in 2022 is on today's agenda for consideration. It is the Agency's intention to continue indefinitely the practice of

conducting the meetings by telephone until it is clear that in-person meetings are without significant risk. The Chair reflected that we do miss the human interaction of our in-person sessions and look forward to reinstating them when appropriate.

General Counsel Lucarelli-Carneiro informed the Commission that in a case involving whether campus police are eligible for Special Disciplinary Arbitration, a petition for certification was granted. In the Matter of New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT, Officer Gregory DiGuglielmo and Public Employment Relations Commission, 2020 N.J. Super. LEXIS 219 (App. Div. Dkt No. A-003772-19T2).

The first case for consideration was Pinelands Regional Board of Education and Pinelands Regional Education, Docket Nos. SN-2022-007, SN-2022-008 and SN-2022-010 (consolidated). Commissioner Voos moved the draft decision and Commissioner Jones seconded the motion. The motion to adopt the draft decision was unanimously approved (Chair Weisblatt, Commissioners Ford, Jones, Papero and Voos).

The next case for consideration was Salem County Sheriff's Department (Corrections) and PBA Local 400, Docket No. SN-2020-041. 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 Ford, Jones, Papero and Voos).

The next case for consideration was Englewood Board of Education and Englewood Teacher's Association and New Jersey Teachers Association and Anna Mazzoccoli,

Docket No. CI-2019-042. Commissioner Voos moved the draft decision and Commissioner Jones seconded the motion. The motion to adopt the draft decision was unanimously approved (Chair Weisblatt, Commissioners Ford, Jones, Papero and Voos).

The next case for consideration was Gloucester County and CWA Local 1085, Docket No. CO-2020-008. Commissioner Voos moved the draft decision and Chair Weisblatt seconded the motion. The motion to adopt the draft decision was two in favor (Commissioner Voos and Chair Weisblatt), two abstentions (Commissioners Ford and Papero) and one opposed (Commissioner Jones). Commissioner Papero made a motion to table the matter until the next Commission meeting to allow for Commissioner Bonanni to vote, and Commissioner Ford seconded the motion. The motion to table the matter until the next Commission meeting was approved by a vote of four in favor (Chair Weisblatt, Commissioners Ford, Papero and Voos) and one opposed (Commissioner Jones).

The next case for consideration was Sayreville Board of Education and Sayreville Education Association, Docket No. SN-2022-002. Commissioner Voos moved the draft decision and Commissioner Papero seconded the motion. Commissioner Ford was recused from voting on the matter because

Oxford Cohen represents the union. The motion to adopt the draft decision was unanimously approved (Chair Weisblatt, Commissioners Jones, Papero and Voos).

The next item on the agenda was the consideration of Annual Notice of Regularly Scheduled Meeting for 2022. Commissioner Jones moved to adopt the Notice and Commissioner Papero seconded the adoption of the Notice. The Notice was adopted unanimously (Chair Weisblatt, Commissioners Ford, Jones, Papero and Voos).

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

The next meeting is scheduled to be held on Thursday, January 27, 2022.