

MINUTES OF MEETING
NEW JERSEY PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT RELATIONS COMMISSION
January 27, 2022
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 January 20, 2022, 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 21, 2021 meeting. Commissioner Jones moved the minutes and Commissioner Papero seconded the motion. The motion to adopt the minutes was unanimously approved (Chair Weisblatt, Commissioners Ford, Jones, Papero and Voos).

The Chair reported the enactment of a broad statutory revision of the Employer-Employee Relations Act, effective last week. The bill, known as the Responsible Collective Negotiations Act, has been in discussion and formative revision since last May and is now law. The general feature most worthy of attention is that different parts of the legislation apply to designated and limited employers and employees. The Chair noted some of the features of the new law and the groups of employers and employees affected by each. The statutory changes will be an agenda item at the next Commission meeting.

General Counsel Lucarelli-Carneiro spoke about a recent Appellate argument involving two enforcement actions with the City of Newark and the SOA.

At this time, Chair Weisblatt asked for a motion to go into Executive Session. Commissioner Papero made a motion to go into Executive Session and Commissioner Jones seconded the motion. The motion to go into Executive Session was unanimously approved (Chair Weisblatt, Commissioners Ford, Jones, Papero and Voos).

After the Executive Session, Commissioner Ford made a motion to return to the regular Commission meeting, and Commissioner Papero seconded the motion. The motion to return the regular Commission meeting was approved unanimously (Chair Weisblatt, Commissioners Ford, Jones, Papero and Voos).

The next item for consideration was the reappointment of the Interest Arbitration Panel. Commissioner Papero made a motion to approve the reappointment and Commissioner Ford seconded the motion. The motion to adopt the reappointment of the Interest Arbitration Panel was approved unanimously (Chair Weisblatt, Commissioners Ford, Jones, Papero and Voos).

The next item for consideration was the application of Robert Weakley for appointment to the Interest Arbitration Panel. Commissioner Voos made a motion to appoint Mr. Weakley to the Interest Arbitration Panel, and Commissioner Jones seconded the motion. The motion for appointment of Robert Weakley to the Interest Arbitration Panel was unanimously approved (Chair Weisblatt, Commissioners Ford, Jones, Papero and Voos).

The first case for consideration was Branchburg Township Board of Education and Branchburg Township Education Association, Docket No. CO-2018-071. Commissioner Voos moved the draft decision and Chair Weisblatt 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 Pinelands Regional Board of Education and Pinelands Regional Education Association, Docket No. SN-2022-009. 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 City of Camden and Camden Fire Officers Association, Docket Nos. CO-2020-100 and CO-2020-101 (consolidated). Commissioner Ford moved the draft decision and Commissioner Voos seconded the motion. The motion to adopt the draft decision was unanimously approved (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, February 24, 2022.