

MINUTES OF MEETING
NEW JERSEY PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT RELATIONS COMMISSION
February 24, 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:

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 February 16, 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 January 27, 2022 meeting. Commissioner Papero moved the minutes and Commissioner Ford seconded the motion. The motion to adopt the minutes was unanimously approved (Chair Weisblatt, Commissioners Bonanni, Ford, Jones, Papero and Voos).

The Chair reported that the annual PERC/New Jersey Bar Association Labor Law Conference is scheduled for April 29, 2022 which will be streamed online rather than returning to the usual gathering of about 500 to 600 attendees. That will have to wait until next year. The topics to be addressed will include a legal update with a panel of union and management advocates, moderated by General Counsel Lucarelli-Carneiro. The Newark Appellate Division decision regarding vaccination mandates will be among the matters addressed. Mary Beth Hennessy-Shotter, the Director of Conciliation and Arbitration, will moderate a panel discussion of the negotiations of workplace health and safety issues exposed by the pandemic. Finally, there will be a panel of grievance arbitrators addressing various issues of dispute resolution in that realm.

General Counsel Lucarelli-Carneiro commented on a recent published appellate case involving a vaccine mandate for Corrections Officers, and provided an overview of the Responsible Collective Negotiations Act.

The first case for consideration was Ridgefield Park Board of Education and Ridgefield Park Education Association, Docket No. SN-2021-041. Commissioner Bonanni moved the draft decision and Commissioner Voos 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 Lakewood Township Board of Education and Lakewood Education Association, Docket No. TO-2021-003. Commissioner Bonanni moved the draft decision and Commissioner Voos seconded the motion. The motion to adopt the draft decision resulted in a tie vote, with three in favor (Chair Weisblatt, Commissioners Bonanni and Voos), and three opposed (Commissioners Ford, Jones and Papero).

The next case for consideration was Borough of Bergenfield and PBA Local 309, Docket Nos. IA-2019-007 and CO-2019-288. 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 Ocean County Vocational Technical School and Ocean County Vocational Technical Education Association, Docket No. CO-2021-127. Commissioner Jones moved the draft decision and Commissioner Voos seconded the motion. Commissioner Bonanni was recused from voting on the matter because the law firm of Cleary, Giacobbe, Alfieri and Jacobs represents the employer. Commissioner Ford was recused from voting on the matter because the law firm of Oxfeld Cohen represents the union. The motion to adopt the draft decision was unanimously approved (Chair Weisblatt, Commissioners Jones, Papero and Voos).

The next case for consideration was City of Newark and Newark Police Superior Officers' Association, Docket No. CO-2021-095. Commissioner Voos 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 item for consideration was a revision of the November Commission meeting date from November 17, 2022 to November 22, 2022. Commissioner Jones made a motion to adopt the revision and Commissioner Papero seconded the motion. The motion to revise the November 2022 Commission meeting date to November 22, 2022 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 Ford 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, March 31, 2022.