

MINUTES OF MEETING  
NEW JERSEY PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT RELATIONS COMMISSION  
January 26, 2023  
10:00 a.m.  
495 West State Street  
Trenton, New Jersey

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

Present were:

Commissioners:

Craig Ford  
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 January 19, 2022 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 23, 2023, 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 15, 2022 meeting. Commissioner Ford moved the minutes and Commissioner Voos seconded the motion. The motion to adopt the minutes was unanimously approved (Chair Weisblatt, Commissioners Ford, Papero and Voos).

The next item for consideration was the minutes of the Special Meeting held on January 9, 2023. Commissioner Papero moved the minutes and Commissioner Voos seconded the motion. The motion to adopt the Special Meeting minutes was unanimously approved (Chair Weisblatt, Commissioners Ford, Papero and Voos).

The Chair reports, with great pleasure, that this year's PERC Labor Law Conference will be held in person on May 4, 2023, returning to our traditional site of the New Brunswick Hilton. There is general sense of the topics to be discussed: Legal Update; Negotiations Developments; Unfair Practice Processes and a major emphasis on current Health Insurance issues. Ryan Ottavio, Mary Beth Hennessey-Shotter and Christine Lucarelli-Carneiro will all play a prominent role in the program. Greater details of the specific areas to be addressed and the program participants will be developed and made public soon. During the recent special meeting, we acted to put in place a truly qualified panel of Conciliators for certain statutory health benefit and pension disputes. As mentioned then, we will need to revise and re-adopt our rules relating to that area of our

jurisdiction. That process is getting started and will come to the Commission for consideration in the near future.

The Chair also reported that the Agency is most fortunate to have added Elissa Westbrook-Smith to our staff in the critical role of Director of Administration. Elissa brings an extraordinary breadth of experience to PERC, most recently in a top administrative position at the Division of Law. She has hit the ground running, and we believe that she will meet our lofty expectations and will be a wonderful addition to the PERC family.

The Counsel's staff updated the Commission on the denial of the emergent appeal in Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey and AAUP-AFT, AAUP-BHSNJ, Part-time Lecturers AAUP-AFT, P.E.R.C. No. 2023-22, and summarized the recent Appellate Division decision In re Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey & AFSCME Local 888, 2022 N.J. Super. Unpub. LEXIS 2593 (App. Div. Dkt. No. A-3314-20).

The first case for consideration was International Association of Fire Fighters Local 3249 and Borough of Collingswood, Docket No. IA-2023-011. Commissioner Papero moved the draft decision and Commissioner Ford seconded the motion. The motion to adopt the draft decision was unanimously approved (Chair Weisblatt, Commissioners Ford, Papero and Voos).

The next case for consideration was Middlesex County College and Faculty Union of Middlesex County College, Local 1940 AFT, AFL-CIO, Docket No. SN-2022-036. Commissioner Papero moved the draft decision and Commissioner Ford seconded the motion. The motion to adopt the draft decision was unanimously approved (Chair Weisblatt, Commissioners Ford, Papero and Voos).

The next case for consideration was State of New Jersey (Office of Employee Relations) and Communications Workers of America, AFL-CIO, Docket No. CU-2022-014. Commissioner Papero moved the draft decision and Chair Weisblatt seconded the motion. A discussion ensued. The motion to adopt the draft decision was unanimously approved (Chair Weisblatt, Commissioners Ford, Papero and Voos).

The next case for consideration was Franklin Township Education Association, et al., and Board of Education of Franklin Township, Somerset County, Docket No. CO-2021-139; OAL Docket Nos. EDU 01442-2021 and EDU 01448-2021; Agency EDU Nos. 1-1/21 and 3-1/21; and OAL Docket No. PRC 08413-21. 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 Ford, Papero and Voos).

The next case for consideration was Borough of Wallington and PBA Local 321, Docket No. SN-2022-038. Commissioner Papero moved the draft decision and Commissioner Voos seconded the

motion. The motion to adopt the draft decision was unanimously approved (Chair Weisblatt, Commissioners Ford, Papero and Voos).

The next case for consideration was City of Jersey City and Jersey City International Association of Firefighters Local 1066, Docket No. CO-2023-064. Commissioner Papero moved the draft decision and Commissioner Voos seconded the motion. A discussion ensued. The motion to adopt the draft decision was unanimously approved (Chair Weisblatt, Commissioners Ford, Papero and Voos).

The next case for consideration was Essex County and CWA Local 1081, Docket No. CO-2022-205. Commissioner Papero moved the draft decision and Commissioner Voos seconded the motion. The motion to adopt the draft decision was unanimously approved (Chair Weisblatt, Commissioners Ford, 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 Ford, Papero and Voos). The meeting was then adjourned.

The next meeting is scheduled to be held on Thursday, February 23, 2023.