

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

John Bonanni  
Craig Ford  
William Higgins  
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  
William Campbell, 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 15, 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 August 16, 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 June 29, 2023 meeting. Commissioner Voos moved the minutes and Commissioner Ford seconded the motion. The motion to adopt the minutes was unanimously approved (Chair Weisblatt, Commissioners Bonanni, Ford, Higgins, Papero and Voos).

The Chair reported that we added a new Commissioner today, Bill Higgins. We move closer to a full compliment of Commissioners and fully expect that the State Senate will continue the process of reviewing pending nominations.

The Chair also reported that our track record in the courts continues to be strong. The General Counsel will advise as to our most recent success in the Appellate Division. Also of significance, the UPR division has dramatically reduced backlogs. Advancing the hearing process continues to gain voluntary settlement of charge cases at very high rates. Finally, despite an increasingly intense atmosphere for collective bargaining, the mediation staff has a solid handle on pending impasses and should be commended for their managing of the dispute resolution caseload.

The General Counsel summarized the Lakewood Board of Education and Lakewood Education Association case recently dismissed as moot by the Appellate Division involving the contested transfer of a secretary.

The first case for consideration was Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey and American Association of University Professors, Biomedical and Health Sciences of New Jersey, Docket No. CU-2020-005. Commissioner Ford moved the draft decision and Commissioner Higgins seconded the motion. Commissioner Voos is recused from voting on matters involving Rutgers. The motion to adopt the draft decision was unanimously approved (Chair Weisblatt, Commissioners Bonanni, Ford, Higgins and Papero).

The next case for consideration was Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey and AFSCME Local 888, Docket Nos. SN-2023-028 and SN-2023-029 (Consolidated). Commissioner Higgins moved the draft decision and Commissioner Bonanni seconded the motion. Commissioner Ford is recused from voting on matters involving AFSCME. Commissioner Voos is recused from voting on matters involving Rutgers. The motion to adopt the draft decision was unanimously approved (Chair Weisblatt, Commissioners Bonanni, Higgins and Papero).

The next case for consideration was City of Plainfield and Plainfield Fire Officers Association, Docket No. CO-2021-049. Commissioner Voos moved the draft decision and Commissioner Ford seconded the motion. The motion to adopt the draft decision was unanimously approved (Chair Weisblatt, Commissioners Bonanni, Ford, Higgins, Papero and Voos).

The next case for consideration was State of New Jersey (State Police) and State Troopers Fraternal Association, Docket No. SN-2023-036. 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 Bonanni, Ford, Higgins, Papero and Voos).

The next case for consideration was Somerville Education Association and Somerville Public School District Board of Education, Docket No. CO-2022-022. Commissioner Higgins moved the draft decision and Commissioner Bonanni seconded the motion. A discussion ensued. The motion to adopt the draft decision was approved by a vote of three in favor (Chair Weisblatt, Commissioners Bonanni and Higgins), one opposed (Commissioner Voos), and two abstentions (Commissioners Ford and Papero).

The next case for consideration was Township of Plainsboro and CWA Local 1032, Docket No. SN-2023-040. Commissioner Voos moved the draft decision and Commissioner Ford seconded the motion. Commissioner Bonanni is recused from voting on matters involving the law firm of Cleary, Giacobbe, Alfieri & Jacobs. The motion to adopt the draft decision was unanimously approved (Chair Weisblatt, Commissioners Ford, Higgins, Papero and Voos).

The next item for consideration was the Rule Adoption PERC Chapter 12A (N.J.A.C. 19:12A). Commissioner Ford made a motion to adopt PERC Chapter 12A, and Commissioner Voos seconded the motion. The motion to adopt PERC Chapter 12A was unanimously approved (Chair Weisblatt, Commissioners Bonanni, Ford, Higgins, Papero and Voos).

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

The next meeting is scheduled to be held on Thursday, September 28, 2023.