

MINUTES OF MEETING
NEW JERSEY PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT RELATIONS COMMISSION
September 28, 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

Also present were:

Christine Lucarelli-Carneiro, General Counsel
John Boppert, 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 September 20, 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 August 24, 2023 meeting. Commissioner Papero moved the minutes and Commissioner Bonanni seconded the motion. The motion to adopt the minutes was unanimously approved (Chair Weisblatt, Commissioners Bonanni, Ford, Higgins and Papero).

The Chair reported that the high level of volatility in private sector collective bargaining nationally, is not generally present in public sector negotiations in New Jersey at this time. PERC is closely monitoring the process and remains fully prepared to work with the parties where our neutral services are needed. There are difficult disputes in progress, but none currently presents a crisis. The Agency remains ready to respond to any challenges within our mission.

The General Counsel briefed the Commission about the affirmance of a Hearing Examiner Report in City of Ocean City and Edwin Yust, App. Div. Docket No. A-1391-21.

The first case for consideration was Salem County Sheriff's Department and PBA Local 400, Docket No. CO-2022-167. Commissioner Bonanni 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, Higgins and Papero).

The next case for consideration was PBA Local 29 and Township of Irvington, Docket No. SN-2023-041. Commissioner

Papero moved the draft decision and Commissioner Ford seconded the motion. Commissioner Bonanni is recused from voting on matters involving the law firm of Trimboli & Prusinowski. The motion to adopt the draft decision was unanimously approved (Chair Weisblatt, Commissioners Ford, Higgins and Papero).

The next case for consideration was City of Jersey City and Jersey City PSOA, Docket No. SN-2023-045. Commissioner Papero moved the draft decision and Commissioner Bonanni seconded the motion. The motion to adopt the draft decision was unanimously approved (Chair Weisblatt, Commissioners Bonanni, Ford, Higgins and Papero).

The next case for consideration was Union County Vocational-Technical Schools Board of Education and Union County Vocational-Technical Education Association, Docket No. SN-2023-030. Commissioner Papero moved the draft decision and Commissioner Bonanni seconded the motion. Commissioner Ford is recused from voting on matters involving the law firm of Oxfeld Cohen. The motion to adopt the draft decision was unanimously approved (Chair Weisblatt, Commissioners Bonanni, Higgins and Papero).

The next case for consideration was Wayne Township Board of Education and Wayne Education Association, Docket No. CO-2023-054. Commissioner Bonanni 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, Higgins and Papero).

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

The next meeting is scheduled to be held on Thursday, October 26, 2023.