

MINUTES OF MEETING  
NEW JERSEY PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT RELATIONS COMMISSION  
December 14, 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  
Frank Kanther, Deputy 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 December 6, 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 November 21, 2023 meeting. Commissioner Higgins moved the minutes and Commissioner Ford 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 State Senate had just days earlier, confirmed his replacement by Mary Beth Hennessy-Shotter. He expressed the belief that she was uniquely and brilliantly qualified to succeed him as Chair. It was also reported that Commissioner Paula Voos was to be succeeded by Barry Kushnir. Her long and dedicated service to PERC was extraordinary.

The Chair further reported that the Agency was in a great place in terms of both staff and leadership. Ryan Ottavio and Joseph Blaney were noted for substantial gains in the processing of unfair practice and representation caseloads. Mary Beth Hennessy-Shotter was commended for overseeing an excellent performance among the mediation staff. Finally, Christine Lucarelli-Carneiro was credited for the exceptional effectiveness of the counsel staff in preparing commission meeting drafts and materials as well as overseeing all appeals in court.

The Commissioners were also thanked for their dedication, hard work and cooperative efforts.

The General Counsel commented on it being the Chair's last meeting and the many legal issues that were navigated during his term.

The first case for consideration was Borough of Lodi and PBA Local 26, Docket No. SN-2024-018. Commissioner Papero moved the draft decision and Commissioner Higgins 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 and Papero).

The next case for consideration was Cedar Grove Township Board of Education and Cedar Grove Education Association, Docket No. SN-2024-020. Commissioner Ford moved the draft decision and Commissioner Higgins 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 334 and Juan Mendoza, Docket No. CI-2022-015. 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 Bonanni, Ford, Higgins and Papero).

The next case for consideration was Township of West Orange and AFSCME Council 63, Local 3476, Docket No. SN-2024-012.

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

The next case for consideration was Neptune Township Board of Education and Neptune Township Education Association, Docket No. SN-2024-014. 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 Bonanni, Ford, Higgins and Papero).

The next item for consideration was a draft of the Annual Notice of Regularly Scheduled Meetings for 2024. Commissioner Ford made a motion to approve the schedule and Commissioner Higgins seconded the motion. The motion to adopt the draft of the Annual Notice of Regularly Scheduled Meetings for 2024 was unanimously approved (Chair Weisblatt, Commissioners Bonanni, Ford, Higgins and Papero).

The Chair asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Higgins 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,  
January 25, 2024.