

MINUTES OF MEETING
NEW JERSEY PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT RELATIONS COMMISSION
January 25, 2024
10:00 a.m.
495 West State Street
Trenton, New Jersey

The meeting was called to order by Chair Mary Beth Hennessy-Shotter.

Present were:

Commissioners:

Ronald Bolandi
Adrienne Eaton
Craig Ford
Barry Kushnir
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 Hennessy-Shotter, 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, 2023 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 12, 2024, 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 14, 2023 meeting. Commissioner Papero moved the minutes and Commissioner Higgins seconded the motion. The motion to adopt the minutes was unanimously approved (Chair Hennessy-Shotter, Commissioners Bolandi, Eaton, Ford, Kushnir, Higgins and Papero).

The Chair welcomed and congratulated Commissioners Kushnir, Bolandi and Eaton. The Chair recognized the Counsel's office and other PERC staff who were in attendance. The Chair recognized the distinguished service of Chair Weisblatt and Commissioners Voos and Bonanni. The Chair noted that a formal recognition would take place at the February meeting.

The Chair updated the Commissioners on the status of a motion for compliance and enforcement received in Essex County and FOP Lodge 106, P.E.R.C. No. 2023-060. The Chair also updated the Commissioners on the status of a request to stay an interest arbitration hearing, IA-2024-004, pending the appeal of P.E.R.C. No. 2023-060 filed by the FOP Lodge 106.

Lastly, the Chair updated the Commissioners on the status of a scope of negotiations petition filed by Essex County in IA-2024-004.

The General Counsel commented on the Watchung Hills Regional High School District Board of Education and Watchung Hills Regional Education Association, P.E.R.C. No. 2024-12, 50 NJPER

226 (¶50 2023), currently on appeal in the Appellate Division.

The first case for consideration was New Jersey Pinelands Commission and Communications Workers of America, AFL-CIO, Docket No. CO-2024-029. Commissioner Ford moved the draft decision and Commissioner Papero seconded the motion. Commissioner Eaton and Commissioner Kushnir are recused from voting on matters involving the law firm of Weissman & Mintz, LLC. The motion to adopt the draft decision was unanimously approved (Chair Hennessy-Shotter, Commissioners Bolandi, Ford, Higgins and Papero).

The next case for consideration was Asbury Park Board of Education and Asbury Park Education Association, Docket Nos. SN-2024-010 and SN-2024-011 (Consolidated). Commissioner Kushnir moved the draft decision and Commissioner Papero seconded the motion. The motion to adopt the draft decision was unanimously approved (Chair Hennessy-Shotter, Commissioners Bolandi, Eaton, Ford, Kushnir, Higgins and Papero).

The next case for consideration was Township of Nutley and International Association of EMTs and Paramedics (IAEP), Local R2-806, Docket No. CO-2022-207. Commissioner Eaton moved the draft decision and Commissioner Ford seconded the motion. The motion to adopt the draft decision was unanimously approved (Chair Hennessy-Shotter, Commissioners Bolandi, Eaton, Ford, Kushnir, Higgins and Papero).

The next case for consideration was Mendham Borough Board of Education and Mendham Borough Education Association, Docket No. CE-2022-001. Commissioner Eaton moved the draft decision and Commissioner Kushnir seconded the motion. Commissioner Ford is recused from voting on matters involving the law firm of Oxfeld Cohen, P.C. The motion to adopt the draft decision was unanimously approved (Chair Hennessy-Shotter, Commissioners Bolandi, Eaton, Kushnir, Higgins and Papero).

The next case for consideration was New Brunswick Board of Education and New Brunswick Education Association, Docket No. CO-2023-006. Commissioner Kushnir moved the draft decision and Commissioner Papero seconded the motion. Commissioner Ford is recused from voting on matters involving the law firm of Oxfeld Cohen, P.C. The motion to adopt the draft decision was unanimously approved (Chair Hennessy-Shotter, Commissioners Bolandi, Eaton, Kushnir, Higgins and Papero).

The next case for consideration was Essex County, Department of Corrections and Superior Officers, FOP Lodge 106, Docket Nos. CO-2022-231, CO-2023-102, CO-2023-135, CO-2023-142, CO-2023-143, CO-2023-145 and CO-2023-148. Commissioner Eaton moved the draft decision and Commissioner Higgins seconded the motion. The motion to adopt the draft decision was unanimously approved (Chair Hennessy-Shotter, Commissioners Bolandi, Eaton, Ford, Kushnir, Higgins and Papero).

The Chair asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Kushnir made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Commissioner Papero seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved (Chair Hennessy-Shotter, Commissioners Bolandi, Eaton, Ford, Kushnir, Higgins and Papero). The meeting was then adjourned.

A special meeting is scheduled to be held on Tuesday, February 20, 2024. The next regular meeting is scheduled to be held on Thursday, February 29, 2024.