

MINUTES OF MEETING
NEW JERSEY PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT RELATIONS COMMISSION
February 28, 2019
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:

Paul Boudreau
David Jones
Pasquale Papero
Paula Voos

Also present were:

Christine Lucarelli-Carneiro, General Counsel
Don Horowitz, Senior Deputy General Counsel
Frank Kanther, Deputy General Counsel
John Boppert, Deputy General Counsel
Annette Thompson, 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 20, 2018 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 February 22, 2019, 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 January 17, 2019 meeting. Commissioner Boudreau moved the minutes and Commissioner Papero seconded the motion. The motion to adopt the minutes were approved by a vote of four in favor (Chair Weisblatt, Commissioners Boudreau, Papero and Voos) and one abstention (Commissioner Jones).

The next item for consideration was the Executive Session minutes of the January 17, 2019 meeting. Commissioner Boudreau moved the minutes and Commissioner Papero seconded the motion. The motion to adopt the minutes were approved by a vote of four in favor (Chair Weisblatt, Commissioners Boudreau, Papero and Voos) and one abstention (Commissioner Jones).

Chair Weisblatt started the Chair's report by announcing the annual Public Sector Labor Law Conference, scheduled for April 26, 2019 at the Hilton Hotel in East Brunswick. It marks the fiftieth anniversary of PERC [the Act was passed in 1968 but the Agency did not become operational until 1969]. The expectation is that the program will present discussions on some of the most pressing topics of the day and will also provide a relevant perspective-driven view of the evolution of the Commission. It is our expectation that the participation level will be very high. We will be drawing upon those in the labor, management, academic and neutral communities.

Currently, the agency is functioning very effectively. Full staffing in the counsel's office is an important factor and we are already realizing productive contributions from our newest staff members. Interviewing has continued in both the unfair practice and mediation sections and we hope to reach full staffing in both of those divisions soon.

The parties continue to file for interim relief at an alarming rate, putting the staff under great stress because those disputes are so time-sensitive. I truly hope this is a temporary trend rather than a long-term development in our caseload.

Chair Weisblatt concluded by stating that the true test of our effectiveness continues to be the frequency with which we assist the parties in reaching the voluntary resolution of disputes. We continue to excel, as an agency, in relation to that standard of measurement.

Mr. Horowitz then commented on the General Counsel's Report.

The next item on the agenda was a personnel matter that required the Commission to enter into Executive Session.

Commissioner Jones made a motion to move into Executive Session and Commissioner Voos seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved (Chair Weisblatt, Commissioners Boudreau, Jones, Papero and Voos).

The Commission returned to the regular Commission meeting from Executive Session.

Chair Weisblatt noted that two of the six drafts today require recusals. Commissioner Papero is recused from agenda items #6 Fairfield and #8 River Edge.

The first case for consideration was Ocean County Vocational Technical School and Ocean County Vocational Technical Education Association, Docket No. SN-2019-007. Commissioner Voos moved the draft decision and Commissioner Boudreau seconded the motion. The motion to adopt the draft decision was unanimously approved (Chair Weisblatt, Commissioners Boudreau, Jones, Papero and Voos).

The next case for consideration was State of New Jersey (State Police) and State Trooper Fraternal Association, Docket No. SN-2019-009. Commissioner Boudreau moved the draft decision and Commissioner Voos seconded the motion.

Following a lengthy and detailed discussion of the various elements of this dispute, the motion to adopt the draft decision was approved by a vote of three in favor (Chair Weisblatt, Commissioners Boudreau and Voos), one abstention (Commissioner Papero), and one opposed (Commissioner Jones).

The next case for consideration was Township of Fairfield and West Essex PBA, Local 81, Docket No. SN-2019-011. Commissioner Jones moved the draft decision and Commissioner Voos seconded the motion. Commissioner Papero was recused from voting on this matter because of his affiliation with the PBA. The

motion to adopt the draft decision was unanimously approved (Chair Weisblatt, Commissioners Boudreau, Jones and Voos).

The next case for consideration was Housing Authority of the City of Elizabeth and IBT Local 966, Docket No. SN-2019-018. Commissioner Jones moved the draft decision and Commissioner Boudreau seconded the motion. The motion to adopt the draft decision was unanimously approved (Chair Weisblatt, Commissioners Boudreau, Jones, Papero and Voos).

The next case for consideration was Borough of River Edge and PBA and SOA Local 201, Docket No. SN-2018-050. Commissioner Boudreau moved the draft decision and Commissioner Voos seconded the motion. Commissioner Papero was recused from voting on this matter because of his affiliation with the PBA.

A brief discussion took place.

The motion to adopt the draft decision was approved by a vote of three in favor (Chair Weisblatt, Commissioners Boudreau and Voos), and one opposed (Commissioner Jones).

The last case for consideration was Pleasantville Board of Education and Pleasantville Administrators Association, Docket No. SN-2019-021. Commissioner Jones moved the draft decision and Commissioner Papero seconded the motion. The motion to adopt the draft decision was unanimously approved (Chair Weisblatt, Commissioners Boudreau, Jones, Papero and Voos).

Chair Weisblatt asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Jones made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Commissioner Boudreau seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved. The meeting was then adjourned.

The next meeting is scheduled to be held on Wednesday, March 20, 2019.