

MINUTES OF MEETING  
NEW JERSEY PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT RELATIONS COMMISSION  
May 28, 2020  
1:00 p.m. by Phone  
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  
David Jones  
Pasquale Papero  
Paula Voos

Also present were:

Christine Lucarelli-Carneiro, General Counsel  
Don Horowitz, Senior Deputy General Counsel  
John Boppert, Deputy General Counsel  
Frank Kanther, Deputy General Counsel  
Ramiro Perez, Deputy General Counsel  
Melissa Chu, Commission Case Administrator  
Kellie Hullfish, 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 19, 2019 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 May 22, 2020, copies of an additional written "Notice of Meeting" were posted and sent in a similar manner.

Chair Weisblatt took roll call, as the meeting was being held by phone due to the coronavirus crisis. All were present.

The first item for consideration was the minutes of the April 30, 2020 meeting. Commissioner Jones moved the minutes and Commissioner Voos seconded the motion. The motion to adopt the minutes was unanimously approved (Chair Weisblatt, Commissioners Bonanni, Ford, Jones, Papero and Voos).

Chair Weisblatt reports that life at the agency continues to be particularly challenging. Not only have we had a dramatic influx of cases presenting time sensitive handling, mostly interim relief and court appeals, but the cases have been particularly complex. As the drafts we consider today reflect, the issues are often complicated and some present matters of first impression. These require especially careful record review and legal analysis. It does keep us all on our toes.

Chair Weisblatt added that as mentioned last month, each section of the agency is operating at a very effective level. We are adapting to the disputes as presented by the parties and their unique and evolving circumstances. We are all re-inventing our operational methods and keeping up with the demands of our mission.

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

The first case for consideration was North Hudson Regional Fire and Rescue and North Hudson Fire Officers Association,

Docket No. SN-2020-019. Commissioner Jones 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, Jones, Papero and Voos).

The next case for consideration was City of Plainfield and Plainfield Fire Officers Association, Docket No. SN-2020-021. Commissioner Jones 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, Jones, Papero and Voos).

The next case for consideration was Cape May County Technical High School Board of Education and Cape May County Technical High School Education Association, Docket Nos. CO-2019-055. 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 Bonanni, Ford, Jones, Papero and Voos).

The next case for consideration was County of Hudson and Hudson County PBA Local 334, Docket No. CO-2019-137. Commissioner Bonanni moved the draft decision and Chair Weisblatt seconded the motion. Commissioner Papero was recused from voting on this matter because of his affiliation with PBA. Discussion ensued. The motion to adopt the draft decision was approved by a

vote of three in favor (Chair Weisblatt, Commissioners Bonanni and Voos) and two opposed (Commissioners Ford and Jones).

The next case for consideration was Madison Board of Education and Madison Education Association, Docket No. SN-2020-024. Commissioner Jones moved the draft decision and Commissioner Voos seconded the motion. Commissioner Bonanni was recused from voting on this matter because the Cleary, Giacobbe, Alfieri & Jacobs law firm serves as counsel to Morris County. Commissioner Ford was recused from voting on this matter because the Oxford Cohen law firm represents the union in which he is an officer. The motion to adopt the draft decision was unanimously approved (Chair Weisblatt, Commissioners Jones, Papero and Voos).

The last case for consideration was Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey and Union of Rutgers Administrators, American Federal of Teachers, AFL-CIO, Docket No. SN-2020-031. Commissioner Jones moved the draft decision and Commissioner Bonanni seconded the motion. Commissioner Voos was recused from voting on this matter because of her employment with Rutgers University. The motion to adopt the draft decision was unanimously approved (Chair Weisblatt, Commissioners Bonanni, Ford, Jones and Papero).

Chair Weisblatt asked the Commissioners if the next meeting could be held by phone and at 1:00 p.m. The Commissioners unanimously approved that place and time.

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

The next meeting is scheduled to be held on Thursday, June 25, 2020.