

MINUTES OF MEETING
NEW JERSEY PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT RELATIONS COMMISSION
February 25, 2021
10:00 a.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
John Boppert, Deputy General Counsel
Frank Kanther, Deputy General Counsel
Ramiro Perez, 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 10, 2020 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 19, 2021, 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 28, 2021 meeting. Commissioner Bonanni moved the minutes and Commissioner Jones seconded the motion. The motion to adopt the minutes was unanimously approved (Chair Weisblatt, Commissioners Bonanni, Ford, Jones, Papero and Voos).

The next item for consideration was the Executive Session minutes of the January 28, 2021 meeting. Commissioner Jones moved the executive minutes and Commissioner Ford seconded the motion. The motion to adopt the Executive Session minutes was unanimously approved (Chair Weisblatt, Commissioners Bonanni, Ford, Jones, Papero and Voos).

Chair Weisblatt initially reported the successful role the counsel staff played in persuading the New Jersey Supreme Court to protect the long-established standards that release time for union officials is a legal subject for collective negotiations. The Court recognized that there may be a public interest in the practical application of this term and condition of employment. The Court's unanimous decision clearly reflected the impact of the Agency's brief and the General Counsel's oral argument.

The Chair also noted that mediation efforts were underway in two school district disputes over safety and the return to in-class learning. The Agency has been appropriately flexible in tailoring its dispute resolution approaches to these non-traditional labor-management impasses. The Director of

Conciliation and Arbitration has been carefully and skillfully shepherding the resolution efforts in these cases.

Lastly, the Chair noted that the Agency has completed its transition to the electronic distribution of all Commission Meeting materials with the acquisition of PERC-only use laptops for those Commissioners requiring them.

General Counsel Lucarelli-Carneiro commented on court developments, specifically the Rozenblit and Thulen cases. She also noted that the Morristown matter settled.

The first case for consideration was Ewing-Lawrence Sewage Authority and CWA, AFL-CIO 1032, Docket No. CO-2021-099.

Commissioner Voos moved the draft decision and Commissioner Ford seconded the motion. Commissioner Bonanni was recused from voting on the matter because McManimon, Scotland, Baumann law firm was retained to serve as Morris County Improvement Authority counsel of which Commissioner Bonanni is a Commissioner. The motion to adopt the draft decision was unanimously approved (Chair Weisblatt, Commissioners Ford, Jones, Papero and Voos).

The next case for consideration was Township of Millburn and PBA Local 34, Docket No. SN-2021-009. Commissioner Jones moved the draft decision and Commissioner Voos seconded the motion. Commissioner Bonanni was recused from voting on this matter because Cleary, Giacobbe, Alfieri, Jacobs, LLC serves as counsel to Morris County. The motion to adopt the draft decision was

unanimously approved (Chair Weisblatt, Commissioners Ford, Jones, Papero and Voos).

The next case for consideration was Township of Edison and Edison IAFF Local 1197, Docket No. SN-2021-001. Commissioner Papero moved the draft decision and Commissioner Voos 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 Municipal Employees Association, Docket No. SN-2021-023. Commissioner Jones moved the draft decision and Commissioner Voos 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 Gloucester County Sheriff's Office and PBA Local 122, Docket No. SN-2021-020. Commissioner Voos 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, Jones, Papero and Voos).

The next case for consideration was Cherry Hill Board of Education and Cherry Hill Association of School Administrators, Docket No. SN-2021-016. Chair Weisblatt asked for a motion to discuss. Commissioner Jones made a motion to discuss and

Commissioner Voos seconded the motion. Commissioner Bonanni was recused from voting on this matter because Schenck, Price, Smith & King law firm is his personal attorney. Commissioner Papero made a motion to table this case and Commissioner Ford seconded the motion. The motion to table this matter to the next regular Commission meeting was approved by a vote of four in favor (Chair Weisblatt, Commissioners Ford, Papero and Voos) and one abstention (Commissioner Jones).

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

The next meeting is a special meeting to be held on Monday, March 15, 2021. The next regular meeting is scheduled to be held on Thursday, March 25, 2021.