

MINUTES OF MEETING
NEW JERSEY PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT RELATIONS COMMISSION
March 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 March 22, 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 February 25, 2021 meeting. Commissioner Voos moved the minutes and Commissioner Papero 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 Special Meeting minutes of March 15, 2021. Commissioner Jones moved the Special Meeting minutes and Commissioner Bonanni seconded the motion. The motion to adopt the Special Meeting minutes was unanimously approved (Chair Weisblatt, Commissioners Bonanni, Ford, Jones, Papero and Voos).

The Chair reports that the Agency continues to provide mediation services in two high profile school district disputes relating to issues of safety and the return to in-person learning. The Director of Conciliation and Arbitration is actively involved in the efforts to resolve the multi-faceted elements of these disputes. They present numerous non-traditional labor-management hurdles and there is constant need to balance competing factors that extend beyond just the employers and unions. The Agency remains dedicated to flexible processes to assist the parties to meet the challenges presented in these unique impasses. Mediation efforts by staff members have also proved effective in gaining settlements of more traditional type impasses in two other large districts that have

historically presented difficulty in reaching a contract.

The Chair further reports that the Unfair Practices and Representation division has continued to deal with a very active level of interim relief filings. These have been handled in a timely and efficient manner, never losing sight of the need to get it right. We have seen activity in nearly all areas of the UPR section including elections, representation decisions, and H.E. decisions. There are an increasing number of evidentiary hearings being scheduled for Zoom participation. We continue the emphasis on providing the effective processing of the cases brought before us.

General Counsel Lucarelli-Carneiro stated that there were no significant court developments since last month.

The first case for consideration was Cherry Hill Board of Education and Cherry Hill Association of School Administrators, Docket No. SN-2021-016. Commissioner Ford moved the draft decision and Commissioner Voos seconded the motion. Commissioner Bonanni was recused from voting on the matter because Schenck, Price, Smith and King law firm is his personal attorney. The motion to adopt the draft decision was approved four in favor (Chair Weisblatt, Commissioners Ford, Papero and Voos) and one opposed (Commissioner Jones).

The next case for consideration was State of NJ Judiciary Somerset, Hunterdon, Warren Vicinage and Probation Association of NJ, Professional Supervisors Unit, Docket No. SN-2021-017.

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 Southampton Township Board of Education and Southampton Township Education Association, Docket No. CO-2020-222. Commissioner Jones moved the draft decision and Commissioner Papero seconded the motion. Commissioner Ford was recused from voting on this matter because Oxfeld Cohen law firm represents the union of which he is an officer. The motion to adopt the draft decision was unanimously approved (Chair Weisblatt, Commissioners Bonanni, Jones, Papero and Voos).

The next case for consideration was City of Paterson and Paterson Police PBA Local 1 and PBA Local 1 SOA, Docket No. CO-2021-069. Commissioner Papero moved the draft decision and Commissioner Jones 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 Paterson and Paterson Police PBA Local 1 and PBA Local 1 SOA, Docket No. CO-2021-101. 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 Hamburg Board of Education and Hamburg Education Association, Docket No. SN-2021-018. Commissioner Voos moved the draft decision and Chair Weisblatt seconded the motion. Commissioner Bonanni was recused from voting on this matter because Cleary, Giacobbe, Alfieri Jacobs, LLC serves as counsel to Morris County. Commissioner Ford was recused from voting on this matter because Oxfeld Cohen law firm represents the union of which he is an officer. The motion to adopt the draft decision was approved by a vote of three in favor (Chair Weisblatt, Commissioners Papero and Voos) and one opposed (Commissioner Jones).

The Chair asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Jones made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Commissioner Papero 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 scheduled to be held on Thursday, April 29, 2021.