

MINUTES OF MEETING
NEW JERSEY PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT RELATIONS COMMISSION
October 28, 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 October 20, 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 September 28, 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 Chair reported that, as noted last month, the Commission continues to operate in the most challenging period, highlighted by the demands of addressing issues related to the ongoing pandemic. These disputes are often particularly contentious and time pressured; many present issues of first impression making resolution more difficult. Nonetheless, what gets lost in the bright lights of highly visible contentious disputes is the remarkable number of cases we get resolved voluntarily. The staff deserves credit for their dedication to resolution.

The Chair further reported that, as an agency we continue to monitor the realities concerning remote or in-person proceedings. We are preparing for the transition back to more in-person encounters with the parties, but retaining the common sense approach of careful consideration of health and safety for both the staff and the parties as well.

General Counsel Lucarelli-Carneiro updated the Commission that an emergent application to appeal to the Supreme Court filed by the unions in the Newark vaccine mandate cases discussed last

month was denied. The General Counsel also discussed the Bergenfield case recently issued by the Appellate Division.

The first case for consideration was Township of Montclair and FMBA Local 20, Docket No. SN-2021-046. Commissioner Voos 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 Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey and FOP Lodge 164, Docket No. SN-2021-040. Commissioner Papero moved the draft decision and Commissioner Bonanni seconded the motion. Commissioner Voos was recused from voting on the matter because she is employed by Rutgers. The motion to adopt the draft decision was approved by a vote of four in favor (Chair Weisblatt, Commissioners Bonanni, Ford and Papero) and one abstention (Commissioner Jones).

The next case for consideration was City of East Orange and East Orange Fire Officer's Association, Docket No. SN-2022-003. Commissioner Jones 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 Sayreville Board of Education and Sayreville Education Association, Docket No. SN-2022-002. Commissioner Bonanni moved the draft decision and Commissioner Voos seconded the motion. Commissioner Ford was recused from voting on the matter because Oxfeld Cohen represents the union. The motion to adopt the draft decision was unanimously approved (Chair Weisblatt, Commissioners Bonanni, Jones, Papero and Voos).

The next case for consideration was Howell Township Board of Education and Howell Township Education Association, Docket No. SN-2021-045. 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 and Jacobs law firm 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 County of Bergen and PBA Local 49, Docket No. SN-2022-004. Commissioner Jones 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 Chair asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Jones made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Commissioner Voos 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 Tuesday, November 23, 2021.