

MINUTES OF MEETING
NEW JERSEY PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT RELATIONS COMMISSION
February 23, 2023
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:

John Bonanni
Craig Ford
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 15, 2022 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 21, 2023, 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 26, 2023 meeting. Commissioner Papero moved the minutes and Commissioner Voos seconded the motion. The motion to adopt the minutes was unanimously approved (Chair Weisblatt, Commissioners Bonanni, Ford, Papero and Voos).

The Chair reported that the Division of Unfair Practices and Representation is working to revamp its processes in order to handle disputes in a more expeditious manner. The emphasis on voluntary resolution of disputes will continue to be a primary goal in the processing of cases, but the belief is that case management will be more effective if movement toward the hearing stages proceeds without undue delay. The voluntary resolution of disputes can occur simultaneously with the advancing toward hearings, if needed. Indeed, the potential of a hearing date may serve to get the parties to focus on how to bring each case to a prompt resolution. The Agency recognizes that case management is a delicate process at times and is not a true science. It appears that the processes are evolving in a thoughtful and well-designed manner.

Collective negotiations, in general, appear to be a particularly active stage, both in New Jersey and nationally. The Division of Conciliation and Arbitration is carefully monitoring the process in order to be prepared for providing the necessary dispute resolution services required by bargaining

situations as they present themselves. The Chair reported that several potentially critical impasses have recently been resolved through the assistance of our mediators, fact-finders and conciliators.

The Chair also recognized that the Counsel staff has continued to do a great job of preparing drafts for the Commission, as it has reduced any backlog that previously existed to a most appropriate level, meeting all goals for the timely presentation of cases, and also handling appellate work at the same time.

Lastly, the Chair reminded that the PERC conference will be held, returning to an in person format, on May 4, 2023 at the East Brunswick Hilton.

The Counsel's staff commented on the oral argument that took place in the matter of Lakewood Board of Education and Lakewood Education Association.

The first case for consideration was Borough of Milltown and PBA Local 338, Docket No. SN-2023-009. Commissioner Voos 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, Papero and Voos).

The next case for consideration was Township of Middletown and CWA Local 1032, Docket No. SN-2023-005. Commissioner Papero 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, Papero and Voos).

The next case for consideration was City of Millville and New Jersey Civil Service Association Cumberland County Council 18, Docket No. SN-2023-006. 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, Papero and Voos).

The next case for consideration was City of Brigantine and IBT Local 331, Docket No. SN-2023-004. Commissioner Bonanni 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, Papero and Voos).

The next case for consideration was Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey and Rutgers Council of AAUP Chapters, American Association of University Professors-American Federations of Teachers, AFL-CIO, Docket No. RO-2023-010. Commissioner Papero moved the draft decision and Commissioner Bonanni seconded the motion. Commissioner Voos is recused from voting on matters involving Rutgers. The motion to adopt the draft decision was unanimously approved (Chair Weisblatt, Commissioners Bonanni, Ford and Papero).

The next case for consideration was Hudson County Department of Corrections and Hudson County Superior Officers Association, PBA Local 109A, Docket No. SN-2023-014. 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, Papero and Voos).

The next case for consideration was State of New Jersey and CWA, Docket No. SN-2023-017. Commissioner Papero 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, Papero and Voos).

The next item for consideration on the agenda was the re-adoption of the Commission's Chapter 10 rules. Commissioner Voos made a motion to adopt the re-adoption of the Chapter 10 rules and Commissioner Papero seconded the motion. The motion to re-adopt the Commission's Chapter 10 rules were unanimously approved (Chair Weisblatt, Commissioners Bonanni, Ford, Papero and Voos).

The next item for consideration on the agenda was the re-adoption and amendment of the Commission's Chapter 12A rules. Commissioner Bonanni made a motion to re-adopt and amend the Chapter 12A rules and Commissioner Papero seconded the motion. The motion to re-adopt and amend the Commission's Chapter 12A rules were unanimously approved (Chair Weisblatt, Commissioners Bonanni, Ford, Papero and Voos).

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 (Chair Weisblatt, Commissioners Bonanni, Ford, Papero and Voos). The meeting was then adjourned.

The next meeting is scheduled to be held on Thursday, March 30, 2023.