

MINUTES OF MEETING
NEW JERSEY PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT RELATIONS COMMISSION
February 24, 2005
10:00 a.m.
495 West State Street
Trenton, New Jersey

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Lawrence Henderson.

Present were:

Chairman: Lawrence Henderson

Commissioners:

Donald J. Buchanan
Peter J. DiNardo
Cheryl G. Fuller
Carla A. Katz
James W. Mastriani
Matthew U. Watkins

Also present were:

Robert E. Anderson, General Counsel
Susan Galante, Special Counsel to the Chairman
Don Horowitz, Deputy General Counsel
Ira Mintz, Special Assistant to the Chairman
Annette Thompson, who acted as Stenographer

At the commencement of the meeting, the Chairman, 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 20, 2004 a copy of such notice was:

(a) prominently posted in a public place at the offices of the Public Employment Relations Commission;

(b) mailed to the business offices of the Trenton Times, the Bergen Record, and the Camden Courier Post, as well as to the State House press room addresses of 25 media outlets; and

(c) mailed to the Secretary of State for filing.

Furthermore on February 17, 2005, copies of an additional written "Notice of Meeting" were posted and mailed as aforesaid.

Chairman Henderson called the meeting to order. The first item for consideration was the minutes of the January 27, 2005 meeting. A motion to adopt the minutes was made by Commissioner Fuller and seconded by Commissioner Watkins. Commissioners DiNardo and Katz abstained from consideration because they did not attend the January meeting. The motion was unanimously approved (Chairman Henderson, Commissioners Buchanan, Fuller, Mastriani and Watkins).

Chairman Henderson stated that the agency is undergoing a cost-saving review and asked the Commissioners to suggest any ideas about saving money in agency operations and making the agency more efficient.

The General Counsel distributed his monthly report. There was no supplemental report this month.

The first case for consideration was North Hudson Regional Fire and Rescue and North Hudson Firefighters' Association, Docket No. SN-2005-038. Commissioner Fuller moved the draft decision and Commissioner DiNardo seconded the motion. Commissioner Katz abstained from consideration because of ongoing negotiations between CWA and the FMBA. Commissioner Mastriani abstained from consideration because he served as the interest arbitrator. The motion was unanimously approved (Chairman Henderson, Commissioners Buchanan, DiNardo, Fuller and Watkins).

The next case for consideration was Hillsborough Board of Education and Hillsborough Education Association, Docket No. CO-2003-141. Commissioner Mastriani moved the draft decision and Commissioner Katz seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved (Chairman Henderson, Commissioners Buchanan, DiNardo, Fuller, Katz, Mastriani and Watkins).

The next case for consideration was Piscataway Township and PBA Local 93, Docket Nos. CE-2004-001, CO-2003-206 and CO-2003-329. Commissioner Katz moved the draft decision and Commissioner Buchanan seconded the motion. Commissioner Mastriani abstained from consideration because the issues in this case are related to a similar case in which he served as the interest arbitrator. The motion was unanimously approved (Chairman Henderson, Commissioners Buchanan, DiNardo, Fuller, Katz and Watkins).

The next case for consideration was Essex County Sheriff's Office and PBA Local 183, Docket No. IA-2003-037. Commissioner Buchanan moved the draft decision and Commissioner DiNardo seconded the motion. Commissioner Mastriani abstained because he has been appointed as the interest arbitrator for the negotiations unit of the Prosecutor's detectives and investigators. The motion was unanimously approved (Chairman Henderson, Commissioners Buchanan, DiNardo, Fuller, Katz and Watkins).

The Commission next considered adopting an amendment to N.J.A.C. 19:16-5.11 that would increase the fees paid to interest arbitrators. Commissioner Buchanan moved that the Commission approve the adoption of the amendment and Commissioner Watkins seconded the motion. Commissioner Mastriani abstained from consideration because he is an interest arbitrator. The motion was unanimously approved (Chairman Henderson, Commissioners Buchanan, DiNardo, Fuller, Katz and Watkins).

The Commission next considered proposing the readoption of N.J.A.C. 19:11 with amendments. These regulations govern representation cases. Commissioner Watkins moved that the Commission approve publication of the proposed readoption and Commissioner Mastriani seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved (Chairman Henderson, Commissioners Buchanan, DiNardo, Fuller, Katz, Mastriani and Watkins). The proposal will be published and the public will have until June 3, 2005 to comment.

The Commission next considered proposing the readoption of N.J.A.C. 19:14 with amendments. These regulations govern unfair practice cases. Commissioner Watkins moved that the Commission approve publication of the proposed readoption and Commissioner Mastriani seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved (Chairman Henderson, Commissioners Buchanan, DiNardo, Fuller, Katz, Mastriani and Watkins). The proposal will be published and the public will have until June 3, 2005 to comment.

The next matter was Consideration of Resolution Honoring Dr. William M. Weinberg. Commissioner Mastriani made a motion to approve the resolution and Commissioner DiNardo seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved (Chairman Henderson, Commissioners Buchanan, DiNardo, Fuller, Katz, Mastriani and Watkins).

Commissioner Watkins made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Commissioner Katz seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved. The meeting was then adjourned.

The next meeting is scheduled to be held on Thursday, March 31, 2005 at 10:00 a.m.