

SCHOOL ETHICS COMMISSION MEETING PUBLIC SESSION MINUTES

DECEMBER 19, 2017

Chairperson Robert Bender called the meeting to order at 9:50 a.m.

Notice of the meeting was provided to the State House Press Corps and the Secretary of State and filed as required by the Open Public Meetings Act. In attendance were School Ethics Commission (Commission) members Michael Carucci, Michael Collins, Mark Finkelstein, Dan Kaplan, Dennis Roberts (who arrived at 9:54 a.m.), Richard Tomko, and Chairperson Robert Bender.

In addition, Kathryn Whalen, Director, Offices of School Ethics and Compliance, and staff members Jeannine Pizzigoni and Karin Molnar, along with Deputy Attorney General Donna Arons, were in attendance.

9:53 a.m. Motion was made by Michael Collins, and seconded by Richard Tomko, to adjourn to Executive Session to discuss confidential matters and to obtain legal advice regarding the following complaints and matters involving possible litigation: C40-16, C75-17, C80-17, C61-17, C91-17, T01-17, T03-17, T05-17, T06-17, T08-17, T10-17 through T12-17, T14-17 through T16-17, T18-17 through T22-17, A35-17 through A39-17, Doctrines of Necessity filed by the Saddle Brook and Elizabeth Boards of Education, the West Milford Board of Education's proposed nepotism policy, review of information regarding the Ridgefield Park Board of Education, C70-17, C73-17, and an update on correspondence set to the Pleasantville and Wayne Township Boards of Education regarding the doctrine of necessity. Vote: 6 – Yes 0 – No

9:54 a.m. Dennis Roberts arrived.

12:10 p.m. Open Session

Complaints

C40-16 Motion was made by Dan Kaplan, and seconded by Richard Tomko, to draft a decision as discussed. Vote: 7 – Yes 0 - No

C75-17 Motion was made by Dennis Roberts, and seconded by Mark Finkelstein, to draft a letter decision as discussed. Vote: 7 – Yes 0 - No

C80-17 Motion was made by Michael Carucci, and seconded by Dan Kaplan, to draft a decision as discussed. Vote: 7 – Yes 0 - No

C61-17 Motion was made by Dan Kaplan, and seconded by Dennis Roberts, to adopt the decision as written. Vote: 7 – Yes 0 - No

Orders to Show Cause/Training

T10-17, T14-17, T15-17, T18-17, T20-17, T22-17 Motion was made by Richard Tomko, and seconded by Mark Finkelstein, to adopt the decisions as written. Vote: 7 – Yes 0 - No

T03-17, T05-17, T06-17, T08-17, T11-17, T12-17, T16-17, T19-17, T21-17 Motion was made by Mark Finkelstein, and seconded by Dennis Roberts, to adopt the decisions as written. Vote: 7 – Yes 0 - No

Advisory Opinions

A36-17 Motion was made by Dennis Roberts, and seconded by Richard Tomko, to advise as discussed. Vote: 7 – Yes 0 - No

A37-17 Motion was made by Dennis Roberts, and seconded by Michael Collins, to advise as discussed. Vote: 7 – Yes 0 - No

A38-17 Motion was made by Richard Tomko, and seconded by Mark Finkelstein, to advise as discussed. Vote: 7 – Yes 0 - No

A39-17 Motion was made by Dennis Roberts, and seconded by Michael Collins, to add this matter to the Agenda. Vote: 7 – Yes 0 – No

A second motion was made by Dennis Roberts, and seconded by Mark Finkelstein, to advise as discussed. Vote: 7 – Yes 0 – No

A35-17 Motion was made by Michael Collins, and seconded by Dan Kaplan, to adopt this Advisory Opinion as written. Vote: 7 – Yes 0 – No

A second motion was made by Dan Kaplan, and seconded by Michael Collins, to make this Advisory Opinion public. Vote: 7 – Yes 0 – No

Administrative Dismissals

T01-17 This matter was on the Agenda for informational purposes only.

Other Business

Doctrines of Necessity Motion was made by Michael Carucci, and seconded by Michael Collins, to direct staff to draft a letter as discussed. Vote: 7 – Yes 0 - No

West Milford Proposed Nepotism Policy This matter was on the Agenda for informational purposes only.

Ridgefield Park Information This matter was on the Agenda for informational purposes only.

C70-17 Update This matter was on the Agenda for informational purposes only.

C73-17 Update This matter was on the Agenda for informational purposes only.

Correspondence Sent to the Pleasantville and Wayne Township Boards of Education - These matters were on the Agenda for informational purposes only.

New Business

C91-17 Motion was made by Michael Collins, and seconded by Dennis Roberts, to amend the Agenda to add this matter. Vote: 7 – Yes 0 – No

A second motion was made by Michael Collins, and seconded by Dennis Roberts, to place this matter in abeyance. Vote: 7 – Yes 0 - No

Chairperson Bender and Director Whalen wished everyone a Happy Holiday.

12:19 p.m. Motion was made by Dan Kaplan, and seconded by Michael Collins, to adjourn. Vote: 7 – Yes 0 - No

Submitted by:

Karin L. Molnar

Approved by:

Kathryn A. Whalen, Director