

## School Ethics Commission Meeting Public Session Minutes

**December 17, 2024**

Chairperson Bender called the regularly scheduled meeting of the School Ethics Commission (Commission or SEC) to order at 9:40 a.m.

Notice of the special meeting was provided to the State House Press Corps and the Secretary of State and filed as required by the Open Public Meetings Act.

### **I. Roll Call**

<b>Roll Call</b>	<b>Robert Bender</b>	<b>Michael Carucci</b>	<b>Mark Finkelstein</b>	<b>Dennis Roberts</b>	<b>Carol E. Sabo</b>	<b>Richard Tomko</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Present</b>	X			X <sup>1</sup>	X	X	4
<b>Absent</b>		X	X				0

Also, in attendance were Brigid C. Martens, Director, Office of School Ethics, Jeannine Pizzigoni<sup>2</sup> and Dana Jones, staff members, and Amna Toor, Deputy Attorney General (DAG).

### **II. First Public Comment**

There were not any members of the public present.

### **III. Executive Session**

At 9:41 a.m., the following Resolution was read:

**Whereas**, the Open Public Meetings Act (*N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 et seq.*) authorizes the Commission, a public body, to meet in Executive Session under certain circumstances; and

**Whereas**, the Open Public Meetings Act requires that the Commission adopt a Resolution at a public meeting to go into Executive Session; and

**Now therefore be it resolved** that, consistent with the provisions of *N.J.A.C. 10:4-12(b)*, the Commission will adjourn to Executive Session to discuss matters which, by statute, are regarded as confidential and also to discuss matters possibly involving litigation: C16-21; C25-24; C26-24; C27-24; C29-24; C30-24; C39-24; C75-19; C50-21 and C72-21 (Consolidated); C90-23; A15-24; C78-24 and C67-22; and

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<sup>1</sup> Commissioner Roberts participated virtually.

<sup>2</sup> Staff member Pizzigoni participated virtually.

*Now therefore be it further resolved* that the Commission will return to open session to conduct business at the conclusion of Executive Session.

Motion was made by Carol E. Sabo, and seconded by Dennis Roberts, to adjourn to Executive Session to discuss the matters set forth in the foregoing Resolution.

**Vote**

<b>Vote</b>	<b>Robert Bender</b>	<b>Michael Carucci</b>	<b>Mark Finkelstein</b>	<b>Dennis Roberts</b>	<b>Carol E. Sabo</b>	<b>Richard Tomko</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Yes</b>	X			X	X	X	4
<b>No</b>							0
<b>Abstention</b>							0

**IV. Return to Public**

At **10:59 a.m.**, a motion was made by Richard Tomko, and seconded by Carol E. Sabo, to return to public session for the purpose of receiving public comment/testimony, and to vote on matters discussed in Executive Session (as appropriate).

**Vote**

<b>Vote</b>	<b>Robert Bender</b>	<b>Michael Carucci</b>	<b>Mark Finkelstein</b>	<b>Dennis Roberts</b>	<b>Carol E. Sabo</b>	<b>Richard Tomko</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Yes</b>	X			X	X	X	4
<b>No</b>							0
<b>Abstention</b>							0

**V. Complaints to Review**

**C16-21** Motion was made by Dennis Roberts, and seconded by Carol E. Sabo, to draft a decision as discussed.

**Vote**

<b>Vote</b>	<b>Robert Bender</b>	<b>Michael Carucci</b>	<b>Mark Finkelstein</b>	<b>Dennis Roberts</b>	<b>Carol E. Sabo</b>	<b>Richard Tomko</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Yes</b>	X			X	X	X	4
<b>No</b>							0
<b>Abstention</b>							0

**C25-24** Motion was made by Carol E. Sabo, and seconded by Dennis Roberts, to table the matter.

**Vote**

<b>Vote</b>	<b>Robert Bender</b>	<b>Michael Carucci</b>	<b>Mark Finkelstein</b>	<b>Dennis Roberts</b>	<b>Carol E. Sabo</b>	<b>Richard Tomko</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Yes</b>	X			X	X		3
<b>No</b>							0
<b>Abstention</b>						X	1

**C26-24** Motion was made by Carol E. Sabo, and seconded by Dennis Roberts, to draft a decision as discussed.

**Vote**

<b>Vote</b>	<b>Robert Bender</b>	<b>Michael Carucci</b>	<b>Mark Finkelstein</b>	<b>Dennis Roberts</b>	<b>Carol E. Sabo</b>	<b>Richard Tomko</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Yes</b>	X			X	X	X	4
<b>No</b>							0
<b>Abstention</b>							0

**C27-24** Motion was made by Carol E. Sabo, and seconded by Dennis Roberts, to table the matter.

**Vote**

<b>Vote</b>	<b>Robert Bender</b>	<b>Michael Carucci</b>	<b>Mark Finkelstein</b>	<b>Dennis Roberts</b>	<b>Carol E. Sabo</b>	<b>Richard Tomko</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Yes</b>	X			X	X		3
<b>No</b>							0
<b>Abstention</b>						X	1

**C29-24** Motion was made by Richard Tomko, and seconded by Carol E. Sabo, to draft a decision as discussed.

**Vote**

<b>Vote</b>	<b>Robert Bender</b>	<b>Michael Carucci</b>	<b>Mark Finkelstein</b>	<b>Dennis Roberts</b>	<b>Carol E. Sabo</b>	<b>Richard Tomko</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Yes</b>	X			X	X	X	4
<b>No</b>							0
<b>Abstention</b>							0

**C30-24** Motion was made by Dennis Roberts, and seconded by Carol E. Sabo, to draft a decision as discussed.

**Vote**

<b>Vote</b>	<b>Robert Bender</b>	<b>Michael Carucci</b>	<b>Mark Finkelstein</b>	<b>Dennis Roberts</b>	<b>Carol E. Sabo</b>	<b>Richard Tomko</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Yes</b>	X			X	X	X	4
<b>No</b>							0
<b>Abstention</b>							0

**C39-24** Motion was made by Carol E. Sabo, and seconded by Richard Tomko, to draft a decision as discussed.

**Vote**

<b>Vote</b>	<b>Robert Bender</b>	<b>Michael Carucci</b>	<b>Mark Finkelstein</b>	<b>Dennis Roberts</b>	<b>Carol E. Sabo</b>	<b>Richard Tomko</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Yes</b>	X			X	X	X	4
<b>No</b>							0
<b>Abstention</b>							0

**VI. Decisions to Adopt as Written**

**C75-19** Motion was made by Richard Tomko, and seconded by Carol E. Sabo, to adopt the decision as written.

**Vote**

<b>Vote</b>	<b>Robert Bender</b>	<b>Michael Carucci</b>	<b>Mark Finkelstein</b>	<b>Dennis Roberts</b>	<b>Carol E. Sabo</b>	<b>Richard Tomko</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Yes</b>	X			X	X	X	4
<b>No</b>							0
<b>Abstention</b>							0

**C50-21 and C72-21 (Consolidated)** Motion was made by Richard Tomko, and seconded by Carol E. Sabo, to adopt the decision as written.

**Vote**

<b>Vote</b>	<b>Robert Bender</b>	<b>Michael Carucci</b>	<b>Mark Finkelstein</b>	<b>Dennis Roberts</b>	<b>Carol E. Sabo</b>	<b>Richard Tomko</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Yes</b>	X			X	X	X	4
<b>No</b>							0
<b>Abstention</b>							0

**C90-23** Motion was made by Richard Tomko, and seconded by Carol E. Sabo, to adopt the decision as written.

**Vote**

<b>Vote</b>	<b>Robert Bender</b>	<b>Michael Carucci</b>	<b>Mark Finkelstein</b>	<b>Dennis Roberts</b>	<b>Carol E. Sabo</b>	<b>Richard Tomko</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Yes</b>	X			X	X	X	4
<b>No</b>							0
<b>Abstention</b>							0

**VII. Advisory Opinions**

**A15-24** Motion was made by Richard Tomko, and seconded by Carol E. Sabo, to adopt the advisory opinion as written.

**Vote**

<b>Vote</b>	<b>Robert Bender</b>	<b>Michael Carucci</b>	<b>Mark Finkelstein</b>	<b>Dennis Roberts</b>	<b>Carol E. Sabo</b>	<b>Richard Tomko</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Yes</b>	X			X	X	X	4
<b>No</b>							0
<b>Abstention</b>							0

**VIII. Administrative Dismissals**

**C78-24** This matter was on the agenda for informational purposes only.

**IX. Other Business**

**C67-22** This matter was on the agenda for informational purposes only.

**X. Minutes**

Motion was made by Dennis Roberts, and seconded by Richard Tomko, to adopt the minutes of the regularly scheduled meeting (public and executive) conducted on November 26, 2024.

**Vote**

<b>Vote</b>	<b>Robert Bender</b>	<b>Michael Carucci</b>	<b>Mark Finkelstein</b>	<b>Dennis Roberts</b>	<b>Carol E. Sabo</b>	<b>Richard Tomko</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Yes</b>	X			X	X	X	4
<b>No</b>							0
<b>Abstention</b>							0

**XI. Second Public Comment**

There were not any members of the public present.

**XII. Adjournment**

At 11:06 a.m., a motion was made by Dennis Roberts, and seconded by Carol E. Sabo, to adjourn.

**Vote**

<b>Vote</b>	<b>Robert Bender</b>	<b>Michael Carucci</b>	<b>Mark Finkelstein</b>	<b>Dennis Roberts</b>	<b>Carol E. Sabo</b>	<b>Richard Tomko</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Yes</b>	X			X	X	X	4
<b>No</b>							0
<b>Abstention</b>							0

Submitted by:

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Jeannine Pizzigoni

Approved by:

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Brigid C. Martens, Director  
School Ethics Commission