

School Ethics Commission Meeting Public Session Minutes

March 25, 2025

Chairperson Bender called the regularly scheduled meeting of the School Ethics Commission (Commission or SEC) to order at 10:36 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

Roll Call	Robert Bender	Michael Carucci	Mark Finkelstein	Dennis Roberts	Carol E. Sabo	Richard Tomko	Total
Present	X		X ¹	X ²	X		4
Absent		X				X	2

Also, in attendance were Brigid C. Martens, Director, Office of School Ethics, Dana Jones and Jeannine Pizzigoni, 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 10:40 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: C42-23; C48-24; C51-24; C54-24; C63-24; C56-20; C84-21; C11-23; C40-24; C45-24; C46-24; C49-24 and C50-24 (Consolidated); C52-24; A01-25; A02-25; A03-25; A04-25; A05-25; C12-25; Vote to adopt a Revised Resolution Delegating Authority to Act pursuant to *N.J.A.C. 6A:28-1.1 et seq.*; Adopt a Resolution of Censure in connection with C75-19; Consider the request for withdrawal in connection with C57-24; Provide an update on the Appellate Division decision in connection

¹ Commissioner Finkelstein participated virtually.

² Commissioner Roberts participated virtually.

with C63-21; Provide an update on the status of pending complaints filed with the Commission in 2024 and 2025; and

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

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

IV. Return to Public

At **12:44 p.m.**, a motion was made by Dennis Roberts, 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

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

V. Complaints to Review

C42-23 Motion was made by Dennis Roberts, and seconded by Carol E. Sabo, to draft a decision as discussed.

Vote

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

C48-24 Motion was made by Mark Finkelstein, and seconded by Carol E. Sabo, to draft a decision as discussed.

Vote

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

C51-24 Motion was made by Dennis Roberts, and seconded by Carol E. Sabo, to draft a decision as discussed.

Vote

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

C54-24 Motion was made by Mark Finkelstein, and seconded by Dennis Roberts, to draft a decision as discussed.

Vote

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

C63-24 Motion was made by Dennis Roberts, and seconded by Mark Finkelstein, to draft a decision as discussed.

Vote

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

VI. Decisions to Adopt as Written

C56-20 Motion was made by Carol E. Sabo, and seconded by Dennis Roberts, to adopt the decision as written.

Vote

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

C84-21 Motion was made by Carol E. Sabo, and seconded by Dennis Roberts, to adopt the decision as written.

Vote

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

C11-23 Motion was made by Carol E. Sabo, and seconded by Dennis Roberts, to adopt the decision as amended.

Vote

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

C40-24 Motion was made by Carol E. Sabo, and seconded by Dennis Roberts, to adopt the decision as written.

Vote

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

C45-24 Motion was made by Carol E. Sabo, and seconded by Dennis Roberts, to adopt the decision as written.

Vote

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

C46-24 Motion was made by Carol E. Sabo, and seconded by Dennis Roberts, to adopt the decision as amended.

Vote

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

C49-24 and C50-24 (Consolidated) Motion was made by Carol E. Sabo, and seconded by Dennis Roberts, to adopt the decision as written.

Vote

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

C52-24 Motion was made by Carol E. Sabo, and seconded by Dennis Roberts, to adopt the decision as written.

Vote

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

VII. Advisory Opinions

A01-25 This matter was on the agenda to make public only. The Commission did not have the statutorily required number of Commissioners present to make the advisory opinion public.

A02-25 Motion was made by Dennis Roberts, and seconded by Mark Finkelstein, to adopt the advisory opinion as written.

Vote

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

A03-25 Motion was made by Dennis Roberts, and seconded by Mark Finkelstein, to adopt the advisory opinion as written.

Vote

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

A04-25 Motion was made by Dennis Roberts, and seconded by Mark Finkelstein, to adopt the advisory opinion as written.

Vote

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

A05-25 Motion was made by Dennis Roberts, and seconded by Mark Finkelstein, to draft the advisory opinion as discussed.

Vote

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

VIII. Administrative Dismissals

C12-25 This matter was on the agenda for informational purposes only.

IX. Other Business

Doctrine of Necessity: None.

Vote to adopt a Revised Resolution Delegating Authority to Act pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:28-1.1 *et seq.* Motion was made by Carol E. Sabo, and seconded by Dennis Roberts, to adopt the Revised Resolution.

Vote

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

Adopt a Resolution of Censure in connection with C75-19. Motion was made by Carol E. Sabo, and seconded by Mark Finkelstein, to adopt the Resolution.

Vote

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

Consider the request for withdrawal in connection with C57-24. Motion was made by Dennis Roberts, and seconded by Carol E. Sabo, to grant the withdrawal.

Vote

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

Provide an update on the status of the Appellate Division decision in connection with C63-

21. The Commission was briefed on this matter by Director Martens, which was on the agenda for informational purposes only.

Provide an update on the status of pending complaints filed with the Commission in 2024 and 2025.

The Commission was briefed on this matter by Director Martens, which was on the agenda for informational purposes only.

X. Minutes

Motion was made by Mark Finkelstein, and seconded by Dennis Roberts, to adopt the minutes of the regularly scheduled meeting (public and executive) conducted on February 18, 2025.

Vote

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

XI. Second Public Comment

There were not any members of the public present.

XII. Adjournment

At 12:53 p.m., a motion was made by Dennis Roberts, and seconded by Carol E. Sabo, to adjourn.

Vote

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

Submitted by:

Jeannine Pizzigoni

Approved by:

Dana Jones
School Ethics Commission