School Ethics Commission Meeting Public Session Minutes

May 20, 2025

Chairperson Bender called the regularly scheduled meeting of the School Ethics Commission (Commission or SEC) to order at 9:35 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	Х	\mathbf{X}^1	X^2	Х		X ³	5
Absent					Х		1

Also, in attendance were Dana Jones and Jeannine Pizzigoni, staff members for the Office of School Ethics, and Amna Toor, Deputy Attorney General (DAG).

II. First Public Comment

There were not any members of the public present.

III. Executive Session

At 9:39 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: C125-22; C61-24; C62-24; C64-24; C67-24; C68-24; C69-24; C70-24; C71-24; C74-24; C75-24; T01-25 through T25-25; C55-24; C58-24; C59-24; C60-24; C76-24; A10-25; A11-25; A01-25; A02-25; A04-25; A05-25; A06-25; A07-25; A08-25; C22-25; C26-25; C29-25; C37-25; Doctrine of Necessity submitted by the Gloucester City Board of Education; Nominating committee to

¹ Commissioner Carucci attended the meeting virtually.

² Commissioner Finkelstein attended the meeting virtually.

³ Commissioner Tomko attended the meeting virtually.

present name of nominee for the position of SEC Chairperson for the term of July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026, and vote on nominee; Vote to adopt Resolution setting forth the 2026 SEC meeting dates/times; Vote to adopt Resolution transmitting C19-22 and C20-22 to the OAL; Discuss Remand from the OAL in connection with C82-22 and Provide an update on the Appellate Division decision in connection with C37-23; 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 Dennis Roberts, and seconded by Mark Finkelstein, to adjourn to Executive Session to discuss the matters set forth in the foregoing Resolution.

Vote	Robert Bender	Michael Carucci	Mark Finkelstein	Dennis Roberts	Carol E. Sabo	Richard Tomko	Total
Yes	Х	Х	Х	Х		Х	5
No							0
Abstention							0

Vote

IV. Return to Public

At **11:30 a.m.**, a motion was made by Dennis Roberts and seconded by Mark Finkelstein, 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	Robert Bender	Michael Carucci	Mark Finkelstein	Dennis Roberts	Carol E. Sabo	Richard Tomko	Total
Yes	X	Х	Х	Х		Х	5
No							0
Abstention							0

V. Complaints to Review

C125-22 Motion was made by Dennis Roberts, and seconded by Mark Finkelstein, to draft a decision as discussed.

Vote	Robert Bender	Michael Carucci	Mark Finkelstein	Dennis Roberts	Carol E. Sabo	Richard Tomko	Total
Yes	Х	Х	Х	Х		Х	5
No							0
Abstention							0

C61-24 Motion was made by Dennis Roberts, and seconded by Richard Tomko, to draft a decision as discussed.

Vote

Vote	Robert Bender	Michael Carucci	Mark Finkelstein	Dennis Roberts	Carol E. Sabo	Richard Tomko	Total
Yes	Х	Х	Х	Х		Х	5
No							0
Abstention							0

C62-24 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	Х	Х	Х	Х		Х	5
No							0
Abstention							0

C64-24 Motion was made by Mark Finkelstein, and seconded by Richard Tomko, to draft a decision as discussed.

Vote

Vote	Robert Bender	Michael Carucci	Mark Finkelstein	Dennis Roberts	Carol E. Sabo	Richard Tomko	Total
Yes	X	Х	Х	Х		Х	5
No							0
Abstention							0

C67-24 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	Х	Х	Х	Х		Х	5
No							0
Abstention							0

C68-24 Motion was made by Dennis Roberts, and seconded by Richard Tomko, to draft a decision as discussed.

Vote	Robert Bender	Michael Carucci	Mark Finkelstein	Dennis Roberts	Carol E. Sabo	Richard Tomko	Total
Yes	X	Х	Х	Х		Х	5
No							0
Abstention							0

C69-24 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	Х	Х	Х		Х	5
No							0
Abstention							0

C70-24 Motion was made by Dennis Roberts, and seconded by Richard Tomko, to draft a decision as discussed.

Vote

Vote	Robert Bender	Michael Carucci	Mark Finkelstein	Dennis Roberts	Carol E. Sabo	Richard Tomko	Total
Yes	X	Х	Х	Х		Х	5
No							0
Abstention							0

C71-24 Motion was made by Dennis Roberts, and seconded by Richard Tomko, to draft a decision as discussed.

Vote	Robert Bender	Michael Carucci	Mark Finkelstein	Dennis Roberts	Carol E. Sabo	Richard Tomko	Total
Yes	Х	Х	Х	Х		Х	5
No							0
Abstention							0

C74-24 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	Х	Х	Х		Х	5
No							0
Abstention							0

C75-24 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	Х	Х	Х		Х	5
No							0
Abstention							0

VI. Orders to Show Cause

T01-25 Motion was made by Dennis Roberts, and seconded by Richard Tomko, to adopt the Order to Show Cause and to send electronically.

Vote	Robert Bender	Michael Carucci	Mark Finkelstein	Dennis Roberts	Carol E. Sabo	Richard Tomko	Total
Yes	X	Х	Х	Х		Х	5
No							0
Abstention							0

T02-25 Motion was made by Dennis Roberts, and seconded by Richard Tomko, to adopt the Order to Show Cause and to send electronically.

Vote

Vote	Robert Bender	Michael Carucci	Mark Finkelstein	Dennis Roberts	Carol E. Sabo	Richard Tomko	Total
Yes	Х	Х	Х	Х		Х	5
No							0
Abstention							0

T03-25 Motion was made by Dennis Roberts, and seconded by Richard Tomko, to adopt the Order to Show Cause and to send electronically.

Vote

Vote	Robert Bender	Michael Carucci	Mark Finkelstein	Dennis Roberts	Carol E. Sabo	Richard Tomko	Total
Yes	Х	Х	Х	Х		Х	5
No							0
Abstention							0

T04-25 Motion was made by Dennis Roberts, and seconded by Richard Tomko, to adopt the Order to Show Cause and to send electronically.

Vote	Robert Bender	Michael Carucci	Mark Finkelstein	Dennis Roberts	Carol E. Sabo	Richard Tomko	Total
Yes	Х	Х	Х	Х		Х	5
No							0
Abstention							0

T05-25 Motion was made by Dennis Roberts, and seconded by Richard Tomko, to adopt the Order to Show Cause and to send electronically.

Vote

Vote	Robert Bender	Michael Carucci	Mark Finkelstein	Dennis Roberts	Carol E. Sabo	Richard Tomko	Total
Yes	Х	Х	Х	Х		Х	5
No							0
Abstention							0

T06-25 Motion was made by Dennis Roberts, and seconded by Richard Tomko, to adopt the Order to Show Cause and to send electronically.

Vote

Vote	Robert Bender	Michael Carucci	Mark Finkelstein	Dennis Roberts	Carol E. Sabo	Richard Tomko	Total
Yes	Х	Х	Х	Х		Х	5
No							0
Abstention							0

T07-25 Motion was made by Dennis Roberts, and seconded by Richard Tomko, to adopt the Order to Show Cause and to send electronically.

Vote	Robert Bender	Michael Carucci	Mark Finkelstein	Dennis Roberts	Carol E. Sabo	Richard Tomko	Total
Yes	Х	Х	Х	Х		Х	5
No							0
Abstention							0

T08-25 Motion was made by Dennis Roberts, and seconded by Richard Tomko, to adopt the Order to Show Cause and to send electronically.

Vote

Vote	Robert Bender	Michael Carucci	Mark Finkelstein	Dennis Roberts	Carol E. Sabo	Richard Tomko	Total
Yes	Х	Х	Х	Х		Х	5
No							0
Abstention							0

T09-25 Motion was made by Dennis Roberts, and seconded by Richard Tomko, to adopt the Order to Show Cause and to send electronically.

Vote

Vote	Robert Bender	Michael Carucci	Mark Finkelstein	Dennis Roberts	Carol E. Sabo	Richard Tomko	Total
Yes	Х	Х	Х	Х		Х	5
No							0
Abstention							0

T10-25 Motion was made by Dennis Roberts, and seconded by Richard Tomko, to adopt the Order to Show Cause and to send electronically.

Vote	Robert Bender	Michael Carucci	Mark Finkelstein	Dennis Roberts	Carol E. Sabo	Richard Tomko	Total
Yes	Х	Х	Х	Х		Х	5
No							0
Abstention							0

T11-25 Motion was made by Dennis Roberts, and seconded by Richard Tomko, to adopt the Order to Show Cause and to send electronically.

Vote

Vote	Robert Bender	Michael Carucci	Mark Finkelstein	Dennis Roberts	Carol E. Sabo	Richard Tomko	Total
Yes	X	Х	Х	Х		Х	5
No							0
Abstention							0

T12-25 Motion was made by Dennis Roberts, and seconded by Richard Tomko, to adopt the Order to Show Cause and to send electronically.

Vote

Vote	Robert Bender	Michael Carucci	Mark Finkelstein	Dennis Roberts	Carol E. Sabo	Richard Tomko	Total
Yes	Х	Х	Х	Х		Х	5
No							0
Abstention							0

T13-25 Motion was made by Dennis Roberts, and seconded by Richard Tomko, to adopt the Order to Show Cause and to send electronically.

Vote	Robert Bender	Michael Carucci	Mark Finkelstein	Dennis Roberts	Carol E. Sabo	Richard Tomko	Total
Yes	Х	Х	Х	Х		Х	5
No							0
Abstention							0

T14-25 Motion was made by Dennis Roberts, and seconded by Richard Tomko, to adopt the Order to Show Cause and to send electronically.

Vote

Vote	Robert Bender	Michael Carucci	Mark Finkelstein	Dennis Roberts	Carol E. Sabo	Richard Tomko	Total
Yes	Х	Х	Х	Х		Х	5
No							0
Abstention							0

T15-25 Motion was made by Dennis Roberts, and seconded by Richard Tomko, to adopt the Order to Show Cause and to send electronically.

Vote

Vote	Robert Bender	Michael Carucci	Mark Finkelstein	Dennis Roberts	Carol E. Sabo	Richard Tomko	Total
Yes	Х	Х	Х	Х		Х	5
No							0
Abstention							0

T16-25 Motion was made by Dennis Roberts, and seconded by Richard Tomko, to adopt the Order to Show Cause and to send electronically.

Vote	Robert Bender	Michael Carucci	Mark Finkelstein	Dennis Roberts	Carol E. Sabo	Richard Tomko	Total
Yes	Х	Х	Х	Х		Х	5
No							0
Abstention							0

T17-25 Motion was made by Dennis Roberts, and seconded by Richard Tomko, to adopt the Order to Show Cause and to send electronically.

Vote

Vote	Robert Bender	Michael Carucci	Mark Finkelstein	Dennis Roberts	Carol E. Sabo	Richard Tomko	Total
Yes	Х	Х	Х	Х		Х	5
No							0
Abstention							0

T18-25 Motion was made by Dennis Roberts, and seconded by Richard Tomko, to adopt the Order to Show Cause and to send electronically.

Vote

Vote	Robert Bender	Michael Carucci	Mark Finkelstein	Dennis Roberts	Carol E. Sabo	Richard Tomko	Total
Yes	Х	Х	Х	Х		Х	5
No							0
Abstention							0

T19-25 Motion was made by Dennis Roberts, and seconded by Richard Tomko, to adopt the Order to Show Cause and to send electronically.

Vote	Robert Bender	Michael Carucci	Mark Finkelstein	Dennis Roberts	Carol E. Sabo	Richard Tomko	Total
Yes	Х	Х	Х	Х		Х	5
No							0
Abstention							0

T20-25 Motion was made by Dennis Roberts, and seconded by Richard Tomko, to adopt the Order to Show Cause and to send electronically.

Vote

Vote	Robert Bender	Michael Carucci	Mark Finkelstein	Dennis Roberts	Carol E. Sabo	Richard Tomko	Total
Yes	Х	Х	Х	Х		Х	5
No							0
Abstention							0

T21-25 Motion was made by Dennis Roberts, and seconded by Richard Tomko, to adopt the Order to Show Cause and to send electronically.

Vote

Vote	Robert Bender	Michael Carucci	Mark Finkelstein	Dennis Roberts	Carol E. Sabo	Richard Tomko	Total
Yes	Х	Х	Х	Х		Х	5
No							0
Abstention							0

T22-25 Motion was made by Dennis Roberts, and seconded by Richard Tomko, to adopt the Order to Show Cause and to send electronically.

Vote	Robert Bender	Michael Carucci	Mark Finkelstein	Dennis Roberts	Carol E. Sabo	Richard Tomko	Total
Yes	Х	Х	Х	Х		Х	5
No							0
Abstention							0

T23-25 Motion was made by Dennis Roberts, and seconded by Richard Tomko, to adopt the Order to Show Cause and to send electronically.

Vote

Vote	Robert Bender	Michael Carucci	Mark Finkelstein	Dennis Roberts	Carol E. Sabo	Richard Tomko	Total
Yes	Х	Х	Х	Х		Х	5
No							0
Abstention							0

T24-25 Motion was made by Dennis Roberts, and seconded by Richard Tomko, to adopt the Order to Show Cause and to send electronically.

Vote

Vote	Robert Bender	Michael Carucci	Mark Finkelstein	Dennis Roberts	Carol E. Sabo	Richard Tomko	Total
Yes	Х	Х	Х	Х		Х	5
No							0
Abstention							0

T25-25 Motion was made by Dennis Roberts, and seconded by Richard Tomko, to adopt the Order to Show Cause and to send electronically.

Vote	Robert Bender	Michael Carucci	Mark Finkelstein	Dennis Roberts	Carol E. Sabo	Richard Tomko	Total
Yes	Х	Х	Х	Х		Х	5
No							0
Abstention							0

Decisions to Adopt as Written⁴ VII.

C55-24 Motion was made by Michael Carucci, and seconded by Mark Finkelstein, to adopt the decision as written.

Vote	Robert Bender	Michael Carucci	Mark Finkelstein	Dennis Roberts	Carol E. Sabo	Richard Tomko	Total
Yes	Х	Х	Х				3
No							0
Abstention				Х		Х	2

Motion was made by Michael Carucci, and seconded by Mark Finkelstein, to C58-24 adopt the decision as written.

Vote	Robert Bender	Michael Carucci	Mark Finkelstein	Dennis Roberts	Carol E. Sabo	Richard Tomko	Total
Yes	X	Х	Х				3
No							0
Abstention				Х		Х	2

Vote

C59-24 Motion was made by Michael Carucci, and seconded by Mark Finkelstein, to adopt the decision as written.

Vote

Vote	Robert Bender	Michael Carucci	Mark Finkelstein	Dennis Roberts	Carol E. Sabo	Richard Tomko	Total
Yes	Х	Х	Х				3
No							0
Abstention				Х		Х	2

⁴ Commissioners Roberts and Tomko were not present at the meeting on April 22, 2025, and therefore, could not participate in the votes related to these matters.

C60-24 Motion was made by Michael Carucci, and seconded by Mark Finkelstein, to adopt the decision as written.

Vote

Vote	Robert Bender	Michael Carucci	Mark Finkelstein	Dennis Roberts	Carol E. Sabo	Richard Tomko	Total
Yes	Х	Х	Х				3
No							0
Abstention				Х		Х	2

C76-24 Motion was made by Michael Carucci, and seconded by Mark Finkelstein, to adopt the decision as written.

Vote

Vote	Robert Bender	Michael Carucci	Mark Finkelstein	Dennis Roberts	Carol E. Sabo	Richard Tomko	Total
Yes	Х	Х	Х				3
No							0
Abstention				Х		Х	2

VIII. Advisory Opinions

A10-25 Motion was made by Michael Carucci, and seconded by Mark Finkelstein, to draft the advisory opinion as discussed.

Vote	Robert Bender	Michael Carucci	Mark Finkelstein	Dennis Roberts	Carol E. Sabo	Richard Tomko	Total
Yes	X	Х	Х	Х		Х	5
No							0
Abstention							0

A11-25 Motion was made by Mark Finkelstein, and seconded by Dennis Roberts, to draft the advisory opinion as discussed.

Vote

Vote	Robert Bender	Michael Carucci	Mark Finkelstein	Dennis Roberts	Carol E. Sabo	Richard Tomko	Total
Yes	Х	Х	Х	Х		Х	5
No							0
Abstention							0

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 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.

A04-25 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.

A05-25 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.

A06-25 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.

A07-25 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.

A08-25 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.

IX. Administrative Dismissals

C22-25 This matter was on the agenda for informational purposes only.

C26-25 This matter was on the agenda for informational purposes only.

C29-25 This matter was on the agenda for informational purposes only.

C37-25 This matter was on the agenda for informational purposes only.

X. Other Business

Doctrine of Necessity: submitted by the Gloucester City Board of Education. This matter was on the agenda for informational purposes only.

Nominating committee to present name of nominee for the position of SEC Chairperson for the term of July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026. Motion was made by Dennis Roberts, and seconded by Michael Carucci, to nominate Robert Bender as Chairperson.

Vote

Vote		Michael Carucci	Mark Finkelstein	Dennis Roberts	Carol E. Sabo	Richard Tomko	Total
Yes		Х	Х	Х		Х	4
No							0
Abstention	X						1

Vote to adopt Resolution setting forth the 2026 SEC meeting dates/times. Motion was made by Dennis Roberts, 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	Х	Х	Х	Х		Х	5
No							0
Abstention							0

Vote to adopt Resolution transmitting C19-22 and C20-22 to the OAL. Motion was made by Mark Finkelstein, and seconded by Michael Carucci, to adopt the Resolution.

Vote	Robert Bender		Mark Finkelstein	Dennis Roberts	Carol E. Sabo	Richard Tomko	Total
Yes	Х	Х	Х	Х		Х	5
No							0
Abstention							0

Discuss Remand from the OAL in connection with C82-22. Motion was made by Dennis Roberts, and seconded by Mark Finkelstein, to draft a Resolution to address the remand from OAL in this matter.

Vote

Vote	Robert Bender	Michael Carucci	Mark Finkelstein	Dennis Roberts	Carol E. Sabo	Richard Tomko	Total
Yes	Х	Х	Х	Х		Х	5
No							0
Abstention							0

Provide an update on the Appellate Division decision in connection with C37-23. This matter was on the agenda for informational purposes only.

XI. Minutes

Motion was made by Mark Finkelstein, and seconded by Michael Carucci, to adopt the minutes of the regularly scheduled meeting (public and executive) conducted on April 22, 2025.

Vote	Robert Bender	Michael Carucci	Mark Finkelstein	Dennis Roberts	Carol E. Sabo	Richard Tomko	Total
Yes	Х	Х	Х				3
No							0
Abstention				X ⁵		X^6	2

⁵ Commissioner Roberts was not present at the meeting on April 22, 2025, and therefore, could not participate in the vote related to this matter.

⁶ Commissioner Tomko was not present at the meeting on April 22, 2025, and therefore, could not participate in the vote related to this matter.

Motion was made by Dennis Roberts, and seconded by Mark Finkelstein, to adopt the minutes of the special meeting (public and executive) conducted on May 1, 2025.

Vote

Vote	Robert Bender	Michael Carucci	Mark Finkelstein	Dennis Roberts	Carol E. Sabo	Richard Tomko	Total
Yes	Х		Х	Х			3
No							0
Abstention		X^7				X^8	2

XII. Second Public Comment

There were not any members of the public present.

XIII. Adjournment

At 11:42 a.m., a motion was made by Dennis Roberts, and seconded by Mark Finkelstein, to adjourn.

Vote

Vote	Robert Bender	Michael Carucci	Mark Finkelstein	Dennis Roberts	Carol E. Sabo	Richard Tomko	Total
Yes	Х	Х	Х	Х		Х	5
No							0
Abstention							0

Submitted by:

Jeannine Pizzigoni

⁷ Commissioner Carucci was not present at the special meeting on May 1, 2025, and therefore, could not participate in the vote related to this matter.

⁸ Commissioner Tomko was not present at the special meeting on May 1, 2025, and therefore, could not participate in the vote related to this matter.

Approved by:

Dana Jones School Ethics Commission