

School Ethics Commission Meeting Public Session Minutes

November 25, 2025

Chairperson Bender called the regularly scheduled meeting of the School Ethics Commission (Commission or SEC) to order at 9:38 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.

I. Roll Call

Roll Call	Robert Bender	Michael Carucci	Mark Finkelstein	Dennis Roberts	Carol E. Sabo	Richard Tomko	Total
Present	X	X	X ¹	X ²	X	X ³	6
Absent							0

Also, in attendance were Brigid Martens, Director; Dana Jones and Jeannine Pizzigoni, staff members for the Office of School Ethics; and Amna Toor and Sadia Ahsanuddin, Deputy Attorneys General (DAG).

II. First Public Comment

There were not any members of the public present.

III. Executive Session

At 9:40 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

¹ Commissioner Finkelstein attended the meeting virtually.

² Commissioner Roberts attended the meeting virtually.

³ Commissioner Tomko attended the meeting virtually.

litigation: C24-25; C25-25; C27-25; C28-25; C29-25; C30-25; C82-22; C18-24; C14-25; C15-25; C16-25; C17-25; C18-25, C19-25 and C21-25 (Consolidated); C23-25, C43-25 and C44-25 (Consolidated); T14-25; A18-25 (Request for Reconsideration); A22-25; A01-25; A02-25; A04-25; A05-25; A06-25; A07-25; A08-25; A10-25; A11-25; A12-25; A13-25; A14-25; A15-25; A16-25; A17-25; A18-25; A19-25; A20-25; A21-25; C61-25; C81-25; C83-25; C84-25; C85-25; C87-25; C88-25; C91-25; C94-25; C97-25; C101-25; DAG Ahsanuddin to present a settlement offer in connection with C26-20; Consider the decision from the Appellate Division in connection with C98-21; Adopt a Resolution of 30-Day Suspension in connection with T01-25; Consider whether to place C89-25 in abeyance and Consider Complainant's request to withdraw the matter docketed as C93-25; 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 Mark Finkelstein, 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	X	X	6
No							0
Abstention							0

IV. Return to Public

At 12:49 p.m., a motion was made by Michael Carucci, 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	X	X	6
No							0
Abstention							0

V. Complaints to Review

C24-25 Motion was made by Michael Carucci, 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	X	X	X	6
No							0
Abstention							0

C25-25 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	X	X	X	6
No							0
Abstention							0

C27-25 Motion was made by Michael Carucci, 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	X	X	6
No							0
Abstention							0

C28-25 Motion was made by Carol E. Sabo, 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	X	X	X	X	X	6
No							0
Abstention							0

C29-25 Motion was made by Dennis Roberts, and seconded by Michael Carucci, 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	X	X	6
No							0
Abstention							0

C30-25 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	X	X	X	6
No							0
Abstention							0

VI. Decisions to Adopt as Written⁴

C82-22 Motion was made by Dennis Roberts, and seconded by Carol E. Sabo, 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	X		5
No							0
Abstention						X ⁵	1

C18-24 Motion was made by Dennis Roberts, and seconded by Carol E. Sabo, to table this matter.

Vote

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

C14-25 Motion was made by Dennis Roberts, and seconded by Carol E. Sabo, 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	X	X	6
No							0
Abstention							0

⁴ Director Martens briefed the Commission on each matter.

⁵ Commissioner Tomko has a conflict, and therefore, he did not participate in the discussion and/or vote related to this matter.

C15-25 Motion was made by Dennis Roberts, and seconded by Carol E. Sabo, 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	X		5
No							0
Abstention						X ⁶	1

C16-25 Motion was made by Dennis Roberts, and seconded by Carol E. Sabo, 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	X	X	6
No							0
Abstention							0

C17-25 Motion was made by Dennis Roberts, and seconded by Carol E. Sabo, 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	X	X	6
No							0
Abstention							0

⁶ Commissioner Tomko has a conflict, and therefore, he did not participate in the discussion and/or vote related to this matter.

C18-25, C19-25 and C21-25 (Consolidated) Motion was made by Dennis Roberts, and seconded by Carol E. Sabo, 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	X	X	6
No							0
Abstention							0

C23-25, C43-25 and C44-25 (Consolidated) Motion was made by Dennis Roberts, and seconded by Carol E. Sabo, 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	X	X	6
No							0
Abstention							0

VII. Orders to Show Cause

T14-25 Motion was made by Carol E. Sabo, and seconded by Michael Carucci, 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	X	X	6
No							0
Abstention							0

VIII. Advisory Opinions

A18-25 (Request for Reconsideration) Motion was made by Mark Finkelstein, and seconded by Dennis Roberts, to deny the request for reconsideration.

Vote

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

A22-25 Motion was made by Mark Finkelstein, and seconded by Dennis Roberts, to adopt the advisory opinion as amended and to make public.

Vote

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

A01-25 Motion was made by Mark Finkelstein, and seconded by Dennis Roberts, to make the advisory opinion public.

Vote

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

A02-25 Motion was made by Mark Finkelstein, and seconded by Dennis Roberts, to make the advisory opinion public.

Vote

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

A04-25 Motion was made by Mark Finkelstein, and seconded by Dennis Roberts, to make the advisory opinion public.

Vote

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

A05-25 Motion was made by Mark Finkelstein, and seconded by Dennis Roberts, to make the advisory opinion public.

Vote

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

A06-25 Motion was made by Mark Finkelstein, and seconded by Dennis Roberts, to make the advisory opinion public.

Vote

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

A07-25 Motion was made by Mark Finkelstein, and seconded by Dennis Roberts, to make the advisory opinion public.

Vote

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

A08-25 Motion was made by Mark Finkelstein, and seconded by Dennis Roberts, to make the advisory opinion public.

Vote

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

A10-25 Motion was made by Mark Finkelstein, and seconded by Dennis Roberts, to make the advisory opinion public.

Vote

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

A11-25 Motion was made by Mark Finkelstein, and seconded by Dennis Roberts, to make the advisory opinion public.

Vote

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

A12-25 Motion was made by Mark Finkelstein, and seconded by Dennis Roberts, to make the advisory opinion public.

Vote

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

A13-25 Motion was made by Mark Finkelstein, and seconded by Dennis Roberts, to make the advisory opinion public.

Vote

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

A14-25 Motion was made by Mark Finkelstein, and seconded by Dennis Roberts, to make the advisory opinion public.

Vote

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

A15-25 Motion was made by Mark Finkelstein, and seconded by Dennis Roberts, to make the advisory opinion public.

Vote

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

A16-25 Motion was made by Mark Finkelstein, and seconded by Dennis Roberts, to make the advisory opinion public.

Vote

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

A17-25 Motion was made by Mark Finkelstein, and seconded by Dennis Roberts, to make the advisory opinion public.

Vote

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

A18-25 Motion was made by Mark Finkelstein, and seconded by Dennis Roberts, to make the advisory opinion public.

Vote

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

A19-25 Motion was made by Mark Finkelstein, and seconded by Dennis Roberts, to make the advisory opinion public.

Vote

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

A20-25 Motion was made by Mark Finkelstein, and seconded by Dennis Roberts, to make the advisory opinion public.

Vote

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

A21-25 Motion was made by Mark Finkelstein, and seconded by Dennis Roberts, to make the advisory opinion public.

Vote

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

IX. Administrative Dismissals

C61-25 This matter was on the agenda for informational purposes only.

C81-25 This matter was on the agenda for informational purposes only.

C83-25 This matter was on the agenda for informational purposes only.

C84-25 This matter was on the agenda for informational purposes only.

C85-25 This matter was on the agenda for informational purposes only.

C87-25 This matter was on the agenda for informational purposes only.

C88-25 This matter was on the agenda for informational purposes only.

C91-25 This matter was on the agenda for informational purposes only.

C94-25 This matter was on the agenda for informational purposes only.

C97-25 This matter was on the agenda for informational purposes only.

C101-25 This matter was on the agenda for informational purposes only.

X. Other Business

Doctrines of Necessity None.

DAG Ahsanuddin to present settlement offer in connection with C26-20. Motion was made by Carol E. Sabo, and seconded by Dennis Roberts, to reject the settlement offer.

Vote

Vote	Robert Bender	Michael Carucci	Mark Finkelstein	Dennis Roberts	Carol E. Sabo	Richard Tomko	Total
Yes	X	X	X	X	X		5
No							0
Abstention						X ⁷	1

⁷ Commissioner Tomko has a conflict, and therefore, he did not participate in the discussion and/or vote related to this matter.

Consider the decision from the Appellate Division in connection with C98-21.

Motion was made by Michael Carucci, and seconded by Carol E. Sabo, to remand the matter to the Office of Administrative Law.

Vote

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

Adopt the Resolution of 30-Day Suspension in connection with T01-25.

Motion was made by Carol E. Sabo, and seconded by Richard Tomko, 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	X	X	6
No							0
Abstention							0

Consider whether to place the matter docketed as C89-25 in abeyance.

Motion was made by Dennis Roberts, and seconded by Mark Finkelstein, to place the matter in abeyance.

Vote

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

Consider Complainant's request to withdraw the matter docketed as C93-25.

Motion was made by Carol E. Sabo, and seconded by Richard Tomko, to grant the request to withdraw.

Vote

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

XI. Minutes

Motion was made by Richard Tomko, and seconded by Mark Finkelstein, to adopt the minutes of the regularly scheduled meeting (public and executive) conducted on October 28, 2025.

Vote

Vote	Robert Bender	Michael Carucci	Mark Finkelstein	Dennis Roberts	Carol E. Sabo	Richard Tomko	Total
Yes	X		X	X	X	X	5
No							0
Abstention		X ⁸					1

XII. Second Public Comment

There were not any members of the public present during the second public session.

⁸ Commissioner Carucci was not present at the meeting on October 28, 2025, and therefore, he did not participate in the vote related to this matter.

XIII. Adjournment

At 1:01 p.m., a motion was made by Dennis Roberts, and seconded by Michael Carucci, to adjourn.

Vote

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

Submitted by:

Jeannine Pizzigoni

Approved by:

Brigid C. Martens, Director
School Ethics Commission