

School Ethics Commission Meeting Public Session Minutes

December 16, 2025

Chairperson Bender called the regularly scheduled meeting of the School Ethics Commission (Commission or SEC) to order at 9:33 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 ¹		X ²	X	X ³	5
Absent			X				1

Also, in attendance were Brigid Martens, Director; 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 9:35 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 Carucci attended the meeting virtually.

² Commissioner Roberts attended the meeting virtually.

³ Commissioner Tomko attended the meeting virtually.

litigation: C73-24; C10-25; C33-25; C34-25; C35-25; C38-25; C39-25; C40-25; C41-25; C42-25, C47-25, C49-25, C50-25 and C51-25 (Consolidated); C46-25; C53-25; C18-24; C24-25; C25-25; C27-25; C28-25; C29-25; C30-25; A23-25; C96-25; Doctrine of Necessity submitted by the Monroe Township Board of Education and Consider whether to place C36-25 in abeyance; 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	X	5
No							0
Abstention							0

IV. Return to Public

At 12:44 p.m., a motion was made by Carol E. Sabo, and seconded by Dennis Roberts, 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	5
No							0
Abstention							0

V. Complaints to Review

C73-24 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	X	5
No							0
Abstention							0

C10-25 Motion was made by Michael Carucci, 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	5
No							0
Abstention							0

C33-25 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	X	5
No							0
Abstention							0

C34-25 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	5
No							0
Abstention							0

C35-25 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						X ⁴	1

C38-25 Motion was made by Michael Carucci, 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	5
No							0
Abstention							0

⁴ Commissioner Tomko has a conflict, and therefore, he did not participate in the discussion and vote related to this matter.

C39-25 Motion was made by Richard Tomko, 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	X	5
No							0
Abstention							0

C40-25 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	5
No							0
Abstention							0

C41-25 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	5
No							0
Abstention							0

C42-25, C47-25, C49-25, C50-25 and C51-25 (Consolidated) 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	5
No							0
Abstention							0

C46-25 Motion was made by Carol E. Sabo, 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	5
No							0
Abstention							0

C53-25 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	5
No							0
Abstention							0

VI. Decisions to Adopt as Written⁵

C18-24 Motion was made by Carol E. Sabo, and seconded by Richard Tomko, 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							0

C24-25 Motion was made by Carol E. Sabo, and seconded by Richard Tomko, 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							0

C25-25 Motion was made by Carol E. Sabo, and seconded by Richard Tomko, 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							0

⁵ Director Martens briefed the Commission on each matter.

C27-25 Motion was made by Carol E. Sabo, and seconded by Richard Tomko, 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							0

C28-25 Motion was made by Carol E. Sabo, and seconded by Richard Tomko, 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							0

C29-25 Motion was made by Carol E. Sabo, and seconded by Richard Tomko, 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							0

C30-25 Motion was made by Carol E. Sabo, and seconded by Richard Tomko, 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							0

VII. Advisory Opinions

A23-25 Motion was made by Dennis Roberts, and seconded by Richard Tomko, to adopt the advisory opinion as written. The Commission could not take any further action because it did not have the statutorily required number of Commissioners.

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							0

VIII. Administrative Dismissals

C96-25 This matter was on the agenda for informational purposes only.

IX. Other Business

Doctrines of Necessity submitted by the Monroe Township Board of Education.

This matter was on the agenda for informational purposes only.

Consider whether to place C36-25 in abeyance. Motion was made by Michael Carucci, and seconded by Carol E. Sabo, 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	5
No							0
Abstention							0

X. Minutes

Motion was made by Dennis Roberts, and seconded by Carol E. Sabo, to adopt the minutes of the regularly scheduled meeting (public and executive) conducted on November 25, 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							0

XI. Second Public Comment

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

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	X	5
No							0
Abstention							0

Submitted by:

Jeannine Pizzigoni

Approved by:

Brigid C. Martens, Director
School Ethics Commission