

School Ethics Commission Meeting Public Session Minutes

July 28, 2026

Chairperson Roberts called the regularly scheduled meeting of the School Ethics Commission (Commission or SEC) to order at 9:32 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	Michael Carucci	Mark Finkelstein	Patricia Gois	Dennis Roberts	Carol E. Sabo	Richard Tomko	Total
Present		X ¹		X	X	X ²	4
Absent	X		X				2

Also, in attendance were Brigid Martens, Director; Dana Jones and Jeannine Pizzigoni, staff members for the Office of School Ethics and Anna Toor and David Kalisky,³ Deputy Attorneys General (DAG).

II. First Public Comment

There were not any members of the public present.

III. Executive Session

At 9:36 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 Tomko attended the meeting virtually.

³ DAG Kalisky left the meeting at 9:44 a.m. after updating the Commission on the matter.

litigation: C93-22; C90-24; C105-25; C11-26; C15-26; C20-26; C23-26; C24-26; C25-26; C28-26; C30-26; T01-26; T02-26; T03-26; T04-26; T05-26; T06-26; C75-20, C76-20, C77-20, C79-20 (Consolidated); C86-23; C61-24; C136-25; C07-26; C10-26; C43-26 and C52-26 (Consolidated); A14-26; C12-26; C47-26; C67-26; Doctrines of Necessity submitted by the Monroe Township (x2) and the Washington Township Boards of Education; DAG David Kalisky to present a settlement offer in connection with C47-21; Consider whether to place C36-26 in abeyance; Consider whether to place C62-26 in abeyance; Consider whether to place C63-26 in abeyance; Consider whether to place C64-26 in abeyance; Consider whether to place C83-26 in abeyance; Provide an update on the status of the Request for Interlocutory Review in connection with C101-24; and Provide an update on the status of the Request for Interlocutory Review in connection with C103-24; 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	Michael Carucci	Mark Finkelstein	Patricia Gois	Dennis Roberts	Carol E. Sabo	Richard Tomko	Total
Yes		X		X	X	X	4
No							0
Abstention							0

IV. Return to Public

At **11:05 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

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

V. Complaints to Review

C93-22 Motion was made by Dennis Roberts, and seconded by Carol E. Sabo, to table the matter because it did not have the statutorily required number of Commissioners to take action.

Vote

Vote	Michael Carucci	Mark Finkelstein	Patricia Gois	Dennis Roberts	Carol E. Sabo	Richard Tomko	Total
Yes		X		X	X		3
No							0
Abstention						X ⁴	1

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

C90-24 Motion was made by Mark Finkelstein, and seconded by Carol E. Sabo, to draft a decision as discussed.

Vote

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

C105-25 Motion was made by Carol E. Sabo, and seconded by Richard Tomko, to draft a decision as discussed.

Vote

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

C11-26 Motion was made by Richard Tomko, and seconded by Mark Finkelstein, to draft a decision as discussed.

Vote

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

C15-26 Motion was made by Dennis Roberts, and seconded by Carol E. Sabo, to table the matter because it did not have the statutorily required number of Commissioners to take action.

Vote

Vote	Michael Carucci	Mark Finkelstein	Patricia Gois	Dennis Roberts	Carol E. Sabo	Richard Tomko	Total
Yes		X		X	X		3
No							0
Abstention						X ⁵	1

C20-26 Motion was made by Richard Tomko, and seconded by Mark Finkelstein, to draft a decision as discussed.

Vote

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

C23-26 Motion was made by Dennis Roberts, and seconded by Carol E. Sabo, to draft a decision as discussed.

Vote

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

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

C24-26 Motion was made by Richard Tomko, and seconded by Mark Finkelstein, to draft a decision as discussed.

Vote

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

C25-26 Motion was made by Carol E. Sabo, and seconded by Mark Finkelstein, to draft a decision as discussed.

Vote

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

C28-26 Motion was made by Dennis Roberts, and seconded by Carol E. Sabo, to table the matter because it did not have the statutorily required number of Commissioners to take action.

Vote

Vote	Michael Carucci	Mark Finkelstein	Patricia Gois	Dennis Roberts	Carol E. Sabo	Richard Tomko	Total
Yes		X		X	X		3
No							0
Abstention						X ⁶	1

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

C30-26 Motion was made by Mark Finkelstein, and seconded by Carol E. Sabo, to draft a decision as discussed.

Vote

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

Orders to Show Cause

T01-26 Motion was made by Carol E. Sabo, and seconded by Mark Finkelstein, to adopt the Order to Show Cause and to email.

Vote

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

T02-26 Motion was made by Carol E. Sabo, and seconded by Mark Finkelstein, to adopt the Order to Show Cause and to email.

Vote

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

T03-26 Motion was made by Carol E. Sabo, and seconded by Mark Finkelstein, to adopt the Order to Show Cause and to email.

Vote

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

T04-26 Motion was made by Carol E. Sabo, and seconded by Mark Finkelstein, to adopt the Order to Show Cause and to email.

Vote

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

T05-26 Motion was made by Carol E. Sabo, and seconded by Mark Finkelstein, to adopt the Order to Show Cause and to email.

Vote

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

T06-26 Motion was made by Carol E. Sabo, and seconded by Mark Finkelstein, to adopt the Order to Show Cause and to email.

Vote

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

VI. Decisions to Adopt as Written⁷

C75-20, C76-20, C77-20 and C79-20 (Consolidated) Motion was made by Richard Tomko, and seconded by Carol E. Sabo, to adopt the decision as written.

Vote

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

C86-23 Motion was made by Richard Tomko, and seconded by Carol E. Sabo, to adopt the decision as written.

Vote

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

⁷ Director Martens briefed the Commission on each matter.

C61-24 Motion was made by Richard Tomko, and seconded by Carol E. Sabo, to adopt the decision as written.

Vote

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

C136-25 Motion was made by Richard Tomko, and seconded by Carol E. Sabo, to adopt the decision as written.

Vote

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

C07-26 Motion was made by Richard Tomko, and seconded by Carol E. Sabo, to adopt the decision as amended.

Vote

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

C10-26 Motion was made by Richard Tomko, and seconded by Carol E. Sabo, to adopt the decision as written.

Vote

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

C43-26 and C52-26 (Consolidated) Motion was made by Richard Tomko, and seconded by Carol E. Sabo, to adopt the decision as written.

Vote

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

VII. Advisory Opinions

A14-26 Motion was made by Dennis Roberts, and seconded by Carol E. Sabo, to adopt the advisory opinion as written.

Vote

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

VIII. Administrative Dismissals

C12-26 This matter was on the agenda for informational purposes only.

C47-26 This matter was on the agenda for informational purposes only.

C67-26 This matter was on the agenda for informational purposes only.

IX. Other Business

Doctrines of Necessity: submitted by the Monroe Township (x2) and the Washington Township Boards of Education. These matters were on the agenda for informational purposes only.

DAG Kalisky to present a settlement offer in connection with C47-21. Motion was made by Mark Finkelstein, and seconded by Richard Tomko, to accept the settlement offer.

Vote

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

Consider whether to place C36-26 in abeyance. Motion was made by Richard Tomko, and seconded by Carol E. Sabo, to place the matter in abeyance.

Vote

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

Consider whether to place C62-26 in abeyance. Motion was made by Richard Tomko, and seconded by Carol E. Sabo, to place the matter in abeyance.

Vote

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

Consider whether to place C63-26 in abeyance. Motion was made by Richard Tomko, and seconded by Carol E. Sabo, to place the matter in abeyance.

Vote

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

Consider whether to place C64-26 in abeyance. Motion was made by Richard Tomko, and seconded by Carol E. Sabo, to place the matter in abeyance.

Vote

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

Consider whether to place C83-26 in abeyance. Motion was made by Richard Tomko, and seconded by Carol E. Sabo, to place the matter in abeyance.

Vote

Vote	Michael Carucci	Mark Finkelstein	Patricia Gois	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 Request for Interlocutory Review in connection with C101-24. This matter was on the agenda for informational purposes only.

Provide an update on the status of the Request for Interlocutory Review in connection with C103-24. This matter was on the agenda for informational purposes only.

X. Minutes

Motion was made by Carol E. Sabo, and seconded by Richard Tomko, to adopt the minutes of the regularly scheduled meeting (public and executive) conducted on June 23, 2026.

Vote

Vote	Michael Carucci	Mark Finkelstein	Patricia Gois	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 11:14 a.m., a motion was made by Mark Finkelstein, and seconded by Richard Tomko, to adjourn.

Vote

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

Submitted by:

Jeannine Pizzigoni

Approved by:

Brigid C. Martens, Director
School Ethics Commission