

MINUTES OF MEETING
NEW JERSEY PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT RELATIONS COMMISSION
January 30, 2025
10:00 a.m.
495 West State Street
Trenton, New Jersey

The meeting was called to order by Chair Mary Beth Hennessy-Shotter.

Present were:

Commissioners:

Adrienne Eaton
Craig Ford
William Higgins
Barry Kushnir
Pasquale Papero

Also present were:

Christine Lucarelli-Carneiro, General Counsel
John Boppert, Deputy General Counsel
William Campbell, IV, Deputy General Counsel
Frank Kanther, Deputy General Counsel
Grace Xanthacos, who acted as Stenographer

At the commencement of the meeting, Chair Hennessy-Shotter, pursuant to Section 5 of the Open Public Meetings Act, entered this announcement into the minutes of the meeting:

Adequate notice has been provided by the dissemination of a written "Annual Notice of Meeting." On December 12, 2024 a copy of such notice was:

(a) prominently posted in a public place at the offices of the Public Employment Relations Commission;

(b) e-mailed to the business offices of the Trenton Times and the Courier Post;

(c) posted on the agency's web site.

Furthermore on January 24, 2025, copies of an additional written "Notice of Meeting" were posted and sent in a similar manner.

The first item for consideration was the minutes of the December 12, 2024 meeting. Commissioner Kushnir moved the minutes and Commissioner Higgins seconded the motion. The motion to adopt the minutes was unanimously approved (Chair Hennessy-Shotter, Commissioners Eaton, Ford, Higgins, Kushnir and Papero).

The Chair advised the Commissioners that the Court has set a return date of February 27, 2025 for the Superior Court case where Rutgers is challenging the subcontracting amendments to the Act. The Chair also advised the Commissioners that she denied a stay request on behalf of the employer in Cedar Grove Bd. of Ed., P.E.R.C. No. 2025-15. The Chair also denied a request for an expedited scope of negotiations determination filed on behalf of the State of New Jersey in IA-2025-008. The union, FOP Lodge 174, modified its proposal after the petition was filed.

Counsel's staff discussed two recently issued Appellate Division decisions - In re Rutgers, 2024 N.J. Super. Unpub. LEXIS 3033 and In re the Matters of Watchung Hills Reg'l High Sch. Dist. Bd. Of Educ., 2024 N.J. Super. Unpub. LEXIS 3095.

The first case for consideration was Saddle River Board of Education and Saddle River Education Association, Docket No. CO-2022-100. Commissioner Kushnir moved the draft decision and Commissioner Eaton seconded the motion. The motion to adopt the draft decision was unanimously approved (Chair Hennessy-Shotter, Commissioners Eaton, Ford, Higgins, Kushnir and Papero).

The next item for consideration was State of New Jersey and Council of New Jersey State College Locals, AFT and Communications Workers of America, AFL-CIO, Docket Nos. CU-2012-017, CU-2016-029, CU-2016-031, CU-2019-018, CU-2019-024 and CU-2020-003. Commissioner Ford moved the draft decision and Commissioner Kushnir seconded the motion. Commissioners Eaton and Kushnir are recused from voting on matters involving the law firm of Weissman & Mintz. The motion to adopt the draft was unanimously approved (Chair Hennessy-Shotter, Commissioners Ford, Higgins and Papero).

The next item for consideration was Township of Bloomfield and International Union of Operating Engineers, Local 68, Docket No. CO-2022-214, OAL Docket No. PRC 02350-23. Commissioner Eaton moved the draft decision and Commissioner Kushnir seconded the motion. The motion to adopt the draft decision was unanimously approved (Chair Hennessy-Shotter, Commissioners Eaton, Ford, Higgins, Kushnir and Papero).

The next item for consideration was Daniel Burke and Jackson Township, Docket No. CI-2020-023, OAL Docket No. PRC 01885-24. Commissioner Kushnir moved the draft decision and Commissioner Higgins seconded the motion. The motion to adopt the draft was unanimously approved (Chair Hennessy-Shotter, Commissioners Eaton, Ford, Higgins, Kushnir and Papero).

The next item for consideration was City of Englewood and United Brotherhood of Public Works, Docket No. CO-2025-081.

Commissioner Eaton moved the draft decision and Commissioner Ford seconded the motion. The motion to adopt the draft was unanimously approved (Chair Hennessy-Shotter, Commissioners Eaton, Ford, Higgins, Kushnir and Papero).

The next item for consideration was the consideration of AFL-CIO Chapter 14 Rules Proposal. Commissioner Ford recused himself because he serves on the Board of the NJ State AFL/CIO, and Commissioner Kushnir recused himself due to his union's affiliation with the AFL/CIO. A discussion ensued. Commissioner Eaton made a motion to refer the matter for further deliberations and Commissioner Higgins seconded the motion. The motion to refer the matter for further deliberations was unanimously approved (Chair Hennessy-Shotter, Commissioners Eaton, Higgins and Papero).

The next item for consideration was the proposed change of date of the November Commission meeting from November 20, 2025 to November 25, 2025. The matter was tabled for discussion at the February 27, 2025 meeting.

The Chair asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Kushnir made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Commissioner Eaton seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved (Chair Hennessy-Shotter, Commissioners

Eaton, Ford, Higgins, Kushnir and Papero). The meeting was then adjourned.

The next regular meeting is scheduled to be held on Thursday, February 27, 2025.