

MINUTES OF MEETING
NEW JERSEY PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT RELATIONS COMMISSION
June 26, 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
William Campbell, IV, Deputy General Counsel
Frank Kanther, Deputy General Counsel
Ramiro Perez, 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 June 18, 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 May 26, 2025 meeting. Commissioner Kushnir moved the minutes and Commissioner Eaton seconded the motion. The motion to adopt the minutes was unanimously approved (Chair Hennessy-Shotter, Commissioners Eaton, Ford, Higgins, Kushnir and Papero).

The Chair notified the Commission that Rutgers University's constitutional challenge to the subcontracting amendments to the Act was scheduled for a case management conference on June 26, 2025, and the trial scheduled for June 16 was canceled. The Chair further advised that she was confirmed by the Senate on June 2 for a term expiring on June 3, 2027. Finally, the Chair acknowledged Commissioner Ford and thanked him for his service to the Commission.

The General Counsel advised that the appeal In the Matter of State of New Jersey and Council of New Jersey State College Locals, AFT, and Communications Workers of America, AFL-CIO, P.E.R.C. No. 2025-25, 51 NJPER 235 (¶56 2025) was dismissed due to the court's determination that the Commission's decision was not a final agency decision. The General Counsel further advised that a new appeal was filed In the Matter of Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey and American Association of University Professors, Biomedical and Health Sciences of New Jersey, P.E.R.C. No. 2025-38, 51 NJPER 355 (¶81 2025).

The first case for consideration was Rutgers and Health Professionals and Allied Employees, AFT, AFL-CIO, Local 5094, Docket No. SN-2025-014. Commissioner Kushnir moved the draft decision and Commissioner Higgins seconded the motion. Commissioner Eaton is recused from voting on matters involving Rutgers University. Commissioner Papero is recused from voting on matters involving the law firm of Crivelli, Barbatì & DeRose. The motion to adopt the draft decision was unanimously approved (Chair Hennessy-Shotter, Commissioners Ford, Higgins and Kushnir).

The next item for consideration was Elizabeth Board of Education and Elizabeth Education Association, Docket No. CO-2025-070. Commissioner Eaton moved the draft decision and Commissioner Higgins seconded the motion. A discussion ensued. The motion to adopt the draft was approved by a vote of four in favor (Chair Hennessy-Shotter, Commissioners Higgins, Kushnir and Papero) and two opposed (Commissioners Eaton and Ford).

The next item for consideration was County of Atlantic and AFSCME N.J. Council 63 and Jeremiah McKinnis, Docket No. CI-2025-040. Commissioner Kushnir moved the draft decision and Commissioner Papero seconded the motion. Commissioner Ford is recused from voting on matters AFSCME AFL-CIO. The motion to adopt the draft was unanimously approved (Chair Hennessy-Shotter, Commissioners Eaton, Higgins, Kushnir and Papero).

The next item for consideration was City of Paterson and Paterson Firefighters Association, Local 2, Docket No. IA-2025-009. Commissioner Eaton moved the draft decision and Commissioner Papero seconded the motion. A discussion ensued. The Chair asked for a motion to amend the draft. Commissioner Kushnir made a motion to amended the draft and Commissioner Papero seconded the motion. The motion to amend the draft was unanimously approved (Chair Hennessy-Shotter, Commissioners Eaton, Ford, Higgins, Kushnir and Papero). The language to be added to the draft is as follows: "We note that the record presented to the arbitrator by the City was insufficient, which hindered his ability to provide a detailed analysis of the award costs." The Chair requested a word to be added to the Order. Commissioner Eaton made a motion to add a word to the Order and Commissioner Papero seconded the motion. The motion to add a word to the Order was unanimously approved (Chair Hennessy-Shotter, Commissioners Eaton, Ford, Higgins, Kushnir and Papero). The word to be added to the Order is "legible." The motion to adopt the draft was unanimously approved (Chair Hennessy-Shotter, Commissioners Eaton, Ford, Higgins, Kushnir and Papero).

The Chair asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Eaton made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Commissioner Kushnir 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, August 28, 2025.