

MINUTES OF MEETING
NEW JERSEY PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT RELATIONS COMMISSION
August 28, 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
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 August 20, 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 June 26, 2025 meeting. Commissioner Eaton moved the minutes and Commissioner Papero 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 that an unfair practice matter between Wayne Township Board of Education and the Wayne Education Association was referred to the Chief Mediator for a settlement conference. The Rutgers University constitutional challenge to the subcontracting amendments of the Act was scheduled for a case management conference today. The Agency has been hard at work over the summer cleaning out the Newark and Trenton offices of old furniture, computer equipment, and files. The Commission room has been outfitted with microphones and a new telephone system to improve the Commissioner's audio experience for special Commission meetings.

The General Counsel discussed the parties who have filed amicus briefs In the Matter of Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey and AFSCME Local 888, American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, AFL-CIO, Supreme Court Docket No. 090230. Additionally, she discussed that an application to file a motion for leave to appeal by the State has been granted 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).

The first case for consideration was County of Essex and FOP Lodge 106, Docket No. SN-2025-021. Commissioner Papero 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, Higgin, Kushnir and Papero).

The next item for consideration was Hamilton Township and Policemen's Benevolent Association Local 66 & Policemen's Benevolent Association Local 66A, Docket No. CO-2024-193. Commissioner Ford moved the draft decision and Commissioner Eaton seconded the motion. Commissioner Papero is recused from voting on matters involving the law firm of Crivelli, Barbati & DeRose. The motion to adopt the draft was unanimously approved (Chair Hennessy-Shotter, Commissioners Eaton, Ford, Higgins and Kushnir).

The next item for consideration was County College of Morris and Faculty Association of County College of Morris, Docket Nos. CO-2021-228 and CE-2021-011. Commissioner Eaton moved the draft decision and Commissioner Papero seconded the motion. Commissioner Ford is recused from voting on matters involving 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 Union Township Board of Education and Union Township Education Association, Docket No. CO-2025-087. Commissioner Eaton moved the draft decision and Commissioner Higgins seconded the motion. Commissioner Ford is recused from voting on matters involving the law firm of Oxfeld Cohen. Commissioner Eaton made a motion to discuss the matter and Commissioner Higgins seconded the motion. Commissioner Eaton made a motion to amend the draft and Commissioner Kushnir seconded the motion. The amendments to be made were as follows: Page 8 - last full paragraph - add "some" before the word parallels; Page 9 - move footnote 4 into the body of decision; and Page 9 - "Building not acceptable" - replace with "The Union was aware of the mold and there was not risk of continued mold exposure." The motion to amend the draft was unanimously approved (Chair Hennessy-Shotter, Commissioners Eaton, Higgins, Kushnir and Papero). Commissioner Kushnir made a motion to approve the draft as amended and Commissioner Papero seconded the motion. The motion to approve the draft as amended was unanimously approved (Chair Hennessy-Shotter, Commissioners Eaton, Higgins, Kushnir and Papero).

The next item for consideration was University Hospital and Teamsters Local 97 and Kevin Porter, Docket No. CI-2026-003. 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 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, September 25, 2025.