

MINUTES OF MEETING
NEW JERSEY PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT RELATIONS COMMISSION
December 18, 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
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 December 11, 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 November 17, 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 and Papero).

The Chair advised the Commission that she denied the Borough's request for an expedited scope decision in an interest arbitration matter between the Borough of Oakland and PBA Local 164. The Chair also advised the Commissioners that new members have been nominated to serve in the public member seats. The Chair congratulated Commissioner Papero on his renomination to the Commission. Lastly, the Chair reminded the Commissioners that the PERC Conference will be held on April 24, 2026 at a new location.

The General Counsel commented on the matter of Arminio v. Monroe Tp. Bd. of Ed., 2025 N.J. Super. LEXIS 72 (App. Div. 2025) (App. Div. Dkt. No. A-207-24), a case dealing with an Open Public Meetings Act violation.

The first case for consideration was Borough of Woodcliff Lake and PBA Local 206, Docket No. SN-2026-008. Commissioner Eaton moved the draft decision and Commissioner Higgins seconded the motion. Commissioner Papero is recused from voting on matters involving the New Jersey Policemen's Benevolent Association. The motion to adopt the draft decision was

unanimously approved (Chair Hennessy-Shotter, Commissioners Eaton, Ford, and Higgins).

The next case for consideration was State of New Jersey, Department of Children and Families and CWA, AFL-CIO, Docket No. CO-2025-006. Commissioner Eaton moved the draft decision and Commissioner Papero seconded the motion. Commissioner Ford is recused from voting on matters involving AFL-CIO. A discussion ensued. Commissioner Eaton made a motion to amend the draft to add the words "including the act of petitioning" on page 16 of the draft decision. Commissioner Papero seconded the motion. The motion to amend the draft was unanimously approved (Chair Hennessy-Shotter, Commissioners Eaton, Higgins, and Papero). Commissioner Higgins made a motion to adopt the draft as amended and Commissioner Papero seconded the motion. The motion to adopt the draft decision as amended was unanimously approved (Chair Hennessy-Shotter, Commissioners Eaton, Higgins, and Papero).

The next item for consideration was Mercer County Special Services School District Board of Education and Mercer County Special Services Education and Therapeutic Association and Mercer County Special Services Support Staff Association, Docket Nos. CO-2024-082 and CO-2024-093. 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, and Papero).

The next item for consideration was Borough of Wanaque and PBA Local 407, Docket No. SN-2026-006. Commissioner Ford moved the draft decision and Commissioner Eaton seconded the motion. Commissioner Papero is recused from voting on matters involving the New Jersey Policemen's Benevolent Association. The motion to adopt the draft was unanimously approved (Chair Hennessy-Shotter, Commissioners Eaton, Ford, and Higgins).

The next item for consideration was the Annual Notice of Regularly Scheduled Meetings for 2026. Commission Eaton made a motion to approve the schedule and Commissioner Higgins seconded the motion. A discussion ensued. Commissioner Papero suggested that the November meeting date be changed to November 16, 2026. The motion to approve the Annual Notice of Regularly Scheduled Meetings for 2026 as amended was unanimously approved (Chair Hennessy-Shotter, Commissioners Eaton, Ford, Higgins, and Papero).

The next item for consideration was the Resolution for Joanne Maynard. Commissioner Papero made a motion to adopt the Resolution and Commissioner Eaton seconded the motion. The motion to adopt the Resolution for Joanne Maynard was unanimously approved (Chair Hennessy-Shotter, Commissioners Eaton, Ford, Higgins, and Papero).

The Chair asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Eaton made a motion to adjourn the meeting and

Commissioner Higgins seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved (Chair Hennessy-Shotter, Commissioners Eaton, Ford, Higgins, and Papero). The meeting was then adjourned.

The next regular meeting is scheduled to be held on Thursday, January 29, 2025.