

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
STATE EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT COMMISSION
MEDICAL EXAMINING BOARD

FEBRUARY 19, 2021 MEETING
HELD VIA ZOOM
CONVENED AT 9:04 a.m.

Board Members Present:

Dr. Nikolai Lieders, Chair
Dr. Richard Blum
Dr. Eric Shore

Also Present:

Annette Sadlowski, Retirement Services Division
Cindy Cieslak, Rose Kallor, general counsel to the
Retirement Commission
William Cassada, Retirement Services Division
Robert Helfand, Retirement Services Division

Karen Vibert, CSR No. 00064

1 (Proceedings commenced at 9:04 a.m.)

2

3 DR. LIEDERS: The meeting will come to
4 order. The February 19th of 2021 meeting of the
5 Medical Examining Board is now in session. My name
6 is Nikolai Lieders. Present also for the Medical
7 Examining Board, Dr. Richard Blum and
8 Dr. Eric Shore.

9 Also attending from the office of the
10 State Comptroller's Retirement Services Division,
11 Annette Sadlowski, Robert Helfand, William Cassada.
12 And general counsel for the Retirement Commission,
13 Cindy Cieslak.

14 Before we go into executive session.
15 I guess we have to amend the agenda. There is a
16 motion -- I make a motion to amend the agenda. Is
17 there a second?

18 DR. BLUM: Second.

19 DR. LIEDERS: Any discussion? All in
20 favor say aye. All opposed say nay. Motion passes.

21 I'm going to make a motion to add
22 Christopher Godialis to the agenda. Is there a
23 second?

24 DR. BLUM: Second.

25 DR. LIEDERS: Any discussion? All in

1 favor say aye. All opposed say nay. Motion passes.

2 We added Christopher Godialis to the
3 agenda. We will now go into executive session. So,
4 I'll make a motion for us to go -- for the Medical
5 Examining Board to go into executive session.

6 DR. LIEDERS: Is there a second?

7 DR. BLUM: Second.

8 DR. LIEDERS: Any discussion? All favor
9 say aye. All opposed nay. The motion passes.

10 I'm going to ask members of the --
11 staff members from the Retirement Services Division
12 as well as the general counsel for the Retirement
13 Commission to remain with us at the meeting as well.

14 MS. CIESLAK: What this means is that our
15 participants today that were not invited into
16 executive session will be put back in the waiting
17 room. So, Gail, that's you, as well as Mr. Walsh
18 and his attorney. I just wanted to let you know
19 that we will invite you back in from the waiting
20 room so that you can make your statement when the
21 doctors are discussing your case.

22 We go into executive session because
23 your medical records are discussed, and because this
24 is a public meeting, you probably don't want your
25 medical information being discussed where the public

1 can view it. So it maintains your privacy.

2 So, I'm going to put you in the
3 waiting room, and you'll be called back in when we
4 are ready to discuss your case.

5 MR. WALSH: Okay. Thank you.

6 MS. CIESLAK: Gail, I think you are on
7 mute. I don't know if you had a question before I
8 put you in the waiting room.

9 Still on mute. I think we're having
10 difficulty un-muting; but, you're going to be placed
11 in the waiting room. When your case is called, I'm
12 going to bring you back in.

13 (The Board was in executive session from
14 9:05 a.m. until 11:38 a.m.)

15 DR. LIEDERS: We're out of the executive
16 session. We are in public session again.

17 Before we vote, I'll just briefly
18 make a statement here just to let you know the
19 process.

20 The Board will be making the
21 determinations and voting on those determinations;
22 but, I would like to remind members that only a
23 final vote will be given today and not the reasons
24 for the vote. In some instances there may not have
25 been enough medical information to make a

1 determination, or perhaps a non-service-connected
2 disability is more likely than a service-connected
3 disability.

4 You may seek reconsideration of an
5 initial denial, and you will receive the Board's
6 written determination within two to four weeks,
7 which will then provide you with additional
8 information or details.

9 Should we proceed like we've been
10 doing? I make a -- I'll make a motion and you do
11 the rest?

12 MS. CIESLAK: That's fine with me.

13 DR. LIEDERS: Thank you.

14 So, I'll make a motion to approve
15 Timothy Ausburger for non-service-connected
16 disability retirement.

17 DR. SHORE: Second.

18 MS. CIESLAK: Any further discussion?
19 There being none, all in favor say aye. All opposed
20 say nay. The motion passes.

21 DR. LIEDERS: I'll make a motion to table
22 Wayne Campbell's application for service-connected
23 disability retirement.

24 MULTIPLE PEOPLE: We could not hear you.

25 DR. LIEDERS: I make a motion to table

1 Wayne Campbell's application for service-connected
2 disability retirement.

3 DR. SHORE: Second.

4 MS. CIESLAK: Any further discussion?
5 There being none, all in favor say aye. Any opposed
6 say nay. The motion passes.

7 DR. LIEDERS: I'll make a motion to
8 approve Koren Catchings' application for
9 service-connected disability retirement.

10 DR. SHORE: Second.

11 MS. CIESLAK: Any further discussion?
12 There being none, all in favor say aye. All opposed
13 say nay. The motion passes.

14 DR. LIEDERS: I'll make a motion to
15 approve Mark Clark's application for
16 non-service-connected disability retirement.

17 DR. SHORE: Second.

18 MS. CIESLAK: Any further discussion?
19 There being none, all in favor say aye. Any opposed
20 say nay. The motion passes.

21 DR. LIEDERS: I'll make a motion to
22 approve Yolanda Cruz's application for
23 service-connected disability retirement.

24 DR. SHORE: Second.

25 MS. CIESLAK: Any further discussion?

1 There being none, all in favor say aye. Any opposed
2 say nay. The motion passes.

3 DR. LIEDERS: I'll make a motion to deny
4 Elizabeth Fernandez's application for
5 non-service-connected disability retirement.

6 DR. SHORE: Second.

7 MS. CIESLAK: Any further discussion?
8 There being none, all in favor say aye. All opposed
9 say nay. The motion passes.

10 DR. LIEDERS: I'll make a motion to
11 approve Gail Gadsen's application for
12 non-service-connected disability retirement.

13 DR. SHORE: Second.

14 MS. CIESLAK: Any further discussion?
15 There being none, all in favor say aye. Any opposed
16 say nay. The motion passes.

17 DR. LIEDERS: I'll make a motion to
18 approve Christopher Godialis's application for
19 non-service-connected disability retirement.

20 DR. SHORE: Second.

21 MS. CIESLAK: Any further discussion?
22 There being none, all in favor say aye. All opposed
23 say nay. The motion passes.

24 DR. LIEDERS: I'll make a motion to
25 approve Rafael Gonzalez's application for

1 service-connected disability retirement.

2 DR. SHORE: Second.

3 MS. CIESLAK: Any further discussion?

4 There being none. All in favor say aye. All

5 opposed say nay. The motion passes.

6 DR. LIEDERS: I'll make a motion to

7 approve Tahira Gordon's application for

8 service-connected disability retirement.

9 DR. SHORE: Second.

10 MS. CIESLAK: Any further discussion?

11 There being none, all in favor say aye. Any opposed

12 say nay. The motion passes.

13 DR. LIEDERS: I'm make a motion to approve

14 Daniel Graves' application for non-service-connected

15 disability retirement.

16 DR. SHORE: Second.

17 MS. CIESLAK: Any further discussion?

18 There being none, all in favor say aye. All opposed

19 say nay. The motion passes.

20 DR. LIEDERS: I'll make a motion to table

21 Kaishawda Holley's application for service-connected

22 disability retirement.

23 DR. SHORE: Second.

24 MS. CIESLAK: Any further discussion?

25 There being none, all in favor say aye. All opposed

1 say nay. The motion passes.

2 DR. LIEDERS: I'll make a motion to
3 approve Brian Kelly's application for
4 non-service-connected disability retirement.

5 DR. SHORE: Second.

6 MS. CIESLAK: Any further discussion?
7 There being none, all in favor say aye. Any opposed
8 say nay. The motion passes.

9 DR. LIEDERS: I'll make a motion to deny
10 John King's application for non-service-connected
11 disability retirement.

12 DR. SHORE: Second.

13 MS. CIESLAK: Any further discussion?
14 There being none, all in favor say aye. Any opposed
15 say aye. The motion passes.

16 DR. LIEDERS: I'll make a motion to deny
17 Hortense Morais's application for service-connected
18 disability retirement; however the Board will look
19 favorably upon a non-service-connected disability
20 retirement.

21 DR. SHORE: Second.

22 MS. CIESLAK: Any further discussion?
23 There being none, all in favor say aye. Any opposed
24 say nay. The motion passes.

25 DR. LIEDERS: I'll make a motion to

1 approve Soukanya Peck's application for
2 service-connected disability retirement.

3 DR. SHORE: Second.

4 MS. CIESLAK: Any further discussion?
5 There being none, all in favor say aye. Any opposed
6 say nay. The motion passes.

7 DR. LIEDERS: I'll make a motion to
8 approve Jo-Ann Pomo's application for
9 non-service-connected disability retirement.

10 DR. SHORE: Second.

11 MS. CIESLAK: Any further discussion?
12 There being none, all in favor say aye. Any opposed
13 say nay. The motions passed.

14 DR. LIEDERS: I'll make a motion to deny
15 Frank Rizzitelli's application for service-connected
16 disability retirement.

17 DR. SHORE: Second.

18 MS. CIESLAK: Any further discussion?
19 There being none, all in favor say aye. All opposed
20 say nay. The motion passes.

21 DR. LIEDERS: I'll make a motion to
22 approve Dannette Rodriguez's application for
23 service-connected disability retirement.

24 DR. SHORE: Second.

25 MS. CIESLAK: Any further discussion?

1 There being none, all in favor say aye. All opposed
2 say nay. The motion passes.

3 DR. LIEDERS: I'll make a motion to deny
4 Darren Treadwell's application for service-connected
5 disability retirement; however, the Board would look
6 favorably upon a non-service-connected disability
7 retirement.

8 DR. SHORE: Second.

9 MS. CIESLAK: Any further discussion?
10 There being none, all in favor say aye. Any opposed
11 say nay. The motion passes.

12 DR. LIEDERS: I'll make a motion to
13 approve Timothy Walsh's application for
14 non-service-connected disability retirement.

15 DR. SHORE: Second.

16 MS. CIESLAK: Any further discussion?
17 There being none, all in favor say aye. Any opposed
18 say nay. The motion passes.

19 DR. LIEDERS: I make a motion to approve
20 Jacqueline Watford's application for
21 non-service-connected disability retirement.

22 DR. SHORE: Second.

23 MS. CIESLAK: Any further discussion?
24 There being none, all in favor say aye. Any opposed
25 say nay. The motion passes.

1 DR. LIEDERS: I'll make a motion to
2 approve Colleen white's application for
3 non-service-connected disability retirement.

4 DR. SHORE: Second.

5 MS. CIESLAK: Any further discussion?
6 There being none, all in favor say aye. Any opposed
7 say nay. The motion passes.

8 DR. LIEDERS: And last but not least, I
9 make a motion to approve Edgar Wynkoop's application
10 for non-service-connected disability retirement.

11 DR. SHORE: Second.

12 MS. CIESLAK: Any further discussion?
13 There being none, all in favor say aye. Any opposed
14 say nay. The motion passes.

15 DR. LIEDERS: Okay. We finished our
16 business. I'll make a motion to adjourn today's
17 meeting.

18 DR. SHORE: Second.

19 DR. LIEDERS: Is there any discussion?
20 All in favor say aye. All opposed say nay. Motion
21 passes. Meeting adjourned. Thank you.

22 (Concluded at 11:48 p.m.)

23

24

25

1 STATE OF CONNECTICUT:
: ss: Bristol
2 COUNTY OF HARTFORD :

3
4 I, Karen Vibert, LSR No. 00064, a
5 Notary Public for the State of Connecticut, do hereby
6 certify that the preceding pages are an accurate
7 transcription of the Connecticut State Employees
8 Retirement Commission, Medical Examining Board meeting
9 held electronically via Zoom, convening at 9:04 a.m.,
10 on February 19, 2021.

11
12 Dated at Bristol, Connecticut,
13 this 14th day of January, 2021.

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23
24 Karen Vibert



25 Karen Vibert, Notary Public
My commission expires: 08/31/2024.

A	C		I	
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