

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
STATE EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT COMMISSION
MEDICAL EXAMINING BOARD MEETING

JULY 1, 2022 MEETING
HELD VIA ZOOM
CONVENED AT 9:07 a.m.

Present (via Zoom):

Dr. Ralph Rosenberg
Dr. J. Robert Galvin
Dr. Poleak So
Robert Helfand, Retirement Services Division
William Cassada, Retirement Services Division
Helena Bartolomeo, Retirement Services Division
Cindy M. Cieslak, Rose Kallor, LLP

TRANSCRIPTIONIST: Karin A. Empson

1 (Proceedings commenced at 9:07 a.m.)

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5 MS. CIESLAK: All right. This is Cindy
6 Cieslak. The meeting has not yet begun. I was just
7 letting everyone in. And so, Dr. Rosenberg, Dr. So,
8 and Dr. Galvin, do any of you know who is going to
9 chair the meeting today?

10 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: I can, unless
11 somebody else wants to.

12 DR. GALVIN: No, you do a good job, and you
13 have an avocation for it. Go right ahead.

14 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: It's been a while,
15 but we'll see whether I still do a good job. But I'll
16 give it a try. Thank you.

17 DR. GALVIN: It's like riding a bicycle, Dr.
18 Rosenberg.

19 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: You haven't seen me
20 fall off.

21 DR. GALVIN: Oh. Well, you'll get elected
22 President maybe.

23 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: You're right. Good
24 point, good point.

25 Okay. This is Dr. Ralph Rosenberg. I am

1 Chairperson of today's, July 1st, 2022 meeting of the
2 Medical Examining Board and is now in session. Present
3 is Dr. John Galvin, and Dr. Rita Ohene-Adjei. I hope I
4 pronounced that correctly.

5 MS. CIESLAK: Dr. Rosenberg, this is Cindy
6 Cieslak. I just want to note for the record, I think
7 Dr. Oh (phonetic) could not be here, and Dr. Poleak So
8 is here.

9 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: Thank you. So
10 amended is Dr. John Galvin is present, and Dr. Poleak
11 So is present, and myself, Dr. Ralph Rosenberg. Thank
12 you.

13 Present from the Office of the State
14 Comptroller Retirement Services Division are staff
15 members Robert Helfand, William Cassada, and Helena
16 Bartolomeo, as well as General Counsel for the
17 Retirement Commission, Cindy Cieslak.

18 The MEB board action, amend the agenda, is
19 there a motion to amend the agenda? If there are none,
20 then is there a second?

21 DR. GALVIN: I'll second that.

22 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: Okay. All in favor,
23 say aye.

24 DR. GALVIN: Aye, Galvin.

25 DR. SO: Aye.

1 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: Rosenberg, aye.

2 Thank you. And I make a motion that the Medical
3 Examining Board go into executive session. Is there a
4 second?

5 DR. SO: Second.

6 DR. GALVIN: Second. This is Galvin.

7 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: Thank you. This is
8 Rosenberg. All in favor, say aye.

9 DR. GALVIN: Aye.

10 DR. SO: Aye.

11 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: Aye. Okay. So the
12 Medical Examining Board is in executive session for the
13 purposes of discussing - I make a motion that the
14 members of the Retirement Services Division and counsel
15 be allowed to remain. All in favor, say aye.

16 DR. GALVIN: Second. Aye.

17 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: Okay. All in favor
18 say aye. Rosenberg, aye.

19 DR. GALVIN: Aye.

20 DR. SO: Aye.

21 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: Thank you.

22 MS. CIESLAK: This is Cindy Cieslak. For the
23 record, Dr. Galvin seconded that motion?

24 DR. GALVIN: Yes.

25 MS. CIESLAK: All right. This is Cindy

1 Cieslak again. I think - so we are in executive
2 session, and what that means is the doctors are going
3 to review all of the applicants' applications for
4 disability retirement, and they will be discussing
5 medical information. Therefore we're going into
6 executive session. The members of the public will be
7 placed back into the waiting room.

8 If you are in reconsideration, you will be
9 invited back into executive session to make a
10 statement. And otherwise, you will be invited back in
11 when the doctors enter public session again and make
12 their decisions.

13 All right. So, Dr. Rosenberg, give me a
14 minute to-

15 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: Of course.

16 MS. CIESLAK: --get people in the waiting
17 room.

18 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: Thank you.

19 (The Board was in executive session from 9:09
20 a.m. until 10:45 a.m.)

21 MS. CIESLAK: This is Cindy Cieslak. The
22 doctors have entered public session.

23 Dr. Rosenberg, you may proceed when you are
24 ready.

25 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: This is Dr. Ralph

1 Rosenberg. The Board will be making determinations and
2 voting on those determinations, but would like to
3 remind members that only the final vote will be given
4 today and not the reasons for the vote. In some
5 instances, there may not have been enough medical
6 information to make a determination, or perhaps a non-
7 service-connected disability is more likely a service-
8 connected disability.

9 You may seek reconsideration of an initial
10 denial. You will receive the Board's written
11 determination within two to four weeks, which will
12 provide you with that additional information.

13 Now, we will, at the present time, vote on
14 the applicants' requests. So I, Dr. Ralph Rosenberg,
15 motion to deny service-connected disability for
16 Christopher Atkins. Is there a second?

17 DR. GALVIN: Galvin seconds.

18 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: Is there a
19 discussion? All - this is Dr. Rosenberg. So all in
20 favor, say aye. Rosenberg, aye.

21 DR. GALVIN: Galvin, aye.

22 DR. SO: Aye.

23 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: The motion passes.

24 This is Dr. Ralph Rosenberg and I motion to
25 deny service-connected disability for Annette Augustus.

1 Is there a second?

2 DR. SO: Second.

3 DR. GALVIN: Galvin, second.

4 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: This is Dr. Ralph
5 Rosenberg. All in favor - is there a discussion? This
6 is Dr. Ralph Rosenberg. All in favor, say aye.
7 Rosenberg, aye.

8 DR. GALVIN: Galvin, aye.

9 DR. SO: Aye.

10 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: Okay. The motion
11 passes.

12 This is Dr. Ralph Rosenberg. I make a motion
13 to table the request for non-service-connected
14 disability for Beverly Bragg. Is there a second?

15 DR. GALVIN: Galvin, second.

16 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: Is there a
17 discussion? All in favor for tabling a decision on
18 Beverly Bragg, say aye. Rosenberg, aye.

19 DR. GALVIN: Galvin, aye.

20 DR. SO: Aye.

21 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: Okay, motion passes.

22 I, Dr. Ralph Rosenberg, motion to approve
23 Eugene Casivant for service-connected disability. Is
24 there a second?

25 DR. GALVIN: Galvin seconds.

1 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: Is there any
2 discussion? All in favor, say aye. Rosenberg, aye.

3 DR. GALVIN: Galvin, aye.

4 DR. SO: So, aye.

5 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: The motion passes.

6 I, Dr. Ralph Rosenberg, motion to deny
7 service-connected disability to Sophia Ferrell. Is
8 there a second?

9 DR. GALVIN: Galvin, second.

10 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: Is there any
11 discussion? If there's no discussion, all in favor,
12 say aye. Rosenberg, aye.

13 DR. GALVIN: Aye, Galvin.

14 DR. SO: So, aye.

15 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: Dr. So?

16 DR. SO: Aye. Second.

17 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: No, I think that was
18 the vote, but we'll do it again as the vote. I'm just
19 going to restate it. For Sophia Ferrell, all in favor,
20 say aye. Rosenberg, aye.

21 DR. GALVIN: Galvin, aye.

22 DR. SO: So, aye.

23 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: Thank you.

24 I, Dr. Ralph Rosenberg, motion to approve
25 Eugene Casivant for service-connected disability. Is

1 there a second?

2 DR. GALVIN: Galvin seconds.

3 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: Is there any
4 discussion? All in favor, say aye. Rosenberg, aye.

5 DR. GALVIN: Galvin, aye.

6 DR. SO: So, aye.

7 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: Thank you. I, Dr.
8 Ralph Rosenberg, motion to approve non-service-
9 connected disability for Christian Philemon. Is there
10 a second?

11 DR. SO: Second, Dr. So.

12 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: Okay. Any
13 discussion? If so, then all in favor, say aye.
14 Rosenberg, aye.

15 DR. GALVIN: Aye.

16 DR. SO: Aye.

17 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: Okay. The motion
18 passes.

19 DR. GALVIN: Okay, this is non-service; am I
20 correct?

21 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: Correct.

22 DR. GALVIN: Okay. Got it.

23 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: For Christian
24 Philemon, we have voted to approve non-service-
25 connected disability (inaudible).

1 DR. GALVIN: Non-service, okay.

2 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: Okay. This is Dr.
3 Ralph Rosenberg and I motion to approve non-service-
4 connected disability for Darryl Hayes. Is there a
5 second?

6 DR. GALVIN: Galvin, second.

7 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: Is there any
8 discussion? All in favor, say aye. Rosenberg, aye.

9 DR. GALVIN: Aye.

10 DR. SO: Aye.

11 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: Motion passes.

12 I, Dr. Ralph Rosenberg, motion to approve
13 service-connected disability for Karla Kropiwnicki. Is
14 there a second?

15 DR. GALVIN: Galvin, second.

16 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: Is there any
17 discussion? If so, all in favor, say aye. Rosenberg,
18 aye.

19 DR. GALVIN: Galvin, aye.

20 DR. SO: Aye.

21 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: The motion passes.

22 DR. GALVIN: She's approved for service-
23 connected?

24 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: Service, service,
25 correct.

1 DR. GALVIN: Okay, got it. Okay.

2 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: I, Dr. Ralph
3 Rosenberg, motion to approve Rowan Monington for
4 service-connected disability. Is there a second?

5 DR. GALVIN: Galvin, second.

6 DR. SO: So—

7 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: Is there any
8 discussion? That being the case, all in favor, say
9 aye. Rosenberg, aye.

10 DR. GALVIN: Galvin, aye.

11 DR. SO: Aye.

12 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: Motion passes.

13 I, Dr. Ralph Rosenberg, motion to deny
14 Hortense Morais service-connected disability. Is there
15 a second?

16 DR. GALVIN: Galvin seconds.

17 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: Is there any
18 discussion? If that's the case, all in favor of
19 denying Hortense Morais service-connected disability,
20 say aye. Rosenberg, aye.

21 DR. GALVIN: Aye, Galvin.

22 DR. SO: Aye.

23 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: Okay. The motion
24 passes.

25 I, Dr. Ralph Rosenberg, motion to deny Luis

1 Paulino service-connected disability. Is there a
2 second?

3 DR. SO: Second, Dr. So.

4 DR. GALVIN: Galvin, second.

5 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: Okay. Is there any
6 discussion? That being the case, all in favor of
7 denying Luis Paulino service-connected disability, say
8 aye. Rosenberg, aye.

9 DR. GALVIN: Galvin, aye.

10 DR. SO: Aye.

11 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: Motion passes. And
12 that last aye was Dr. So.

13 This is Dr. Ralph Rosenberg and I motion to
14 deny service-connected disability for David Petrillo.
15 Is there a second?

16 DR. GALVIN: Galvin, second.

17 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: That being the case,
18 is there any discussion? So all in favor of denying
19 David Petrillo service-connected disability, say aye.
20 Rosenberg, aye.

21 DR. GALVIN: Aye, Galvin.

22 DR. SO: So, aye.

23 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: Okay. And motion
24 passes.

25 I, Dr. Ralph Rosenberg, motion to deny Iris

1 Reyes non-service-connected disability. Is there a
2 second?

3 DR. GALVIN: Galvin, second.

4 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: Is there any
5 discussion?

6 MS. CIESLAK: This is Cindy Cieslak. For
7 discussion, is it for service-connected or non-service?

8 CHAIRMAN ROSENBERG: This is for non-service-
9 connected disability for Iris Reyes (inaudible).

10 MS. CIESLAK: Okay.

11 MR. CASSADA: I got service.

12 MS. CIESLAK: This is Cindy. Yeah, Bill, I
13 was going to ask you.

14 MR. CASSADA: Let me check real quick.

15 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: He's listed as non-
16 service.

17 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: My flowsheet says non-
18 service, but it may have been changed.

19 MR. CASSADA: Okay, it's - yeah, non-service.
20 I'm not sure how-

21 MS. CIESLAK: Thank you.

22 MR. CASSADA: --it's service, but yeah, non-
23 service.

24 MS. CIESLAK: Thank you, Bill.

25 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: That being the case,

1 I'm going to - since there was some question, I'm going
2 to start with Iris Reyes again. Please forgive me.

3 This is Dr. Ralph Rosenberg, and I motion to
4 deny Iris Reyes non-service-connected disability. Is
5 there a second?

6 DR. GALVIN: Galvin, second.

7 CHAIRMAN ROSENBERG: Is there any discussion?
8 All in favor of denying Iris Reyes non-service-
9 connected disability, say aye. Rosenberg, aye.

10 DR. GALVIN: Galvin, aye.

11 DR. SO: So, aye.

12 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: The motion passes.

13 This is Dr. Ralph Rosenberg and I motion to
14 approve non-service-connected disability for Jack Smith
15 Is there a second?

16 DR. GALVIN: Galvin, second.

17 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: Okay. Is there any
18 discussion? All in favor of approving non-service-
19 connected disability for Jack Smith, say aye.
20 Rosenberg, aye.

21 DR. GALVIN: Galvin, aye.

22 DR. SO: So, aye.

23 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: Motion passes.

24 This is Dr. Ralph Rosenberg and I motion to
25 approve Daniel Threlfall for service-connected

1 disability. Is there a second?

2 DR. GALVIN: Second from Galvin.

3 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: Is there any
4 discussion? That being the case, all in favor of
5 approving service-connected disability for Daniel
6 Threlfall, please say aye. Rosenberg, aye.

7 DR. GALVIN: Galvin, aye.

8 DR. SO: So, aye.

9 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: And the motion
10 passes.

11 This is Dr. Ralph Rosenberg and I motion to
12 adjourn the meeting. Is there a second?

13 DR. GALVIN: Galvin seconds.

14 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: All in favor, say
15 aye. Rosenberg, aye.

16 DR. GALVIN: Aye.

17 DR. SO: So, aye.

18 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: Thank you all very
19 much.

20 DR. GALVIN: Good job, expeditious.

21 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: Thank you.

22 MS. CIESLAK: Have a great weekend, everyone.

23 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKERS: Thanks.

24 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Bye-bye.

25 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Have a good holiday.

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CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: Please—
(Adjourned at 10:57 a.m.)

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I, Karin A. Empson, do hereby
certify that the preceding pages are an accurate
transcription of the Connecticut State Employees
Retirement Commission, Medical Examining Board meeting
held electronically via Zoom, conducted at 9:07 a.m. on
July 1, 2022.

Karin A. Empson

Karin A. Empson

08/02/2022

Date