

STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
STATE EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT COMMISSION  
MEDICAL EXAMINING BOARD MEETING

---

JANUARY 13, 2023 MEETING  
HELD VIA ZOOM  
CONVENED AT 9:06 a.m.

---

Present (via Zoom):

Dr. Nikolai Lieders

Dr. Frank Gerratana

Dr. Poleak So

Robert Helfand, Retirement Services Division

William Cassada, Retirement Services Division

Helena Bartolomeo, Retirement Services Division

Cindy Cieslak, Rose Kallor LLP

TRANSCRIPTIONIST: Karin A. Empson

1 (Proceedings commenced at 9:06 a.m.)

2  
3  
4  
5 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: So meeting come to  
6 order. My name is Dr. Lieders. The Medical Examining  
7 Board meeting of January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2023 is now in session.  
8 Present are Dr. Poleak So, Dr. Frank Gerratana, myself,  
9 Dr. Nikolai Lieders. Present from the State  
10 Comptroller's Retirement Services Division are staff  
11 members from the Retirement Services Division Mr.  
12 Robert Helfand.

13 And I understand Mr. Colin Newman is not  
14 going to be here; right; is that correct?

15 MS. CIESLAK: This is Cindy Cieslak. That's  
16 correct.

17 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: So he's not here. So  
18 Mr. William Cassada, Helena Bartolomeo. Also present,  
19 General Counsel for the Retirement Commission, Attorney  
20 Cindy Cieslak.

21 So the first item on the agenda, I'm going to  
22 make a motion to amend the agenda. I make a motion to  
23 remove Thomas Messina from today's agenda. Is there a  
24 second?

25 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

1           CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: Is there any  
2 discussion? As there is no discussion, all in favor,  
3 say aye.

4           DR. SO: Aye.

5           DR. GERRATANA: Aye.

6           DR. LIEDERS: Aye. All opposed, say nay.  
7 The motion passes. So he is removed from today's  
8 agenda and we don't have to discuss this case.

9           So just to explain to the public, very  
10 shortly, we are going to go into executive session,  
11 which means that it's not open to the public. During  
12 this executive session, we will be discussing today's  
13 cases. And after the discussion, we will invite some  
14 of the members - some of the people will be invited to  
15 make a statement, or their representatives. And after  
16 that, we'll come out of executive session and do a  
17 public voting on the cases.

18           So I'm going to make a motion for us to go  
19 into executive session.

20           DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

21           CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: Is there any  
22 discussion? All in favor, say aye.

23           DR. SO: Aye.

24           DR. GERRATANA: Aye.

25           CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: Aye. All opposed, say

1        nay. The motion passes.

2                    I'm going to ask members of the State  
3        Comptroller's Retirement Services Division as well as  
4        Attorney Cindy Cieslak to participate with us in the  
5        meeting, to stay and participate in the meeting.

6                    MS. CIESLAK: This is Cindy Cieslak. Thank  
7        you, Dr. Lieders. Those who are here who were not  
8        invited into executive session, I'm going to place you  
9        in the waiting room. If you are on a reconsideration,  
10       you will be invited back in to make your statement.  
11       And then at the end of the meeting when we go to public  
12       session, everyone will be invited back in to hear the  
13       decisions on the matters. Thank you.

14                   CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: So moving right-

15                   MS. CIESLAK: Hold on, Dr. Lieders.

16                   CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: Yeah. Oh, I'm sorry.  
17       We're still not-

18                   MS. CIESLAK: There's an individual here  
19       named Dougie (phonetic). Can I just get your name so I  
20       know whether or not you're on reconsideration or not?  
21       You're muted, sir.

22                   CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: His microphone is not  
23       on.

24                   MS. CIESLAK: Yeah, I think he's working on  
25       figuring it out. Good morning. Oh, I can't hear you

1 still. I wonder if I can - hold on.

2 (The Board was in executive session from 9:07  
3 until 1:54 p.m.)

4 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: Are we ready?

5 MS. CIESLAK: All right, Dr. Lieders, you can  
6 proceed.

7 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: Okay. Dr. Lieders  
8 here. Just announcing, the Board will be making  
9 determinations and voting on those determinations. But  
10 I would like to remind members that only the final vote  
11 will be given today and not the reasons for the vote.  
12 In some instances, there may not have been enough  
13 medical information to make a determination, or perhaps  
14 a non-service-connected disability is more likely than  
15 a service-connected disability.

16 You may seek reconsideration of an initial  
17 denial. You will receive the Board's written  
18 determination within two to four weeks, which will  
19 provide you with that additional information.

20 So we are going to proceed to vote on the  
21 applications. First one, I make a motion to table  
22 Laurie Bernier's application for service-connected  
23 disability retirement.

24 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

25 MS. CIESLAK: Any further discussion? There

1 being none, all in favor, say aye.

2 DR. SO: Aye.

3 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: Aye.

4 MS. CIESLAK: Any opposed, say nay. The  
5 motion passes.

6 CHAIRMAN LIEDERS: I'll make a motion to deny  
7 Nancy Bertulis' application for non-service-connected  
8 disability retirement.

9 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

10 MS. CIESLAK: Any further discussion? There  
11 being none, all in favor, say aye.

12 DR. SO: Aye.

13 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: Aye.

14 MS. CIESLAK: Any opposed, say nay. The  
15 motion passes.

16 CHAIRMAN LIEDERS: I make a motion—

17 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: What was that person's  
18 - that was just up?

19 MS. CIESLAK: Attorney Walsh (phonetic), this  
20 is Cindy Cieslak. It was Nancy Bertulis.

21 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay, thank you.

22 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: I make a motion to deny  
23 Rosy Boiteux' application.

24 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

25 MS. CIESLAK: Any further discussion? There

1 being none, all in favor, say aye.

2 DR. GERRATANA: Aye.

3 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: Aye.

4 DR. SO: Aye.

5 MS. CIESLAK: Any opposed, say nay. The  
6 motion passes.

7 CHAIRMAN LIEDERS: I'll make a motion to  
8 approve Colin Byrnes' application for non-service-  
9 connected disability retirement.

10 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

11 MS. CIESLAK: Any further discussion? There  
12 being none, all in favor, say aye.

13 DR. GERRATANA: Aye.

14 DR. SO: Aye.

15 MS. CIESLAK: Any opposed, say nay. The  
16 motion passes.

17 CHAIRMAN LIEDERS: I'll make a motion to  
18 approve Scott Carignan's application for service-  
19 connected disability retirement.

20 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

21 MS. CIESLAK: Any further discussion? There  
22 being none, all in favor, say aye.

23 DR. GERRATANA: Aye.

24 DR. SO: Aye.

25 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: Aye.

1 MS. CIESLAK: Any opposed, say nay. The  
2 motion passes.

3 CHAIRMAN LIEDERS: I'll make a motion to  
4 approve Olive Gilling's application for service-  
5 connected disability retirement.

6 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

7 MS. CIESLAK: Any further discussion? There  
8 being none, all in favor, say aye.

9 DR. GERRATANA: Aye.

10 DR. SO: Aye.

11 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: Aye.

12 MS. CIESLAK: Any opposed, say nay. The  
13 motion passes.

14 CHAIRMAN LIEDERS: I'll make a motion to deny  
15 Sandra Jenkin's application for service-connected  
16 disability retirement, but to approve non-service-  
17 connected disability retirement.

18 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

19 MS. CIESLAK: Any further discussion? There  
20 being none, all in favor, say aye.

21 DR. GERRATANA: Aye.

22 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: Aye.

23 DR. SO: Aye.

24 MS. CIESLAK: Any opposed, say nay. The  
25 motion passes.



1           CHAIRMAN LIEDERS: I make a motion to deny  
2 Brian Logan's application for service-connected  
3 disability retirement, but to approve non-service-  
4 connected disability retirement.

5           DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

6           MS. CIESLAK: Any further discussion? There  
7 being none, all in favor, say aye.

8           DR. GERRATANA: Aye.

9           CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: Aye.

10          DR. SO: Aye.

11          MS. CIESLAK: Any opposed, say nay. The  
12 motion passes.

13          CHAIRMAN LIEDERS: I'll make a motion to deny  
14 Tanya Marshall's application for disability retirement.

15          DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

16          MS. CIESLAK: Any further discussion? There  
17 being none, all in favor, say aye.

18          DR. GERRATANA: Aye.

19          CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: Aye.

20          DR. SO: Aye.

21          MS. CIESLAK: Any opposed, say nay. The  
22 motion passes.

23          CHAIRMAN LIEDERS: I make a motion to deny  
24 Mark Melutis' application for non-service-connected  
25 disability retirement.

1 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

2 MS. CIESLAK: Any further discussion? There  
3 being none, all in favor, say aye.

4 DR. GERRATANA: Aye.

5 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: Aye.

6 DR. SO: Aye.

7 MS. CIESLAK: Any opposed, say nay. The  
8 motion passes.

9 CHAIRMAN LIEDERS: I'll make a motion to  
10 approve Thomas Rice's application for non-service-  
11 connected disability retirement.

12 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

13 MS. CIESLAK: Any further discussion? There  
14 being none, all in favor, say aye.

15 DR. GERRATANA: Aye.

16 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: Aye.

17 DR. SO: Aye.

18 MS. CIESLAK: Any opposed, say nay. The  
19 motion passes.

20 CHAIRMAN LIEDERS: I'll make a motion to  
21 approve Chris Rocanello's application for non-service-  
22 connected disability retirement.

23 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

24 MS. CIESLAK: Any further discussion? There  
25 being none, all in favor, say aye.

1 DR. GERRATANA: Aye.

2 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: Aye.

3 DR. SO: Aye.

4 MS. CIESLAK: Any opposed, say nay. The  
5 motion passes.

6 CHAIRMAN LIEDERS: I'll make a motion to deny  
7 Paul Schipritt's application for non-service-connected  
8 disability retirement.

9 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

10 MS. CIESLAK: Any further discussion? There  
11 being none, all in favor, say aye.

12 DR. SO: Aye.

13 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: Aye.

14 MS. CIESLAK: Any opposed, say nay. The  
15 motion passes.

16 CHAIRMAN LIEDERS: I'll make a motion to  
17 approve Krista Schulz's application for non-service-  
18 connected disability retirement.

19 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

20 MS. CIESLAK: Any further discussion? There  
21 being none, all in favor, say aye.

22 DR. GERRATANA: Aye.

23 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: Aye.

24 DR. SO: Aye.

25 MS. CIESLAK: Any opposed, say nay. The

1 motion passes.

2 CHAIRMAN LIEDERS: I'll make a motion to deny  
3 Donald Taylor's application for service-connected  
4 disability retirement, but to approve non-service-  
5 connected disability retirement.

6 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

7 MS. CIESLAK: Any further discussion? There  
8 being none, all in favor, say aye.

9 DR. GERRATANA: Aye.

10 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: Aye.

11 DR. SO: Aye.

12 MS. CIESLAK: Any opposed, say nay. The  
13 motion passes.

14 CHAIRMAN LIEDERS: I'll make a motion to deny  
15 Deborah Walker's application for service-connected  
16 disability retirement.

17 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

18 MS. CIESLAK: Any further discussion? There  
19 being none, all in favor, say aye.

20 DR. GERRATANA: Aye.

21 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: Aye.

22 DR. SO: Aye.

23 MS. CIESLAK: Any opposed, say nay. The  
24 motion passes.

25 CHAIRMAN LIEDERS: And I'll make a motion to

1 approve Michael West's application for non-service-  
2 connected disability retirement.

3 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

4 MS. CIESLAK: Any further discussion? There  
5 being none, all in favor, say aye.

6 DR. GERRATANA: Aye.

7 DR. SO: Aye.

8 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: Aye.

9 MS. CIESLAK: Any opposed, say nay. The  
10 motion passes.

11 CHAIRMAN LIEDERS: Is there any further  
12 business to be discussed in the public session?

13 MS. CIESLAK: This is Cindy Cieslak. There's  
14 no further business.

15 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: Okay. If there's no  
16 further business, I will make a motion to adjourn  
17 today's meeting.

18 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

19 MS. CIESLAK: For the record, Dr. Lieders  
20 made the motion. And all in favor, say aye.

21 DR. GERRATANA: Aye.

22 DR. SO: Aye.

23 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: Aye.

24 MS. CIESLAK: We are adjourned. Thank you,  
25 everyone, for your patience today. Have a good day.

1                   CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: Thank you, everybody.

2                   UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Cindy, can I just talk  
3 to you for a minute when we're done?

4                   MS. CIESLAK: Yes. And just let me get the  
5 meeting wrapped up here.

6                   (Adjourned at 2:02 p.m.)

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

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 9:06 a.m. on  
January 13, 2023.

Karin A. Empson

Karin A. Empson

02/06/2023

Date