

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
STATE EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT COMMISSION
MEDICAL EXAMINING BOARD MEETING

FEBRUARY 24, 2023 MEETING
HELD VIA ZOOM
CONVENED AT 9:08 a.m.

Present (via Zoom):

Dr. Sheldon Nova

Dr. Ralph Rosenberg

Dr. Eric Shore

William Cassada, Retirement Services Division

Helena Bartolomeo, Retirement Services Division

Cindy Cieslak, Rose Kallor, LLP

TRANSCRIPTIONIST: Karin A. Empson

1 (Proceedings commenced at 9:08 a.m.)

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5 MS. CIESLAK: Dr. Rosenberg, you can proceed
6 when you're ready.

7 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: This is Dr. Ralph
8 Rosenberg, and this is a call to order for the February
9 24th, 2023 meeting of the Medical Examining Board and
10 it's now in session. Doctors present today are myself,
11 Dr. Ralph Rosenberg, Chairperson; Dr. Eric Shore; and
12 Dr. Sheldon Nova. Present from the Office of the State
13 Comptroller, Retirement Services Division are staff
14 members William Cassada and Helena Bartolomeo. Present
15 from General Counsel to the Retirement Commission is
16 Cindy Cieslak.

17 I make a motion that we go into executive
18 session. Is there a second?

19 DR. NOVA: Dr. Nova, second.

20 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: Thank you, Dr. Nova,
21 being second. I also request that members of the
22 Retirement Services Division be allowed to stay and
23 remain in the meeting. That would be William Cassada
24 and Helena Bartolomeo and from the General Counsel to
25 the Retirement Commission, Cindy Cieslak.

1 Is there a second?

2 DR. SHORE: Shore, second.

3 DR. NOVA: Second.

4 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: Thank you. Motion
5 passes.

6 MS. CIESLAK: Dr. Rosenberg, this is Cindy
7 Cieslak. I'll just call the votes. All in favor of
8 entering executive session with the invitation to those
9 announced, please say aye.

10 DR. SHORE: Aye.

11 DR. NOVA: Aye.

12 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: Aye.

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

15 All right, members of the public, I'm going
16 to place you in the waiting room. The doctors are
17 going to review confidential medical information, and
18 so we will be entering executive session for that
19 purpose. When the doctors enter public session to make
20 the determinations, you'll be invited back in to hear
21 the decisions.

22 (The Board was in executive session from 9:09
23 a.m. until 11:21 a.m.)

24 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: This is Dr. Ralph
25 Rosenberg and we are out of the executive session. And

1 a member may be present - sorry, that was my dog. A
2 member may be present in front of the Medical
3 Examination Board to make a statement, have up to three
4 witnesses to speak on his or her behalf, and his or her
5 attorney make a statement. The Medical Examination
6 Board may ask the member questions. The members are
7 called individually. And again, we have made a motion
8 to go out of executive session.

9 The Board has made its determinations, but
10 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 favorable determination.
14 You may seek reconsideration of a denial. You will
15 receive the Board's determination within two to four
16 weeks, which will provide you with that additional
17 information.

18 Attorney Cieslak, did you want to make the
19 motions for each individual?

20 MS. CIESLAK: Yes, you can proceed with
21 voting.

22 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: So we will vote on
23 individual member continued entitlement for disability.

24 Our first individual is Lisa Carter. I will
25 - Cindy, did you want me to make the motions or did you

1 want to?

2 MS. CIESLAK: (Inaudible)

3 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: Okay. So I make a
4 motion - Lisa Carter, applying for non-service-
5 connected disability - this is Dr. Ralph Rosenberg and
6 I make a motion to table. Is there a second?

7 DR. NOVA: Second, Dr. Nova.

8 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: All those in favor -
9 this is Dr. Ralph Rosenberg. All those in favor of
10 tabling for non-service-connected disability say aye.
11 Rosenberg, aye.

12 DR. NOVA: Nova, aye.

13 DR. SHORE: Shore, aye.

14 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: The motion is
15 approved.

16 This is Dr. Ralph Rosenberg and I make a
17 motion to approve service-connected disability for
18 Patricia Creel. Is there a second?

19 DR. NOVA: Nova, second.

20 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: This is Dr. Ralph
21 Rosenberg. All those in favor of approving Patricia
22 Creel for service-connected disability, say aye.
23 Rosenberg, aye.

24 DR. NOVA: Nova, aye.

25 DR. SHORE: Shore, aye.

1 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: The motion carries.

2 This is Dr. Ralph Rosenberg. I make a motion
3 to deny service-connected disability for Joy Flynn. Is
4 there a second?

5 DR. NOVA: Nova, second.

6 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: This is Dr. Ralph
7 Rosenberg. All those in favor of denying service-
8 connected disability to Joy Flynn, say aye. Rosenberg,
9 aye.

10 DR. NOVA: Nova, aye.

11 DR. SHORE: Shore, aye.

12 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: The motion is
13 approved.

14 This is Dr. Ralph Rosenberg. I make a motion
15 to - Cindy, was I supposed to give people an
16 opportunity to speak first?

17 MS. CIESLAK: This is Cindy Cieslak. No,
18 this is - so there - you can among yourselves have
19 discussion. There is no opportunity for public comment
20 at this point in time.

21 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: Thank you. Thank
22 you. I just wanted to make sure. Thank you.

23 This is Dr. Ralph Rosenberg. And I make a
24 motion to approve service-connected disability for
25 Rafael Gonzalez. Is there a second?

1 DR. NOVA: Nova, second.

2 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: This is Dr. Ralph
3 Rosenberg. All those in favor of approving Rafael
4 Gonzalez for service-connected disability, say aye.
5 Rosenberg, aye.

6 DR. NOVA: Nova, aye.

7 DR. SHORE: Shore, aye.

8 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: And the motion
9 carries.

10 This is Dr. Ralph Rosenberg. I make a motion
11 to approve Michael Grate for non-service-connected
12 disability. Is there a second?

13 DR. NOVA: Nova, second.

14 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: This is Dr. Ralph
15 Rosenberg. All those in favor of approving Michael
16 Grate for non-service-connected disability, say aye.
17 Rosenberg, aye.

18 DR. NOVA: Nova, aye.

19 DR. SHORE: Shore, aye.

20 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: And the motion
21 carries.

22 This is Dr. Ralph Rosenberg. I make a motion
23 to approve Katherine Hoxie for non-service-connected
24 disability. Is there a second?

25 DR. NOVA: Nova, second.

1 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: This is Dr. Ralph
2 Rosenberg. All those in favor of approving Katherine
3 Hoxie for non-service-connected disability, say aye.
4 Rosenberg, aye.

5 DR. NOVA: Nova, aye.

6 DR. SHORE: Shore, aye.

7 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: And the motion
8 carries.

9 This is Dr. Ralph Rosenberg. I make a motion
10 to approve for non-service-connected disability Jeffrey
11 Luciano. Is there a second?

12 DR. NOVA: Nova, second.

13 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: This is Dr. Ralph
14 Rosenberg. All those in favor of approving Jeffrey
15 Luciano for non-service-connected disability, say aye.
16 Rosenberg, aye.

17 DR. NOVA: Nova, aye.

18 DR. SHORE: Shore, aye.

19 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: The motion carries.

20 This is Dr. Ralph Rosenberg. I make a motion
21 to approve Aaron McLaughlin for service-connected
22 disability. Is there a second?

23 DR. NOVA: Nova, second.

24 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: This is Dr. Ralph
25 Rosenberg. All those in favor of approving Aaron

1 McLaughlin for service-connected disability, say aye.
2 Rosenberg, aye.

3 DR. NOVA: Nova, aye.

4 DR. SHORE: Shore, aye.

5 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: And the motion
6 carries.

7 This is Dr. Ralph Rosenberg. I make a motion
8 to approve for Soukanya Peck for service-connected
9 disability. Is there a second?

10 DR. NOVA: Nova, second.

11 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: This is Dr. Ralph
12 Rosenberg. All those in favor of approving Soukanya
13 Peck for service-connected disability, say aye.
14 Rosenberg, aye.

15 DR. NOVA: Nova, aye.

16 DR. SHORE: Shore, aye.

17 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: The motion carries.

18 This is Dr. Ralph Rosenberg. I make a motion
19 to approve Anibal Quinonos - I'm sorry. I'm going to
20 do that again. This is Dr. Ralph Rosenberg. I make a
21 motion to deny Anibal Quinonos service-connected
22 disability. Is there a second?

23 DR. NOVA: Second, Dr. Nova.

24 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: This is Dr. Ralph
25 Rosenberg. All those in favor of denying Anibal

1 Quinones for service-connected disability, say aye.
2 Rosenberg, aye.

3 DR. NOVA: Nova, aye.

4 DR. SHORE: Shore, aye.

5 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: This is Dr. Ralph
6 Rosenberg. I make a motion to approve for service-
7 connected disability Kimberly Robinson-Carr. Is there
8 a second?

9 DR. NOVA: Nova, second.

10 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: This is Dr. Ralph
11 Rosenberg. All those approving service-connected
12 disability for Kimberly Robinson-Carr, say aye.
13 Rosenberg, aye.

14 DR. NOVA: Nova, aye.

15 DR. SHORE: Shore, aye.

16 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: And the motion
17 carries.

18 This is Dr. Ralph Rosenberg. I make a motion
19 to approve for non-service-connected disability Mark
20 Sattelberger. Is there a second?

21 DR. NOVA: Nova, second.

22 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: This is Dr. Ralph
23 Rosenberg. I make a motion to approve for non-service-
24 connected disability Mark Sattelberger. All those in
25 favor, say aye. Rosenberg, aye.

1 DR. NOVA: Nova, aye.

2 DR. SHORE: Shore, aye.

3 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: The motion carries.

4 This is Dr. Ralph Rosenberg. I make a motion
5 to approve for service-connected disability Meiline
6 Smith. Is there a second?

7 DR. NOVA: Nova, second.

8 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: This is Dr. Ralph
9 Rosenberg. I make a motion to approve for service-
10 connected disability, Meiline Smith. All those in
11 favor, say aye. Rosenberg, aye.

12 DR. NOVA: Nova, aye.

13 DR. SHORE: Shore, aye.

14 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: The motion carries.

15 This is Dr. Ralph Rosenberg. I make a motion
16 to approve for service-connected disability Ana Smith.
17 Is there a second?

18 DR. NOVA: Nova, second.

19 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: This is Dr. Ralph
20 Rosenberg. I make a motion to approve for service-
21 connected disability Ana Smith. All those in favor,
22 say aye. Rosenberg, aye.

23 DR. NOVA: Nova, aye.

24 DR. SHORE: Shore, aye.

25 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: The motion carries.

1 This is Dr. Ralph Rosenberg. I make a motion
2 to approve for service-connected disability Ismael
3 Toledo. Is there a second?

4 DR. NOVA: Nova, second.

5 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: This is Dr. Ralph
6 Rosenberg. I make a motion to approve for service-
7 connected disability Ismael Toledo. All those in
8 favor, say aye. Rosenberg, aye.

9 DR. NOVA: Nova, aye.

10 DR. SHORE: Shore, aye.

11 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: The motion carries.

12 This is Dr. Ralph Rosenberg. I make a motion
13 to approve for non-service-connected disability Colleen
14 White. Is there a second?

15 DR. NOVA: Nova, second.

16 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: This is Dr. Ralph
17 Rosenberg. I make a motion to approve for non-service-
18 connected disability Colleen White. All those in
19 favor, say aye. Rosenberg, aye.

20 DR. NOVA: Nova, aye.

21 DR. SHORE: Shore, aye.

22 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: The motion carries.

23 This is Dr. Ralph Rosenberg. I make a motion
24 to approve for service-connected disability Kevin
25 Woodard. Is there a second?

1 DR. NOVA: Nova, second.

2 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: This is Dr. Ralph
3 Rosenberg. I make a motion to approve for service-
4 connected disability Kevin Woodard. All those in
5 favor, say aye. Rosenberg, aye.

6 DR. NOVA: Nova, aye.

7 DR. SHORE: Shore, aye.

8 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: The motion carries.

9 Cindy, I'm going to make motions now for the
10 continued entitlement. Do I do each one individually?

11 MS. CIESLAK: It's up to you. You can
12 certainly do it as a group if you'd like to list them
13 all off.

14 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: Okay. So this is Dr.
15 Ralph Rosenberg. I make a motion to approve continued
16 entitlement for Thomas Baker, Jeffrey Barrett, Cynthia
17 Ciesielski, Brad Knorr, Gustavo Toledo, Teresa Skaff,
18 Tywana Johnson, Joanna Guay, and George Haray. Is
19 there a second?

20 DR. NOVA: Nova, second.

21 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: This is Dr. Ralph
22 Rosenberg. I make a motion to approve for continued
23 entitlement Thomas Baker, Jeffrey Barrett, Cynthia
24 Ciesielski, Brad Knorr, Gustavo Toledo, Teresa Skaff,
25 Tywana Johnson, Joanna Guay, and George Haray. All

1 those in favor, say aye. Rosenberg, aye.

2 DR. NOVA: Nova, aye.

3 DR. SHORE: Shore, aye.

4 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: Thank you. This is
5 Dr. Ralph Rosenberg. I make a motion to adjourn this
6 meeting. Is there a second?

7 DR. NOVA: Nova, second.

8 DR. SHORE: Ralph, before you head off-

9 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: I'm sorry?

10 DR. SHORE: We send them to-

11 MS. CIESLAK: Hold on a second. Doctors,
12 this is Cindy Cieslak. All those in favor of
13 adjourning, please say aye.

14 DR. SHORE: Aye.

15 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: Rosenberg, aye.

16 DR. NOVA: Nova, aye.

17 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: Thank you.

18 MS. CIESLAK: Thank you.

19 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: Thank you. And, yes,
20 Eric and Dr. Nova, if you can actually just send it to
21 my email, that would be best.

22 (Adjourned at 11:32 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 9:08 a.m. on
February 24, 2023.

Karin A. Empson

Karin A. Empson

03/25/2023

Date