

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
STATE EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT COMMISSION
MEDICAL EXAMINING BOARD MEETING

MAY 12, 2023 MEETING
HELD VIA ZOOM
CONVENED AT 9:09 a.m.

Present (via Zoom):

Dr. Sachin Parekh
Dr. Mike Gerstenfeld
Dr. Sheldon Nova
William Cassada, Retirement Services Division
Helena Bartolomeo, Retirement Services Division
Robert Helfand, Retirement Services Division
Cindy Cieslak, Rose Kallor LLP

TRANSCRIPTIONIST: Karin A. Empson

1 (Proceedings commenced at 9:09 a.m.)

2
3
4
5 MS. CIESLAK: This is Cindy Cieslak. Dr.
6 Parekh, you can begin when you're ready.

7 CHAIRPERSON PAREKH: The May 12th, 2023
8 meeting of the Medical Examining Board is now in
9 session. I, Dr. Sachin Parekh, will serve as
10 chairperson. Present are Dr. Michael Gerstenfeld, Dr.
11 Sheldon Nova. Present from the Office of the State
12 Comptroller, Retirement Services Division, are Robert
13 Helfand, William Cassada, and Helena Bartolomeo.
14 General Counsel for the Retirement Commission is Cindy
15 Cieslak.

16 I make a motion to go into executive session
17 and request that the members of the Retirement Services
18 Division and counsel are allowed to remain.

19 DR. NOVA: I second, Dr. Nova.

20 MS. CIESLAK: Is there any discussion? There
21 being none, all in favor, say aye.

22 CHAIRPERSON PAREKH: Aye.

23 DR. NOVA: Aye.

24 DR. GERSTENFELD: Aye.

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

1 motion - sorry, I think I muted myself. The motion
2 passes. What this means for the applicants who are on
3 the meeting now, I'm going to place you in the waiting
4 room.

5 If your matter is on reconsideration, you
6 will be invited in to make your statement. If you're
7 not on reconsideration, but you want to hear the
8 decision today, everyone will be invited back in when
9 we reenter public session and you'll be able to hear
10 the decision today. Sometimes these meetings go
11 quickly. More often than not, they run fairly long, so
12 if you are unable to wait as long as the meeting takes,
13 you will receive a written decision in the ordinary
14 course.

15 But at this time, the motion to go into
16 executive session has passed. So we're going to place
17 everyone in the waiting room, and those on
18 reconsideration will be invited in, and then everyone
19 will be invited back in for public session. Thank you.

20 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKERS: Thank you.

21 (The board was in executive session from 9:10
22 a.m. until 12:09 p.m.)

23 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Hi.

24 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Hello.

25 MS. CIESLAK: Hi, everyone. This is Cindy

1 Cieslak. We are entering public session so that the
2 doctors can make determinations on the applications. I
3 am going to end up muting everyone so that we can avoid
4 the background noise.

5 CHAIRPERSON PAREKH: The board will be making
6 determinations and voting on those determinations, but
7 would like to remind the members that only the final
8 vote will be given today and not the reasons for the
9 vote. In some instances, there may not have been
10 enough medical information to make a determination, or
11 perhaps a non-service-connected disability is more
12 likely a service-connected disability. You may seek
13 reconsideration of an initial denial. You will receive
14 the board's written determination within two to four
15 weeks, which will provide you with the additional
16 information.

17 The board votes to deny service-connected
18 disability retirement to Kevin Ahlquist. Do I have a
19 second?

20 DR. NOVA: Second.

21 MS. CIESLAK: Thank you for the second, Dr.
22 Nova. Any further discussion? There being none, all
23 in favor, say aye.

24 DR. GERSTENFELD: Aye.

25 DR. NOVA: Aye.

1 CHAIRPERSON PAREKH: Aye.

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

4 CHAIRPERSON PAREKH: The board votes to deny
5 service-connected disability retirement to Maria
6 Berroa.

7 DR. NOVA: Second.

8 MS. CIESLAK: Thank you for the second, Dr.
9 Nova. Any further discussion? There being none, all
10 in favor, say aye.

11 DR. GERSTENFELD: Aye.

12 DR. NOVA: Aye.

13 CHAIRPERSON PAREKH: Aye.

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

16 CHAIRPERSON PAREKH: The board votes to
17 approve non-service-connected disability retirement for
18 Justin Blandino.

19 DR. NOVA: Second.

20 MS. CIESLAK: Thank you for the second, Dr.
21 Nova. Any further discussion? There being none, all
22 in favor, say aye.

23 DR. GERSTENFELD: Aye.

24 DR. NOVA: Aye.

25 CHAIRPERSON PAREKH: Aye.

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

3 CHAIRPERSON PAREKH: The board votes to deny
4 non-service-connected disability retirement for Glenn
5 Bonilla.

6 DR. NOVA: Second.

7 MS. CIESLAK: Thank you for the second, Dr.
8 Nova. Any further discussion? There being none, all
9 in favor, say aye.

10 DR. GERSTENFELD: Aye.

11 DR. NOVA: Aye.

12 CHAIRPERSON PAREKH: Aye.

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

15 CHAIRPERSON PAREKH: The board votes to deny
16 non-service-connected disability retirement for
17 Christine Cavar.

18 DR. NOVA: Second.

19 MS. CIESLAK: Thank you. So I don't have to
20 keep repeating it, I'm going to put on the record that
21 Dr. Parekh will be making all the motions and Dr. Nova
22 has made all the seconds so far, and going forward,
23 unless I say otherwise, Dr. Nova is making the seconds.

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

1 DR. GERSTENFELD: Aye.

2 DR. NOVA: Aye.

3 CHAIRPERSON PAREKH: Aye.

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

6 CHAIRPERSON PAREKH: The board votes to
7 approve service-connected disability retirement for
8 Matthew Cole.

9 DR. NOVA: Second.

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

12 DR. GERSTENFELD: Aye.

13 DR. NOVA: Aye.

14 CHAIRPERSON PAREKH: Aye.

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

17 CHAIRPERSON PAREKH: The board votes to
18 approve service-connected disability retirement for
19 Susan Damiano.

20 DR. NOVA: Second.

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

23 DR. NOVA: Aye.

24 DR. GERSTENFELD: Aye.

25 CHAIRPERSON PAREKH: Aye.

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

3 CHAIRPERSON PAREKH: The board votes to table
4 the decision for non-service-connected disability for
5 Kathleen Fletcher.

6 DR. NOVA: Second.

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

9 DR. GERSTENFELD: Aye.

10 DR. NOVA: Aye.

11 CHAIRPERSON PAREKH: Aye.

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

14 CHAIRPERSON PAREKH: The board votes to
15 approve service-connected disability retirement for
16 Lisa Geraci-Anastasio.

17 DR. NOVA: Second.

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

20 DR. GERSTENFELD: Aye.

21 DR. NOVA: Aye.

22 CHAIRPERSON PAREKH: Aye.

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

25 CHAIRPERSON PAREKH: The board votes to

1 approve service-connected disability retirement for
2 Gilbert Gioia.

3 DR. NOVA: Second.

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

6 DR. GERSTENFELD: Aye.

7 DR. NOVA: Aye.

8 CHAIRPERSON PAREKH: Aye.

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

11 CHAIRPERSON PAREKH: The board votes to table
12 the decision for service-connected disability
13 retirement for Roberto Gomez.

14 DR. NOVA: Second.

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

17 DR. GERSTENFELD: Aye.

18 DR. NOVA: Aye.

19 CHAIRPERSON PAREKH: Aye.

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

22 CHAIRPERSON PAREKH: The board votes to
23 approve service-connected disability retirement for
24 Willie Hunter.

25 DR. NOVA: Second.

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

3 DR. GERSTENFELD: Aye.

4 DR. NOVA: Aye.

5 CHAIRPERSON PAREKH: Aye.

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

8 CHAIRPERSON PAREKH: The board votes to
9 approve the service-connected disability retirement for
10 Tait Lawler.

11 DR. NOVA: Second.

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

14 DR. GERSTENFELD: Aye.

15 DR. NOVA: Aye.

16 CHAIRPERSON PAREKH: Aye.

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

19 CHAIRPERSON PAREKH: The board votes to
20 approve non-service-connected disability retirement for
21 Pasqualina Lorenzo.

22 DR. NOVA: Second.

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

25 DR. GERSTENFELD: Aye.

1 DR. NOVA: Aye.

2 CHAIRPERSON PAREKH: Aye.

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

5 CHAIRPERSON PAREKH: The board votes to
6 approve non-service-connected disability retirement for
7 Shannon McClure.

8 DR. NOVA: Second.

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

11 DR. GERSTENFELD: Aye.

12 DR. NOVA: Aye.

13 CHAIRPERSON PAREKH: Aye.

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

16 CHAIRPERSON PAREKH: The board votes to
17 approve service-connected disability retirement for
18 Tabitha Perkins.

19 DR. NOVA: Second.

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

22 DR. GERSTENFELD: Aye.

23 DR. NOVA: Aye.

24 CHAIRPERSON PAREKH: Aye.

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

1 motion passes.

2 CHAIRPERSON PAREKH: The board votes to
3 approve the service-connected disability retirement for
4 Kristalynn Shell.

5 DR. NOVA: Second.

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

8 DR. GERSTENFELD: Aye.

9 DR. NOVA: Aye.

10 CHAIRPERSON PAREKH: Aye.

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

13 CHAIRPERSON PAREKH: The board votes to
14 approve service-connected disability retirement for
15 Kelly Swiatowiec.

16 DR. NOVA: Second.

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

19 DR. GERSTENFELD: Aye.

20 DR. NOVA: Aye.

21 CHAIRPERSON PAREKH: Aye.

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

24 CHAIRPERSON PAREKH: The board votes to
25 approve non-service-connected disability retirement for

1 Yamilet Santiago.

2 DR. NOVA: Second.

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

5 DR. GERSTENFELD: Aye.

6 DR. NOVA: Aye.

7 CHAIRPERSON PAREKH: Aye.

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

10 CHAIRPERSON PAREKH: The board votes to
11 change the application from service-connected
12 disability to non-service-connected disability for
13 Lorin Inman and Cheryl Taylor.

14 DR. NOVA: Second.

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

17 DR. GERSTENFELD: Aye.

18 DR. NOVA: Aye.

19 CHAIRPERSON PAREKH: Aye.

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

22 CHAIRPERSON PAREKH: I make a motion to
23 adjourn today's Medical Examining Board meeting.

24 DR. NOVA: Second.

25 MS. CIESLAK: All in favor, say aye.

1 DR. GERSTENFELD: Aye.

2 DR. NOVA: Aye.

3 CHAIRPERSON PAREKH: Aye.

4 MS. CIESLAK: The motion passes. All right,
5 thank you, everyone. Have a good weekend.

6 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Thank you.

7 DR. GERSTENFELD: Thank you.

8 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKERS: Thank you.

9 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Thank you very much.

10 Thank you very much.

11 (Adjourned at 12:17 p.m.)

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 9:09 a.m. on
May 12, 2023.

Karin A. Empson

Karin A. Empson

06/10/2023

Date