

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
STATE EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT COMMISSION
MEDICAL EXAMINING BOARD MEETING

DECEMBER 16, 2022 MEETING
HELD VIA ZOOM
CONVENED AT 9:04 a.m.

Present (via Zoom):

Dr. Nikolai Lieders
Dr. Manny Katsetos
Dr. Eric Shore
Robert Helfand, Retirement Services Division
William Cassada, Retirement Services Division
Helena Bartolomeo, Retirement Services Division
Colin Newman, Retirement Services Division
Cindy M. Cieslak, Rose Kallor LLP

TRANSCRIPTIONIST: Karin A. Empson

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

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5 MS. CIESLAK: Dr. Lieders, you may begin when
6 you're ready.

7 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: Okay. Meeting come to
8 order. The December 16th, 2022 meeting of the Medical
9 Examining Board is now in session. My name is Nikolai
10 Lieders. Also present are Dr. Manny Katsetos and Dr.
11 Eric Shore. Present from the Office of the State
12 Comptroller, Retirement Services Division, are Mr.
13 Robert Helfand, Colin Newman, William Cassada, and
14 Helena Bartolomeo. Also present is General Counsel for
15 the Retirement Commission, Cindy Cieslak.

16 Just - we are going to be meeting in
17 executive session, which means it's not a public
18 session. So I'm going to ask - we are going to make a
19 motion for us to go into executive session pretty soon.
20 Just to remind members, after we discuss all the cases,
21 the public will be invited in again.

22 So I'll make a motion for us to go into
23 executive session now.

24 DR. KATSETOS: I second the motion.
25 Katsetos.

1 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: Any discussion? All in
2 favor, say aye.

3 DR. SHORE: Aye.

4 DR. KATSETOS: Aye.

5 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: Aye. All opposed, say
6 nay. Motion passes. We are now in executive session.
7 I'm also going to ask that the members of the
8 Retirement Services Division and counsel participate in
9 the meeting with us, stay in the meeting, in other
10 words.

11 MS. CIESLAK: This is Cindy Cieslak. Thank
12 you, Dr. Lieders. For those who are here for the
13 meeting, members of the public and applicants, I'm
14 going to place you back in the waiting room. When the
15 doctors reenter public session, you will be invited
16 back in.

17 (The Medical Examining Board was in executive
18 session from 9:05 a.m. until 10:38 a.m.)

19 MS. CIESLAK: Dr. Lieders, you may proceed
20 when you're ready.

21 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: Thank you. Well, we
22 are back in public session. I just want to let people
23 know that the Board will be making determinations and
24 voting on those determinations, but I'd like to remind
25 members that only the final vote will be given today

1 and not the reasons for the vote. In some cases, there
2 may not have been enough medical information to make
3 the determination, or perhaps a non-service-connected
4 disability is more likely than a service-connected
5 disability.

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

10 So moving right along, I make a motion to
11 deny Laurie Bleau's application for service-connected
12 disability retirement.

13 DR. SHORE: Shore, second.

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

16 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: Aye.

17 DR. SHORE: Aye.

18 DR. KATSETOS: Aye.

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

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

24 MR. SHORE: Second, Shore.

25 MS. CIESLAK: Any further discussion? There

1 being none, all in favor, say aye.

2 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: Aye.

3 DR. SHORE: Aye.

4 DR. KATSETOS: Aye.

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

7 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: I'll make a motion to
8 approve Cynthia Ciesielski's application for service-
9 connected disability retirement.

10 MR. SHORE: Second, Shore.

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

13 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: Aye.

14 DR. SHORE: Aye.

15 DR. KATSETOS: Aye.

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

18 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: I'll make a motion to
19 deny Casilda De Los Santos' application for service-
20 connected disability retirement.

21 MR. SHORE: Second, Shore.

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

24 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: Aye.

25 DR. SHORE: Aye.

1 DR. KATSETOS: Aye.

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

4 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: I'll make a motion to
5 deny Naveen Hassam's application for non-service-
6 connected disability retirement.

7 MR. SHORE: Second, Shore.

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

10 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: Aye.

11 DR. SHORE: Aye.

12 DR. KATSETOS: Aye.

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

15 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: I'll make a motion to
16 deny John Jackman's application for non-service-
17 connected disability retirement.

18 MR. SHORE: Second, Shore.

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

21 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: Aye.

22 DR. SHORE: Aye.

23 DR. KATSETOS: Aye.

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

1 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: I'll make a motion to
2 deny Sandra Jones' application for non-service-
3 connected disability retirement.

4 MR. SHORE: Second, Shore.

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

7 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: Aye.

8 DR. SHORE: Aye.

9 DR. KATSETOS: Aye.

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

12 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: I'll make a motion to
13 deny Schmid Joseph's application for service-connected
14 disability retirement, however the Board would look
15 favorably upon a non-service-connected disability
16 retirement.

17 MR. SHORE: Second, Shore.

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

20 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: Aye.

21 DR. SHORE: Aye.

22 DR. KATSETOS: Aye.

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

25 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: I'll make a motion to

1 deny Ronald Maia's application for non-service-
2 connected disability retirement.

3 MR. SHORE: Second, Shore.

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

6 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: Aye.

7 DR. SHORE: Aye.

8 DR. KATSETOS: Aye.

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

11 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: I'll make a motion to
12 deny Christopher Power's application for service-
13 connected disability retirement, however the Board
14 would look favorably upon a non-service-connected
15 disability retirement.

16 MR. SHORE: Second, Shore.

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

19 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: Aye.

20 DR. SHORE: Aye.

21 DR. KATSETOS: (Inaudible)

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

24 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: I'll make a motion to
25 approve Rudy Recinos' application for service-connected

1 disability retirement.

2 MR. SHORE: Second, Shore.

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

5 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: Aye.

6 DR. SHORE: Aye.

7 DR. KATSETOS: (Inaudible)

8 MS. CIESLAK: I'm sorry. I only heard one
9 aye. There was probably some background noise.

10 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: Aye.

11 MS. CIESLAK: So, Dr. Lieders, aye?

12 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: Aye.

13 MS. CIESLAK: Dr. Katsetos-

14 DR. SHORE: Dr. Shore, aye.

15 MS. CIESLAK: Dr. Shore is aye. Dr.

16 Katsetos?

17 DR. KATSETOS: Katsetos, aye.

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

20 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: I'll make a motion to
21 approve Amy Russo-Zehall's application for service-
22 connected disability retirement.

23 MR. SHORE: Second, Shore.

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

1 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: Aye.

2 DR. SHORE: Aye.

3 DR. KATSETOS: Aye.

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

6 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: I'll make a motion to
7 approve Gustavo Sanchez Toledo's application for non-
8 service-connected disability retirement.

9 MR. SHORE: Second, Shore.

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

12 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: Aye.

13 DR. KATSETOS: Aye, Katsetos.

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

16 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: I'll make a motion to
17 approve Teresa Skaff's application for non-service-
18 connected disability retirement.

19 MR. SHORE: Second, Shore.

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

22 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: Lieders, aye.

23 DR. KATSETOS: Katsetos, aye.

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

1 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: I'll make a motion to
2 approve Richard Scheller's application for non-service-
3 connected disability retirement.

4 MR. SHORE: Second, Shore.

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

7 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: Aye.

8 DR. SHORE: Aye.

9 DR. KATSETOS: Aye.

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

12 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: I'll make a motion to
13 deny Jill Sizensky's application for service-connected
14 disability retirement.

15 MR. SHORE: Second, Shore.

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

18 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: Lieders, aye.

19 DR. KATSETOS: Aye, Katsetos.

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

22 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: I'll make a motion to
23 deny Tammy Stewart's application for service-connected
24 disability retirement.

25 MR. SHORE: Second, Shore.

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

3 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: Aye, Lieders.

4 DR. SHORE: Aye.

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

7 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: I'll make a motion to
8 change from service to non-service-connected disability
9 retirement of the following five people: Robert Brown,
10 Tywana Johnson, Kristina Kaczorowski, Lourdes
11 Montalvo, and Joanne Guay.

12 DR. SHORE: Second, Shore.

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

15 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: Aye.

16 DR. SHORE: Aye.

17 DR. KATSETOS: Aye.

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

20 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: Well, we voted on
21 everybody, so I guess we don't have any further
22 business. I will make a motion for us to adjourn
23 today's meeting.

24 DR. SHORE: Second, Shore.

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

1 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: Lieders says aye.

2 DR. SHORE: Aye.

3 MS. CIESLAK: We are adjourned. Thank you,
4 everyone.

5 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: Yes, thank you. Have a
6 nice weekend. Happy holidays for everybody.

7 DR. SHORE: You too.

8 (Adjourned at 10:48 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 9:04 a.m. on
December 16, 2022.

Karin A. Empson

Karin A. Empson

01/20/2023

Date