

STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
STATE EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT COMMISSION  
MEDICAL EXAMINING BOARD MEETING

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APRIL 28, 2023 MEETING  
HELD VIA ZOOM  
CONVENED AT 9:07 a.m.

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Present (via Zoom):

Dr. Nicolai Lieders, Chairperson  
Dr. Frank Gerratana  
Dr. J. Robert Galvin  
Robert Helfand, Retirement Services Division  
William Cassada, Retirement Services Division  
Helena Bartolomeo, Retirement Services Division  
Melinda Powell, Rose Kallor, LLP

TRANSCRIPTIONIST: Karin A. Empson

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

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5 MS. POWELL: --recording. There we go.

6 Thank you, Dr. Lieders.

7 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: Okay. So the meeting  
8 come to order. The April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2023 meeting of the  
9 Medical Examining Board is now in session. My name is  
10 Nicolai Lieders. We have also Dr. John Galvin and Dr.  
11 Frank Gerretana. We are the members who make up the  
12 Medical Examining Board for today's meeting.

13 Present from the Office of the State  
14 Comptroller, Retirement Services Division, are staff  
15 members from the Retirement Services Division, Mr.  
16 Robert Helfand, Mr. William Cassada, Ms. Helena  
17 Bartolomeo, and General Counsel to the Retirement  
18 Commission, Attorney Melinda Powell.

19 So I will make a motion to amend the agenda  
20 to include - to remove - to include actually two names,  
21 Chantel Poulin and Juan Sanchez, to that list of  
22 continued entitlement pursuant to Memorandum of  
23 Understanding of August 6<sup>th</sup>, 2015.

24 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

25 MS. POWELL: Thank you.

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

3           DR. GERRATANA:   Aye.

4           DR. GALVIN:   Aye, Galvin.

5           CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS:   All opposed, say nay.  
6   Motion passes.  So those two are going to be added to  
7   that list.

8           I just want to explain in public session that  
9   we are going to go into executive session.  During  
10   executive session, as the discussions are confidential,  
11   we exclude the public.  So I'll make a motion for us to  
12   go into executive session.

13          DR. GERRATANA:   Gerratana, second.

14          CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS:   Is there any  
15   discussion?  All in favor, say aye.

16          DR. GALVIN:   Aye, Galvin.

17          CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS:   All opposed, say nay.  
18   Motion passes.  So now we are going into executive  
19   session.

20                 (The Board was in executive session from 9:09  
21   a.m. until 10:15 a.m.)

22          CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS:   So we are out of  
23   executive session.  So I would like people present at  
24   the meeting to know that the Board has made these  
25   determinations, but would like to remind members that

1 only the final vote will be given today and not the  
2 reasons for the vote. In some instances, there may not  
3 have been enough medical information to make a  
4 favorable determination, and you may seek  
5 reconsideration of a denial. You will receive the  
6 Board's determination within two to four weeks, which  
7 will provide you with additional information.

8 I will then proceed with the voting. So I  
9 will make a motion to approve Rosemary Andrade's  
10 application for continuation of entitlements.

11 MS. POWELL: Any second?

12 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

13 DR. GALVIN: Galvin.

14 MS. POWELL: Okay. Any discussion? Hearing  
15 none-

16 DR. GALVIN: Galvin seconds.

17 MS. POWELL: Okay. Any discussion? No?

18 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: All in favor, say aye.

19 MS. POWELL: Yeah.

20 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye.

21 DR. GALVIN: Galvin, aye.

22 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: Lieders, aye. Motion  
23 approved.

24 I'll make a motion to approve Gwyneth  
25 Topolski's application for continuation of entitlement

1 for service-connected disability retirement.

2 MS. POWELL: Any seconds?

3 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

4 MS. POWELL: Any discussion? Hearing no  
5 discussion, everybody in favor?

6 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: Aye.

7 DR. GERRATANA: Aye.

8 DR. GALVIN: Aye, Galvin.

9 MS. POWELL: Motion passes.

10 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: The motion passes.  
11 I'll make a motion to approve Sonnie Council's  
12 application for continued entitlement to service-  
13 connected disability retirement.

14 MS. POWELL: Any second?

15 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

16 MS. POWELL: Any discussion? Hearing none,  
17 all in favor?

18 DR. GERRATANA: Aye.

19 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: Aye.

20 DR. GALVIN: Aye.

21 MS. POWELL: Motion passes.

22 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: I'll make a motion to  
23 approve Stephanie Edwards' application for continued  
24 entitlement for non-service-connected disability  
25 retirement.

1 MS. POWELL: Any second?

2 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

3 MS. POWELL: Any discussion? Hearing none,  
4 all in favor, say aye.

5 DR. GERRATANA: Aye.

6 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: Aye.

7 DR. GALVIN: Aye.

8 MS. POWELL: Thank you. Motion passes.

9 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: I'll make a motion to  
10 approve Eduardo Florez's application for continued  
11 entitlement for service-connected disability  
12 retirement.

13 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

14 MS. POWELL: Okay. Any discussion? Hearing  
15 none, all in favor, say aye.

16 DR. GERRATANA: Aye.

17 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: Aye.

18 DR. GALVIN: Aye, Galvin.

19 MS. POWELL: Motion passes.

20 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: I'll make a motion to  
21 deny Manuel Gomes' application for continued  
22 entitlement for non-service-connected disability  
23 retirement.

24 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

25 MS. POWELL: Any discussion? Hearing none,

1 all in favor, say aye.

2 DR. GERRATANA: Aye.

3 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: Aye.

4 DR. GALVIN: Aye.

5 MS. POWELL: Motion passes.

6 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: I'll make a motion to  
7 approve Jennifer Hunter's application for continued  
8 entitlement to non-service-connected disability  
9 retirement.

10 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

11 MS. POWELL: Any discussion? Hearing none,  
12 all in favor, say aye.

13 DR. GERRATANA: Aye.

14 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: Aye.

15 DR. GALVIN: Aye.

16 MS. POWELL: Motion passes.

17 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: I'll make a motion to  
18 approve Natalie Johnson's application for continued  
19 entitlement to service-connected disability retirement.

20 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

21 MS. POWELL: Any discussion? Hearing none,  
22 all in favor, say aye.

23 DR. GERRATANA: Aye.

24 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: Aye.

25 DR. GALVIN: Aye.

1 MS. POWELL: Motion passes. The motion  
2 passes. Thank you.

3 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: I'll make a motion to  
4 approve Kimberly Klinefelter's application for  
5 entitlement - continued entitlement to service-  
6 connected disability retirement.

7 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

8 MS. POWELL: Any discussion? Hearing none,  
9 all in favor, say aye.

10 DR. GERRATANA: Aye.

11 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: Aye.

12 DR. GALVIN: Aye.

13 MS. POWELL: Motion passes.

14 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: I'll make a motion to  
15 approve Robert Lawson's application for continued  
16 entitlement to service-connected disability retirement.

17 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

18 MS. POWELL: Any discussion? Hearing none,  
19 all in favor, say aye.

20 DR. GERRATANA: Aye.

21 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: Aye.

22 DR. GALVIN: Aye.

23 MS. POWELL: Motion passes.

24 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: I'll make a motion to  
25 table Ana Mena (phonetic) or Mina's application to



1 continued entitlement for non-service-connected  
2 disability retirement.

3 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

4 MS. POWELL: Any discussion? All in favor,  
5 say aye.

6 DR. GERRATANA: Aye.

7 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: Aye.

8 DR. GALVIN: Aye.

9 MS. POWELL: Motion passes.

10 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: I'll make a motion to  
11 approve Jessica Olson's application for continued  
12 entitlement to non-service-connected disability  
13 retirement.

14 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

15 MS. POWELL: Any discussion? Hearing none,  
16 all in favor, say aye.

17 DR. GERRATANA: Aye.

18 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: Aye.

19 DR. GALVIN: Aye.

20 MS. POWELL: Motion passes.

21 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: I'll make a motion to  
22 approve Tanya Parker's application for continued  
23 entitlement to service-connected disability retirement.

24 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

25 MS. POWELL: Any discussion? Hearing none,

1 all in favor, say aye.

2 DR. GERRATANA: Aye.

3 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: Aye.

4 DR. GALVIN: Aye.

5 MS. POWELL: Motion passes.

6 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: I'll make a motion to  
7 approve Levonne Perez-Sutton's application for  
8 continued entitlement to service-connected disability  
9 retirement.

10 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

11 MS. POWELL: Any discussion? All in favor,  
12 say aye.

13 DR. GERRATANA: Aye.

14 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: Aye.

15 DR. GALVIN: Aye.

16 MS. POWELL: Okay. That's everybody. Motion  
17 passes.

18 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: I'll make a motion to  
19 approve John Reynold's application for continued  
20 entitlement to non-service-connected disability  
21 retirement.

22 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

23 MS. POWELL: Any discussion? Hearing none,  
24 all in favor, say aye.

25 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: Aye.

1 DR. GALVIN: Aye.

2 DR. GERRATANA: Aye.

3 MS. POWELL: Motion passes.

4 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: I'll make a motion to  
5 approve Michael White's application for continued  
6 entitlement to service-connected disability retirement.

7 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

8 MS. POWELL: Any discussion? All in favor,  
9 say aye.

10 DR. GERRATANA: Aye.

11 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: Aye.

12 DR. GALVIN: Aye.

13 MS. POWELL: Motion passes.

14 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: I'll make a motion to  
15 approve the following people for continued entitlement  
16 pursuant to Memorandum of Understanding of August 6<sup>th</sup>,  
17 2015; I'm going to list the names: Dexter Biggs, Jerry  
18 Boulware, Melanie Emery, James Gaglione, Jose Gil,  
19 Vincent Lanteri, Christine Lawrence, Joseph Marchesi,  
20 Faith Marselli, Raeleen McMillan, Gary Newton, Chantel  
21 Poulin, Patrick O'Brien, Juan Sanchez, Krista Schulz,  
22 Edna Shlien, Deborah Silva, Carolyn Timmons, and  
23 Cedrica Titus.

24 MS. POWELL: Any second?

25 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

1 MS. POWELL: Any discussion? Hearing none,  
2 all in favor, say aye.

3 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: Aye.

4 DR. GERRATANA: Aye.

5 DR. GALVIN: Aye.

6 MS. POWELL: Motion passes.

7 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: Thank you. Well, if  
8 there are no further issues to discuss, I'll make a  
9 motion to adjourn the meeting.

10 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second, with  
11 thanks to the Chairman.

12 MS. POWELL: Any discussion?

13 DR. GALVIN: Good job, Dr. Lieders. Nice  
14 working with you, Dr. G.

15 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: Well, I couldn't do it  
16 without you guys.

17 MS. POWELL: Just need you all to vote to end  
18 the meeting.

19 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: Thank you very much,  
20 everybody.

21 DR. GERRATANA: My pleasure.

22 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: And just to remind  
23 again, Mr. Cassada, if you could send me the schedule  
24 of meetings, please.

25 MR. CASSADA: You haven't yet voted to

1 adjourn.

2 MS. POWELL: Right.

3 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: Oh. Yes. We just  
4 voted to adjourn; didn't we?

5 MS. POWELL: No, we didn't get to that. We  
6 said our salutations before we voted. So let's vote  
7 now.

8 MR. CASSADA: So someone should play all that  
9 (inaudible).

10 DR. GERRATANA: I made the seconds.

11 MS. POWELL: Yeah. All in favor?

12 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: Aye.

13 DR. GERRATANA: Aye.

14 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: So I'm not sure what -  
15 now we voted to adjourn the meeting.

16 MR. CASSADA: Right.

17 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: Is that right? Okay.

18 MR. CASSADA: Well done.

19 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: Thank you.

20 DR. GERRATANA: Thank you, everyone. Have a  
21 good weekend.

22 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: Thank you. Yeah,  
23 likewise, everybody.

24 MR. CASSADA: Thanks, Melinda.

25 MS. POWELL: You're welcome. Bye-bye.

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CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: Thank you. Bye-bye.  
(Adjourned at 10:23 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  
April 28, 2023.

Karin A. Empson

Karin A. Empson

03/23/2024

Date