

STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
STATE EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT COMMISSION  
MEDICAL EXAMINING BOARD MEETING

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MAY 26, 2023 MEETING  
HELD VIA ZOOM  
CONVENED AT 9:08 a.m.

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Present (via Zoom):

Dr. Poleak So  
Dr. Ralph Rosenberg  
Dr. Nikolai Lieders  
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 9:08 a.m.)

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5 MS. CIESLAK: My apologies. I was going to  
6 mute myself and I stopped the recording.

7 Dr. So, you can start whenever you would  
8 like.

9 CHAIRPERSON SO: All right. Hold on a  
10 second. The May 26<sup>th</sup>, 2023 meeting of the Medical  
11 Examining Board is now in session. Present are Dr.  
12 Nicolai Lieders, Dr. Poleak So, Dr. Ralph Rosenberg.  
13 Present from the Office of the State Comptroller,  
14 Retirement Services Division, are staff members from  
15 the Retirement Services Division, Robert Helfand,  
16 William Cassada, Helena Bartolomeo. General Counsel to  
17 the Retirement Commission is Cindy Cieslak.

18 Okay. I motion to go into executive session.

19 DR. LIEDERS: I second it. Lieders, second.

20 CHAIRPERSON SO: And that the members of the  
21 Retirement Services Division be allowed to remain.

22 MS. CIESLAK: Dr. Lieders, this is Cindy  
23 Cieslak. In addition to the Retirement Services  
24 Division members, does the invitation also include an  
25 invite to me, Cindy Cieslak, to join executive session

1 as well?

2 CHAIRPERSON SO: Yep. Right.

3 MS. CIESLAK: Okay, thank you. All right.

4 And then, call to order - or call the motion, say all  
5 in favor.

6 CHAIRPERSON SO: All in favor of-

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

8 DR. LIEDERS: Aye. Lieders says aye.

9 DR. ROSENBERG: Rosenberg, aye.

10 MS. CIESLAK: Any opposed, say nay. All  
11 right. The motion passes. We are going to go into  
12 executive session. For the members of the public or  
13 the applicants who are here, that means you are going  
14 to be placed in the waiting room and the doctors are  
15 going to be discussing medical information. That's why  
16 we go into executive session, so that your medical  
17 information is not available to all of the public.

18 And then, if you are on reconsideration, when  
19 the Medical Examining Board is ready to hear your  
20 matter, you'll be invited in to make your statement.  
21 And then at the end, we will return to public session  
22 and the doctors will vote on each matter then. So  
23 sometimes it is a couple of hours for this whole  
24 meeting, so just be patient with us. Thank you.

25 (The board was in executive session from 9:09

1 a.m. until 11:43 a.m.)

2 MS. CIESLAK: Dr. So, you can proceed when  
3 you're ready.

4 CHAIRPERSON SO: The board has made its  
5 determinations, but would like to remind members that  
6 only the final vote will be given today and not the  
7 reasons for the vote. In some instances, there may not  
8 have been enough medical information to make a  
9 favorable determination. You may seek reconsideration  
10 of denial. You will receive the board's determination  
11 within two to four weeks, which will provide you with  
12 additional information.

13 I motion to deny John Blanchard for  
14 continuation of service-connected disability  
15 retirement.

16 DR. LIEDERS: Second, Lieders.

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

19 DR. LIEDERS: Aye.

20 CHAIRPERSON SO: Aye.

21 DR. ROSENBERG: Rosenberg, aye.

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

24 CHAIRPERSON SO: I motion to approve Erick  
25 Brown for continuation of service-connected disability

1 retirement.

2 DR. ROSENBERG: This is Rosenberg. I second.

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

5 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I can't hear.

6 DR. LIEDERS: Aye.

7 CHAIRPERSON SO: Aye.

8 DR. ROSENBERG: Rosenberg, aye.

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

11 CHAIRPERSON SO: I motion to approve Peter  
12 Casey's application for continuation of non-service-  
13 connected disability retirement.

14 DR. LIEDERS: I second, Lieders.

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

17 CHAIRPERSON SO: Aye.

18 DR. LIEDERS: Aye.

19 DR. ROSENBERG: Rosenberg, aye.

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

22 CHAIRPERSON SO: I motion to approve Wanda  
23 Doiron's application for non-service-connected  
24 disability retirement.

25 DR. ROSENBERG: This is Rosenberg. I second.

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

3 CHAIRPERSON SO: Aye.

4 DR. LIEDERS: Lieders, aye.

5 DR. ROSENBERG: Rosenberg, aye.

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

8 CHAIRPERSON SO: I motion to approve Gary  
9 Hamilton's application for non-service-connected  
10 disability retirement.

11 DR. LIEDERS: Lieders, second.

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

14 CHAIRPERSON SO: Aye.

15 DR. LIEDERS: Lieders, aye.

16 DR. ROSENBERG: Rosenberg, aye.

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

19 CHAIRPERSON SO: I motion to deny Wendy  
20 Hartling's application for service-connected disability  
21 retirement.

22 DR. LIEDERS: Second.

23 MS. CIESLAK: Second from Dr. Lieders. Any  
24 further discussion? There being none, all in favor,  
25 say aye.

1 DR. LIEDERS: Aye, Lieders.

2 DR. ROSENBERG: Rosenberg, aye.

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

5 CHAIRPERSON SO: I motion to approve Mayra  
6 Holbrook's application for continuation of non-service-  
7 connected disability retirement.

8 DR. ROSENBERG: Rosenberg, second.

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

11 DR. LIEDERS: Lieders, aye.

12 DR. ROSENBERG: Rosenberg, aye.

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

15 CHAIRPERSON SO: I motion to approve  
16 Christopher Kelly's application for continuation of  
17 non-service-connected disability retirement.

18 DR. LIEDERS: Lieders, second.

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

21 DR. LIEDERS: Lieders, aye.

22 DR. ROSENBERG: Rosenberg, aye.

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

25 CHAIRPERSON SO: I motion to approve Alec

1 Mandia's application for non-service-connected  
2 disability retirement.

3 DR. LIEDERS: Lieders, second.

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

6 DR. ROSENBERG: Rosenberg, aye.

7 DR. LIEDERS: Lieders, aye.

8 CHAIRPERSON SO: Aye.

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

11 CHAIRPERSON SO: I motion to approve George  
12 Miller's application for continuation of non-service-  
13 connected disability retirement.

14 DR. ROSENBERG: Rosenberg, second.

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

17 DR. LIEDERS: Lieders, aye.

18 CHAIRPERSON SO: Aye.

19 DR. ROSENBERG: Rosenberg, aye.

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

22 CHAIRPERSON SO: I motion to approve Lizette  
23 Sanabria's application for continuation of service-  
24 connected disability retirement.

25 DR. LIEDERS: Lieders, second.



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

3 DR. LIEDERS: Lieders, aye.

4 DR. ROSENBERG: Rosenberg, aye.

5 CHAIRPERSON SO: Aye.

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

8 CHAIRPERSON SO: I motion to approve  
9 Christopher Soucier's application of continuation of  
10 service-connected disability retirement.

11 DR. LIEDERS: Lieders, second.

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

14 DR. LIEDERS: Lieders, aye.

15 DR. ROSENBERG: Rosenberg, aye.

16 CHAIRPERSON SO: Aye.

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

19 CHAIRPERSON SO: I motion to approve Kevin  
20 Trosky's application for continuation of service-  
21 connected disability retirement.

22 DR. ROSENBERG: Rosenberg, second.

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

25 DR. LIEDERS: Lieders, aye.

1 CHAIRPERSON SO: Aye.

2 DR. ROSENBERG: Rosenberg, aye.

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

5 CHAIRPERSON SO: I motion to approve Michele  
6 Varanay's application of continuation of non-service-  
7 connected disability retirement.

8 DR. ROSENBERG: I'm sorry, Dr. Poleak. I  
9 think you skipped - maybe I'm wrong. I think you  
10 skipped Kevin Trosky.

11 DR. LIEDERS: We just did it.

12 DR. ROSENBERG: Oh, that was one I approved.  
13 Sorry. I apologize.

14 CHAIRPERSON SO: Okay, no problem.

15 Okay. I motion to approve Michele Varanay's  
16 application for non-service-connected disability  
17 retirement.

18 DR. LIEDERS: Lieders, second.

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

21 DR. LIEDERS: Aye, Lieders.

22 CHAIRPERSON SO: Aye.

23 DR. ROSENBERG: Rosenberg, aye.

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

1           CHAIRPERSON SO: I motion to continue - I  
2 motion to approve the continued entitlement pursuant to  
3 the Memo of Understanding August 6<sup>th</sup>, 2015 for the  
4 following individuals: Jorge Claudio, James Conley,  
5 Lisa Doty, Lucy Giliberto, Irma Goyco-Burnhan, Amer  
6 Khan, Brian Logan, Angel Martinez, and Patrick Weber.

7           DR. LIEDERS: Lieders, second.

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

10          DR. LIEDERS: Lieders, aye.

11          DR. ROSENBERG: Rosenberg, aye.

12          CHAIRPERSON SO: So, aye.

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

15          CHAIRPERSON SO: I motion to adjourn the  
16 meeting.

17          DR. LIEDERS: Lieders, second.

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

19          DR. LIEDERS: Aye, Lieders.

20          DR. ROSENBERG: Rosenberg, aye.

21          CHAIRPERSON SO: So, aye.

22          MS. CIESLAK: Any opposed? The motion is  
23 unanimous. We are adjourned. Thank you.

24          DR. LIEDERS: Thank you. Everybody, thank  
25 you.

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CHAIRPERSON: All right.  
(Adjourned at 11:51 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  
May 26, 2023.

Karin A. Empson

Karin A. Empson

06/15/2023

Date