

STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
STATE EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT COMMISSION  
MEDICAL EXAMINING BOARD MEETING

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JULY 28, 2023 MEETING  
HELD VIA ZOOM  
CONVENED AT 9:04 a.m.

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Present (via Zoom):

Dr. Ralph Rosenberg

Dr. Eric Shore

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 9:04 a.m.)

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

7 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: Thank you. Welcome,  
8 everybody. This is the July 28<sup>th</sup>, 2023 meeting of the  
9 Medical Examining Board; it's now in session. Present  
10 are Doctors Eric Shore, Dr. Sheldon Nova, and myself,  
11 Dr. Ralph Rosenberg, Chair of the meeting. Present  
12 from the Office of the State Comptroller, Retirement  
13 Division, are staff members Robert Helfand, William  
14 Cassada, and Helena Bartolomeo. Also present is  
15 General Counsel for the Retirement Commission and  
16 Medical Examining Board, Cindy Cieslak.

17 The Medical Examination Board will be going  
18 into executive session. Is there a motion to go into  
19 executive session?

20 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (Inaudible) motion.

21 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: All those in favor  
22 going into executive motion (sic), say aye. Rosenberg,  
23 aye.

24 DR. SHORE: Shore, aye.

25 DR. NOVA: Nova, aye.

1                   CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: The motion is  
2 approved to go into executive session, and I request  
3 that from the Office of the State Comptroller that  
4 Robert Helfand, William Cassada, and Helena Bartolomeo  
5 stay as well as from General Counsel to the Retirement  
6 Commission, Medical Examining Board, Cindy Cieslak stay  
7 in the meeting as well.

8                   MS. CIESLAK: Thank you, Dr. Rosenberg. This  
9 is Cindy Cieslak. Just for the record, Dr. Nova made  
10 the motion and Dr. Shore seconded the motion to go into  
11 executive session. For those who were not invited into  
12 executive session, the members of the public and the  
13 applicants, I'm going to place you into the waiting  
14 room.

15                   If you are on reconsideration, you will be  
16 invited in to make your statement. And then when the  
17 doctors are done discussing all of the matters in  
18 executive session due to the private and confidential  
19 nature of the medical records, we will reenter public  
20 session, at which time, the doctors will make their  
21 decisions and anyone who is in the waiting room will be  
22 invited back in then. Thank you.

23                   (The Board was in executive session from 9:04  
24 a.m. until 9:58 a.m.)

25                   MS. CIESLAK: Dr. Rosenberg, you can proceed

1 when you're ready.

2 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: Thank you, Cindy.

3 MS. CIESLAK: Oh, Dr. Rosenberg, before you  
4 continue - this is Cindy Cieslak. Before you continue,  
5 can we just have - because Helena is taking minutes of  
6 the meeting, can we just have whoever - so Dr.  
7 Rosenberg will be making the motions, so that will be  
8 clear for the record. Whoever is seconding the motion,  
9 can you just say your name when you second it? Thank  
10 you.

11 DR. NOVA: Nova, second.

12 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: The Board has made  
13 its determinations, but would like to remind members  
14 that only the final vote will be given today and not  
15 the reasons for the vote. In some instances, there may  
16 not have been enough medical information to make a  
17 favorable determination. You may seek reconsideration  
18 of a denial. You will receive the Board's  
19 determination within two to four weeks, which will  
20 provide you with that additional information.

21 This is Dr. Ralph Rosenberg and I make a  
22 motion to approve Samuel Bleir for non-service-  
23 connected disability. Is there a second?

24 DR. NOVA: Second, Dr. Nova.

25 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: This is Dr. Ralph

1 Rosenberg. All those in favor of approving Samuel  
2 Bleir for non-service-connected disability, say aye.

3 DR. NOVA: Aye.

4 DR. SHORE: Shore, aye.

5 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: Rosenberg, aye. And  
6 the motion passes.

7 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: This is Dr. Ralph  
8 Rosenberg and I make a motion to approve Margaret  
9 Cragin for non-service-connected disability. Is there  
10 a second?

11 DR. NOVA: Nova, second.

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

16 DR. NOVA: Nova, aye.

17 DR. SHORE: Shore, aye.

18 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: The motion is  
19 approved. This is Dr. Ralph Rosenberg and I make a  
20 motion to approve Sandra Jenkins for service-connected  
21 disability. Is there a second?

22 DR. NOVA: Nova, second.

23 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: All those in favor  
24 of approving Sandra Jenkins, say aye. Rosenberg, aye.

25 DR. NOVA: Nova, aye.

1 DR. SHORE: Shore, aye.

2 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: The motion passes.

3 This is Dr. Ralph Rosenberg and I make a  
4 motion to approve Marc King for service-connected  
5 disability. Is there a second?

6 DR. NOVA: Nova, second.

7 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: All those in favor  
8 of approving Marc King for service-connected  
9 disability, say aye. Rosenberg, aye.

10 DR. NOVA: Nova, aye.

11 DR. SHORE: Shore, aye.

12 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: The motion passes.

13 This is Dr. Ralph Rosenberg and I make a  
14 motion to approve Rowan Monington for service-connected  
15 disability. Is there a second?

16 DR. NOVA: Nova, second.

17 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: This is Dr. Ralph  
18 Rosenberg. All those in favor of approving Rowan  
19 Monington for service-connected disability, say aye.  
20 Rosenberg, aye.

21 DR. SHORE: Shore, aye.

22 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: Dr. Nova, do you  
23 approve?

24 MS. CIESLAK: This is Cindy Cieslak. It  
25 looked like you froze for a second. So Dr. Nova, we

1 didn't hear you if you voted.

2 DR. NOVA: Nova, aye.

3 DR. ROSENBERG: Thank you. The motion  
4 passes.

5 This is Dr. Ralph Rosenberg and I make a  
6 motion to approve Samuel Bleir for non-service-  
7 connected disability. Is there a second?

8 DR. NOVA: Second, Dr. Nova.

9 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: This is Dr. Ralph  
10 Rosenberg. All those in favor of approving Samuel  
11 Bleir for non-service-connected disability, say aye.

12 DR. NOVA: Aye.

13 DR. SHORE: Shore, aye.

14 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: Rosenberg, aye. And  
15 the motion passes.

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

19 DR. NOVA: Nova, second.

20 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: This is Dr. Ralph  
21 Rosenberg and I make a motion to approve Matthew - I'm  
22 sorry. This is Dr. Ralph Rosenberg. All those in  
23 favor of approving Matthew Morrissette for service-  
24 connected disability, say aye. Rosenberg, aye.

25 DR. NOVA: Nova, aye.

1 DR. SHORE: Shore, aye.

2 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: The motion passes.

3 This is Dr. Ralph Rosenberg and I make a  
4 motion to approve Delondra Munn for service-connected  
5 disability. Is there a second?

6 DR. NOVA: Nova, second.

7 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: This is Dr. Ralph  
8 Rosenberg. All those in favor of approving Delondra  
9 Munn for service-connected disability, say aye.  
10 Rosenberg, aye.

11 DR. NOVA: Nova, aye.

12 DR. SHORE: Shore, aye.

13 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: The motion passes.

14 This is Dr. Ralph Rosenberg and I make a  
15 motion to approve Justin Pizzonia for service-connected  
16 disability. Is there a second?

17 DR. NOVA: Nova, second.

18 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: All those in favor  
19 of approving Justin Pizzonia for service-connected  
20 disability, say aye. Rosenberg, aye.

21 DR. NOVA: Nova, aye.

22 DR. SHORE: Shore, aye.

23 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: The motion passes.

24 This is Dr. Ralph Rosenberg and I make a  
25 motion to approve Kevin Rivenburgh for service-



1 connected disability. Is there a second?

2 DR. NOVA: Nova, second.

3 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: All those in favor  
4 of approving Kevin Rivenburgh for service-connected  
5 disability, say aye. Rosenberg, aye.

6 DR. NOVA: Nova, aye.

7 DR. SHORE: Shore, aye.

8 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: The motion passes.

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

12 DR. NOVA: Nova, second.

13 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: All those in favor  
14 of approving Michael Tutko for non-service-connected  
15 disability, say aye. Rosenberg, aye.

16 DR. NOVA: Nova, aye.

17 DR. SHORE: Shore, aye.

18 CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: The motion passes.

19 This is Dr. Ralph Rosenberg and I make a  
20 motion to approve the continued entitlement to Justin  
21 Blandino, Larry Drawec, Gilbert Gioia, Rosenda Hull,  
22 Lori Inman, Euginia Lavoie, Kelly Swiatowiec, Michael  
23 West, and Rudy Recinos for ongoing disability.

24 Is there a second?

25 DR. NOVA: Nova, second.

1           CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: All those in favor  
2 of approving, say aye. Rosenberg, aye.

3           DR. NOVA: Nova, aye.

4           DR. SHORE: Shore, aye.

5           CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: Shore passes. I'm  
6 sorry. Dr. Shore, I apologize. The motion passes.

7           This concludes the meeting of July 28<sup>th</sup> of  
8 the Medical Examination Board. I make a motion to  
9 adjourn the meeting. Is there a second?

10          DR. NOVA: Nova, second.

11          CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: All those in favor  
12 of approving the adjournment of the meeting, say aye.

13          DR. NOVA: Nova, aye.

14          DR. SHORE: Shore, aye.

15          CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: Rosenberg, aye. Dr.  
16 Shore, are you interested in hanging out or are you  
17 good?

18          DR. SHORE: I'm just going to sit here and  
19 wait for the next meeting.

20          MS. CIESLAK: I think he said aye, but then  
21 the audio got cut up. So I would say we are adjourned.

22          DR. SHORE: Yes. I apologize.

23          CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: I hope you folks all  
24 have a wonderful weekend.

25          DR. NOVA: You too.

1                   CHAIRPERSON ROSENBERG: And made up some  
2 lost time for Dr. Nova from last meeting.

3                   DR. NOVA: Right. Okay.

4                   UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Hey, you guys just  
5 saved the state some money today, so that's good.

6                   (Adjourned at 10:05 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  
July 28, 2023.

Karin A. Empson

Karin A. Empson

08/17/2023

Date