

STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
STATE EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT COMMISSION  
MEDICAL EXAMINING BOARD MEETING

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FEBRUARY 10, 2023 MEETING  
HELD VIA ZOOM  
CONVENED AT 9:12 a.m.

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Present (via Zoom):

Dr. Sheldon Nova  
Dr. Rita Ohene  
Dr. Sachin Parekh  
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 9:12 a.m.)

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5 CHAIRPERSON PAREKH: The February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023  
6 meeting of the Medical Exam Board is now in session.  
7 I, Dr. Sachin Parekh, will serve as Chairperson. Also  
8 present are Dr. Sheldon Nova and Dr. Rita Ohene.  
9 Present from the Office of the State Comptroller,  
10 Retirement Services Division are staff members from the  
11 Retirement Services Division Robert Helfand, William  
12 Cassada, and Helena Bartolomeo. Our General Counsel  
13 for the Retirement Commission is Cindy Cieslak.

14 I now make the motion to go into executive  
15 session, but request that members of the Retirement  
16 Services Division and counsel be allowed to remain.

17 Is there a second?

18 DR. NOVA: Second, Dr. Nova.

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

21 DR. OHENE: Aye.

22 DR. NOVA: Aye.

23 CHAIRPERSON PAREKH: Aye.

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

1           For the applicants and members of the public,  
2           what this means is we are going into executive session  
3           to discuss the private medical records of the  
4           applicants. You will be placed in the waiting room,  
5           and then if you are on reconsideration, you will be  
6           invited in during executive session to make your  
7           statement to the Board. If you are not on  
8           reconsideration, when we enter public session, you will  
9           be invited back into the meeting so that you can hear  
10          the determinations on the applications today. Thank  
11          you.

12                       (The Board was in executive session from 9:12  
13                       a.m. until 12:52 p.m.)

14                       UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay, I've got to go.  
15                       All right. Hello.

16                       UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Hello.

17                       MS. CIESLAK: We are entering public session.  
18                       The doctors are going to make their votes. I'm going  
19                       to place everyone who won't be voting on mute just so  
20                       we kind of cut down on background noise. But welcome,  
21                       everyone.

22                       Dr. Parekh, you can proceed when you are  
23                       ready.

24                       CHAIRPERSON PAREKH: This is Dr. Parekh,  
25                       Chairperson. I do make a motion to amend the agenda to

1 add Phillip Norris as a change to non-service-connected  
2 disability retirement. Do I have a second?

3 DR. NOVA: Second, Dr. Nova.

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

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

23 The Board votes to approve service-connected  
24 disability for Mario Alvarez.

25 MS. CIESLAK: Is there a second?

1 DR. NOVA: Second, Dr. Nova.

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

4 DR. NOVA: Aye.

5 CHAIRPERSON PAREKH: Aye.

6 DR. OHENE: Aye.

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

9 CHAIRPERSON PAREKH: The Board votes to deny  
10 service-connected disability but approve non-service-  
11 connected disability for Dexter Biggs.

12 DR. NOVA: Second.

13 MS. CIESLAK: Thank you for that second, Dr.  
14 Nova.

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

17 DR. NOVA: Aye.

18 CHAIRPERSON PAREKH: Aye.

19 DR. OHENE: Aye.

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

22 CHAIRPERSON PAREKH: The Board votes to  
23 approve service-connected disability for Etheline  
24 Bissette.

25 DR. NOVA: Second.

1 MS. CIESLAK: Thank you for the second, Dr.  
2 Nova.

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

5 DR. NOVA: Aye.

6 CHAIRPERSON PAREKH: Aye.

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

9 CHAIRPERSON PAREKH: The Board votes to  
10 approve non-service-connected disability for Robin  
11 Boyd.

12 DR. NOVA: Second, Dr. Nova.

13 MS. CIESLAK: Any further discussion? There  
14 being none, all in favor, say 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 for Jason  
21 Deary.

22 DR. NOVA: Second, Dr. Nova.

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

25 DR. NOVA: Aye.

1 CHAIRPERSON PAREKH: Aye.

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

4 CHAIRPERSON PAREKH: The Board votes to  
5 approve service-connected disability retirement for  
6 John Dyson.

7 DR. NOVA: Second, Dr. Nova.

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

17 DR. NOVA: Second, Dr. Nova.

18 MS. CIESLAK: Any further discussion? There  
19 being none, all in favor, say 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 deny  
25 service-connected disability, but look favorably upon

1 non-service-connected disability retirement for Lori  
2 Inman.

3 DR. NOVA: Second, Dr. Nova.

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

6 DR. OHENE: 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 deny  
12 non-service-connected disability retirement for Pamela  
13 Levesque.

14 DR. NOVA: Second, Dr. Nova.

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

17 DR. NOVA: Aye.

18 CHAIRPERSON PAREKH: Aye.

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

21 CHAIRPERSON PAREKH: The Board votes to deny  
22 service-connected disability, but approve non-service-  
23 connected disability for Faith Marselli.

24 DR. NOVA: Second, Dr. Nova.

25 MS. CIESLAK: Any further discussion? There



1 being none, all in favor, say aye.

2 DR. OHENE: Aye.

3 DR. NOVA: Aye.

4 CHAIRPERSON PAREKH: Aye.

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

7 CHAIRPERSON PAREKH: The Board votes to table  
8 the decision for non-service-connected disability for  
9 Kim Milia.

10 DR. NOVA: Second, Dr. Nova.

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

20 DR. NOVA: Second, Dr. Nova.

21 MS. CIESLAK: Any further discussion? There  
22 being none, all in favor, say 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 service-connected disability retirement for  
4 Charles Revere.

5 DR. NOVA: Second, Dr. Nova.

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

8 DR. NOVA: Aye.

9 CHAIRPERSON PAREKH: Aye.

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

12 CHAIRPERSON PAREKH: The Board votes to  
13 approve non-service-connected disability retirement for  
14 Michele Salonia.

15 DR. NOVA: Second, Dr. Nova.

16 MS. CIESLAK: Any further discussion? There  
17 being none, all in favor, say 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 table  
23 the decision for non-service-connected disability  
24 retirement for Michael Sawka.

25 DR. NOVA: Second, Dr. Nova.

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

3 DR. NOVA: Aye.

4 CHAIRPERSON PAREKH: Aye.

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

7 CHAIRPERSON PAREKH: The Board votes to  
8 approve non-service-connected disability retirement for  
9 Jessica Stefanowicz.

10 DR. NOVA: Second, Dr. Nova.

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

20 DR. NOVA: Second, Dr. Nova.

21 MS. CIESLAK: Any further discussion? There  
22 being none, all in favor, say 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 deny  
3 service-connected disability retirement, but approve  
4 non-service-connected disability retirement for Marc  
5 Wilson.

6 DR. NOVA: Second, Dr. Nova.

7 MS. CIESLAK: Any further discussion? There  
8 being none, all in favor, say 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 change the application to non-service-connected  
15 disability retirement for the following applicants:  
16 Albert Scott and Phillip Norris.

17 DR. NOVA: Second, Dr. Nova.

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

20 DR. OHENE: Aye.

21 DR. NOVA: Aye.

22 CHAIRPERSON PAREKH: Aye.

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

25 CHAIRPERSON PAREKH: This concludes the

1 Medical Examining Board meeting. I make a motion to  
2 adjourn the meeting.

3 DR. NOVA: Second, Dr. Nova.

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

5 DR. OHENE: Aye.

6 DR. NOVA: Aye.

7 CHAIRPERSON PAREKH: Aye.

8 MS. CIESLAK: All right, we are adjourned.

9 Thank you all. Have a good weekend.

10 DR. NOVA: Dr. Parekh?

11 (Adjourned at 1:02 p.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 9:12 a.m. on  
February 10, 2023.

Karin A. Empson

Karin A. Empson

03/07/2023

Date