

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
STATE EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT COMMISSION
MEDICAL EXAMINING BOARD MEETING

MARCH 10, 2023 MEETING
HELD VIA ZOOM
CONVENED AT 9:06 a.m.

Present (via Zoom):

Dr. J. Robert Galvin
Dr. Frank Gerratana
Dr. Ralph Rosenberg
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 9:06 a.m.)

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

7 CHAIRPERSON GERRATANA: Good morning,
8 everyone. The March 10th, 2023 meeting of the Medical
9 Examining Board is now in session. I am Dr. Frank
10 Gerratana, the chairperson. Present with me are also
11 Dr. Ralph Rosenberg and Dr. John Galvin. Present from
12 the Office of the State Comptroller, Retirement
13 Services Division are staff members from the Retirement
14 Services Division Robert Helfand, William Cassada, and
15 Helena Bartolomeo. The general counsel for the
16 Retirement Commission is Attorney Cindy Cieslak.

17 The Board—

18 MS. CIESLAK: Dr. Gerratana, this is Cindy
19 Cieslak. For the record, I just want to make sure, and
20 maybe I missed it, Bert - Robert Helfand from the
21 Retirement Services Division is also here.

22 CHAIRPERSON GERRATANA: Yes, I did mention
23 that.

24 MR. HELFAND: He did mention me.

25 MS. CIESLAK: Oh, sorry. I just missed that.

1 CHAIRPERSON GERRATANA: So we do have an
2 agenda for today's meeting. Are there any amendments
3 or changes to that agenda? Hearing none, we'll
4 proceed. The first order of business is for the
5 Medical Examining Board to go into executive session
6 for the purposes of discussing individual members'
7 disability health issues.

8 I'll accept a motion to go into executive
9 session.

10 DR. ROSENBERG: This is Dr. Ralph Rosenberg
11 and I make such a motion.

12 CHAIRPERSON GERRATANA: May I have a second,
13 please?

14 Well, this is Dr. Gerratana. I'll second the
15 motion. All those in - and also, I'll say that - I'll
16 request that the members of the Retirement Services
17 Division and counsel be allowed to remain.

18 DR. ROSENBERG: Dr. Gerratana?

19 CHAIRPERSON GERRATANA: Yeah.

20 DR. ROSENBERG: I think we need to vote on
21 your - on this motion.

22 CHAIRPERSON GERRATANA: Yeah, yeah, yeah. I
23 was just elaborating on what the motion is, concerns.
24 So all those in favor?

25 DR. ROSENBERG: Rosenberg, aye.

1 DR. GALVIN: Galvin (inaudible).

2 CHAIRPERSON GERRATANA: And Gerratana, aye.
3 So the motion passes. We'll move into executive
4 session.

5 MS. CIESLAK: Thank you, Dr. Gerratana. This
6 is Cindy Cieslak. For the members of the public who
7 are here, you're going to be placed back into the
8 waiting room. If you are on reconsideration today, you
9 will be invited back in to make your statement. And
10 then after executive session, the doctors will enter
11 public session and make their decisions.

12 (The board was in executive session from 9:08
13 a.m. until 11:40 a.m.)

14 MS. CIESLAK: Three doctors (inaudible). All
15 right, you're all set.

16 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Hello.

17 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Hello.

18 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Hello.

19 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yes.

20 MS. CIESLAK: Hi, everyone. Just be patient
21 with us. This is Cindy Cieslak. We are entering
22 public session. The doctors are preparing to make
23 their decisions.

24 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Hi, there.

25 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Hello. Doctor - I

1 mean, Attorney Justin Raimon (phonetic), he had another
2 meeting to go to. So I'm on the (inaudible).

3 MS. CIESLAK: Thank you, all. All right, the
4 doctors are going to proceed now. I am going to mute
5 all of the non-doctors. That way, there's no feedback.

6 Dr. Gerratana, you can proceed when you're
7 ready.

8 CHAIRPERSON GERRATANA: Yeah, this is Dr.
9 Gerratana, the meeting chairman. We're now in regular
10 session. The board will be making determinations and
11 voting on those determinations, but would like to
12 remind members that only the final vote will be given
13 today and not the reasons for the vote. In some
14 instances, there may not have been enough medical
15 information to make a determination, or perhaps a non-
16 service-connected disability is more likely a service-
17 connected disability.

18 You may seek reconsideration of an initial
19 denial. You will receive the board's written
20 determination within three or four weeks, which will
21 provide you with that additional information.

22 We will now vote on the applications.
23 Concerning Louis Arbelo, Jr., I move to accept the
24 service-connected disability retirement application.

25 DR. GALVIN: Second, Galvin.

1 CHAIRPERSON GERRATANA: And all those in
2 favor, say aye.

3 DR. GALVIN: Aye.

4 DR. ROSENBERG: Rosenberg, aye.

5 CHAIRPERSON GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye.

6 Concerning Jeffrey Babey, I make a motion
7 that we deny his service-connected application, but
8 accept a non-service-connected disability retirement.
9 Is there a second?

10 DR. GALVIN: Galvin, second.

11 CHAIRPERSON GERRATANA: All those in favor?

12 DR. GALVIN: Aye.

13 DR. ROSENBERG: Rosenberg, aye.

14 CHAIRPERSON GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye. All
15 those opposed? The motion passes.

16 Concerning Jacqueline Coombs, I make a motion
17 to approve her application for a non-service-connected
18 disability retirement.

19 DR. GALVIN: Second, Galvin.

20 CHAIRPERSON GERRATANA: All those in favor?

21 DR. GALVIN: Aye, Galvin.

22 DR. ROSENBERG: Rosenberg, aye.

23 CHAIRPERSON GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye. All
24 those opposed? The motion passes.

25 Concerning Pamela Cooney, I make a motion to

1 approve the non-service-connected retirement
2 application. Is there a second?

3 DR. GALVIN: Galvin, second.

4 CHAIRPERSON GERRATANA: All those in favor,
5 say aye.

6 DR. ROSENBERG: Rosenberg, aye.

7 DR. GALVIN: Aye, Galvin.

8 CHAIRPERSON GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye. All
9 those opposed? The motion passes.

10 Concerning Lisa Doty, I make a motion to
11 approve the non-service-connected disability retirement
12 application. Is there a second?

13 DR. GALVIN: Galvin, second.

14 CHAIRPERSON GERRATANA: All those in favor?

15 DR. ROSENBERG: Rosenberg, aye.

16 DR. GALVIN: Galvin, aye.

17 CHAIRPERSON GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye. All
18 those opposed? The motion passes.

19 Concerning Antonia Fernandes, I move to deny
20 the service-connected application, but approve him for
21 a non-service-connected disability retirement. Is
22 there a second?

23 DR. ROSENBERG: Rosenberg, aye.

24 DR. GALVIN: Galvin, second.

25 CHAIRPERSON GERRATANA: All those in favor,

1 say aye.

2 DR. ROSENBERG: Rosenberg, aye.

3 DR. GALVIN: Aye, Galvin.

4 CHAIRPERSON GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye. All
5 those opposed? The motion passes.

6 Concerning Peter Galimitakis, I make a motion
7 to approve his non-service-connected disability
8 retirement application. Is there a second?

9 DR. GALVIN: Galvin, second.

10 CHAIRPERSON GERRATANA: All those in favor?

11 DR. ROSENBERG: Rosenberg, aye.

12 DR. GALVIN: Aye, Galvin.

13 CHAIRPERSON GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye.

14 Opposed? The motion passes.

15 Concerning Lucy Giliberto, I move to accept
16 the non-service-connected disability retirement
17 application. Is there a second?

18 DR. GALVIN: Galvin, second.

19 CHAIRPERSON GERRATANA: All those in favor?

20 DR. ROSENBERG: Rosenberg, aye.

21 DR. GALVIN: Aye, Galvin.

22 CHAIRPERSON GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye. All
23 those opposed? The motion passes.

24 Concerning Holley Kaishawda, I make a motion
25 to approve the service-connected disability retirement

1 application. Is there a second?

2 DR. GALVIN: Galvin, second.

3 CHAIRPERSON GERRATANA: All those in favor,
4 say aye.

5 DR. ROSENBERG: Rosenberg, aye.

6 DR. GALVIN: Galvin, aye.

7 CHAIRPERSON GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye. All
8 those opposed? The motion passes.

9 Concerning Bernadette Kazibwe, I make a
10 motion to approve the service-connected disability
11 retirement application. Is there a second?

12 DR. ROSENBERG: Rosenberg, second.

13 DR. GALVIN: Galvin, second.

14 CHAIRPERSON GERRATANA: All those in favor?

15 DR. ROSENBERG: Rosenberg, aye.

16 CHAIRPERSON GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye. Did
17 I hear Dr. Galvin say aye?

18 DR. GALVIN: Aye.

19 CHAIRPERSON GERRATANA: Okay. Any opposed?
20 The motion passes.

21 Concerning Patricia Lewis, I move to deny the
22 non-service-connected disability retirement
23 application. Is there a second?

24 DR. ROSENBERG: Rosenberg, second.

25 DR. GALVIN: Galvin, second.

1 CHAIRPERSON GERRATANA: All those in favor?

2 DR. ROSENBERG: Rosenberg, aye.

3 DR. GALVIN: Galvin, aye.

4 CHAIRPERSON GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye. All
5 those opposed? The motion passes.

6 Concerning Angel Martinez, I make a motion to
7 deny the service-connected disability retirement
8 application, but approve a non-service-connected
9 disability retirement application. Is there a second?

10 DR. GALVIN: Galvin, second.

11 CHAIRPERSON GERRATANA: All those in favor?

12 DR. ROSENBERG: Rosenberg, aye.

13 DR. GALVIN: Galvin, aye.

14 CHAIRPERSON GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye. All
15 those opposed? The motion passes.

16 Concerning Thomas Messina, I make a motion to
17 deny the service-connected disability retirement
18 application. Is there a second?

19 DR. ROSENBERG: Rosenberg, second.

20 DR. GALVIN: Galvin.

21 CHAIRPERSON GERRATANA: All those in favor,
22 say aye.

23 DR. ROSENBERG: Rosenberg, aye.

24 DR. GALVIN: Galvin, aye.

25 CHAIRPERSON GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye. All

1 those opposed? The motion passes.

2 Concerning Patricia Miela, I make a motion to
3 deny the non-service-connected disability retirement
4 application. Is there a second?

5 DR. GALVIN: Galvin, second.

6 CHAIRPERSON GERRATANA: All those in favor,
7 say aye.

8 DR. GALVIN: Aye, Galvin.

9 DR. ROSENBERG: Rosenberg, aye.

10 CHAIRPERSON GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye. All
11 those opposed? The motion passes.

12 Concerning Shawn Murphy, I make a motion to
13 approve the non-service-connected disability retirement
14 application. Is there a second?

15 DR. GALVIN: Galvin, second.

16 CHAIRPERSON GERRATANA: All those in favor,
17 say aye.

18 DR. GALVIN: Aye, Galvin.

19 DR. ROSENBERG: Rosenberg, aye.

20 CHAIRPERSON GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye. All
21 those opposed? The motion passes.

22 Concerning Adrian Pera, I make a motion to
23 approve the non-service-connected disability retirement
24 application. Is there a second?

25 DR. ROSENBERG: Rosenberg, second.

1 DR. GALVIN: Galvin, second.

2 CHAIRPERSON GERRATANA: All those in favor,
3 say aye.

4 DR. GALVIN: Aye, Galvin.

5 DR. ROSENBERG: Rosenberg, aye.

6 CHAIRPERSON GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye. Any
7 opposed? The motion passes.

8 Concerning Scott Petras, I make a motion to
9 approve the non-service-connected disability retirement
10 application. Is there a second?

11 DR. ROSENBERG: Rosenberg, second.

12 DR. GALVIN: Galvin, second.

13 CHAIRPERSON GERRATANA: All those in favor,
14 say aye.

15 DR. GALVIN: Galvin, aye.

16 DR. ROSENBERG: Rosenberg (inaudible).

17 CHAIRPERSON GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye. All
18 those opposed? The motion passes.

19 Concerning Gordon Santacroce, I make a motion
20 to approve the non-service-connected disability
21 retirement application. Is there a second?

22 DR. GALVIN: Galvin, second.

23 CHAIRPERSON GERRATANA: All those in favor?

24 DR. ROSENBERG: Rosenberg, aye.

25 DR. GALVIN: Galvin, aye.

1 CHAIRPERSON GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye. All
2 those opposed? The motion passes.

3 Concerning Shawn Saylor, I make a motion to
4 approve the non-service-connected disability retirement
5 application. Is there a second?

6 DR. GALVIN: Second, Galvin.

7 CHAIRPERSON GERRATANA: All those in favor?

8 DR. ROSENBERG: Rosenberg, aye.

9 DR. GALVIN: Galvin, aye.

10 CHAIRPERSON GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye. All
11 those opposed? The motion passes.

12 Concerning Vitina Sidote, I make a motion to
13 approve the non-service-connected disability retirement
14 application. Is there a second?

15 DR. GALVIN: Galvin, second.

16 CHAIRPERSON GERRATANA: All those in favor?

17 DR. GALVIN: Aye, Galvin.

18 DR. ROSENBERG: Rosenberg, aye.

19 CHAIRPERSON GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye. All
20 those opposed? The motion passes.

21 Concerning Cheryl Taylor, I make a motion to
22 deny the service-connected disability retirement
23 application, but the board would look favorably on
24 approving a non-service-connected disability
25 retirement. Is there a second?

1 DR. GALVIN: Second, Galvin.

2 CHAIRPERSON GERRATANA: All those in favor?

3 DR. ROSENBERG: Rosenberg, aye.

4 DR. GALVIN: Aye, Galvin.

5 CHAIRPERSON GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye. The
6 motion passes.

7 Concerning Michael Tomanio, I make a motion
8 to deny the non-service-connected disability retirement
9 application. Is there a second?

10 DR. ROSENBERG: Rosenberg, second.

11 DR. GALVIN: Galvin, second.

12 CHAIRPERSON GERRATANA: All those in favor?

13 DR. ROSENBERG: Rosenberg, aye.

14 DR. GALVIN: Galvin, aye.

15 CHAIRPERSON GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye. All
16 those opposed? The motion passes.

17 Concerning Patrick Weber, I make a motion to
18 approve the non-service-connected disability retirement
19 application. Is there a second?

20 DR. GALVIN: Galvin seconds.

21 CHAIRPERSON GERRATANA: All those in favor,
22 say aye.

23 DR. GALVIN: Aye, Galvin.

24 CHAIRPERSON GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye. The
25 motion passes. Are there any opposed? Hearing none,

1 the motion passes.

2 Additionally, I make a motion to change to
3 non-service-related status, the applications from James
4 Conley and Irma Goyco-Burham. Is there a second?

5 DR. ROSENBERG: Rosenberg, second.

6 CHAIRPERSON GERRATANA: All those in favor,
7 say aye.

8 DR. GALVIN: Aye, Galvin.

9 DR. ROSENBERG: Rosenberg, aye.

10 CHAIRPERSON GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye. All
11 those opposed? The motion passes.

12 That concludes our business and decisions on
13 the applicants. If there's no other business to deal
14 with, I'll accept a motion to adjourn.

15 DR. ROSENBERG: Rosenberg, second. I make a
16 motion to adjourn. Sorry. This is Dr. Ralph
17 Rosenberg. I make a motion to adjourn.

18 CHAIRPERSON GERRATANA: Gerratana. I second
19 it. I thank all for participating. And all in favor,
20 say aye.

21 DR. GALVIN: Aye, Galvin.

22 DR. ROSENBERG: Rosenberg, aye.

23 CHAIRPERSON GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye as
24 well.

25 Okay, thank you, everyone.

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MS. CIESLAK: Thank you, everyone. Have a
good weekend.

(Adjourned at 11:53 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 9:06 a.m. on
March 10, 2023.

Karin A. Empson

Karin A. Empson

04/07/2023

Date