

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
STATE EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT COMMISSION
MEDICAL EXAMINING BOARD MEETING

OCTOBER 20, 2023 MEETING
HELD VIA ZOOM
CONVENED AT 9:02 a.m.

Present (via Zoom):

Dr. Nikolai Lieders
Dr. Lynn Rudich
Dr. Frank Gerretana
Robert Helfand, Retirement Services Division
William Cassada, Retirement Services Division
Helena Bartolomeo, Retirement Services Division
Cindy M. Cieslak, Rose Kallor LLP

TRANSCRIPTIONIST: Karin A. Empson

1 (Proceedings commenced at 9:02 a.m.)

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

7 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: Okay. Meeting, come to
8 order. I'm Dr. Lieders. The October 20th, 2023 meeting
9 of the Medical Examining Board is now in session.
10 Present, myself, Nicolai Lieders, Dr. Frank Gerratana,
11 and Dr. Lynn Rudich. Present from the Office of the
12 State Comptroller, Retirement Services Division, are
13 staff members from the Retirement Services Division,
14 Robert Helfand, William Cassada, Helena Bartolomeo, as
15 well as General Counsel to the Retirement Commission,
16 Medical Examining Board, Cindy Cieslak.

17 The first part of the meeting, we'll go into
18 executive session to discuss the cases, and then we'll
19 open to the public at the end for further discussion.

20 So I make a motion for us to go into
21 executive session.

22 DR. GERRETANA: Gerratana, second.

23 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: Any discussion? Those
24 in favor, please say aye.

25 DR. GERRETANA: Aye.

1 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: Aye. Okay. So we're
2 going to go into executive session. And I'm going to
3 ask the staff members as well as general counsel to
4 stay with us for the executive session, during the
5 executive session meeting.

6 MS. CIESLAK: Thank you, Dr. Lieders. This
7 is Cindy Cieslak, General Counsel. Those of you who
8 are here as applicants or from the public, I'm going to
9 place you in the waiting room while we're in executive
10 session. If you're on reconsideration, you will be
11 invited in to make a statement. And then after the
12 doctors have reviewed the matters, then they will
13 reenter public session and vote on the matters today.

14 So if you're in the waiting room then, you'll
15 be able to come back in for public session. Thank you.

16 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: Are we ready?

17 MS. CIESLAK: One second.

18 (The board was in executive session from 9:03
19 a.m. until 11:19 a.m.)

20 MS. CIESLAK: Dr. Lieders, you can proceed
21 when you are ready.

22 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: Are you ready? Okay.
23 So the board has made its determinations, but I would
24 like to remind members that only the final vote will be
25 given today and not the reasons for the vote. In some

1 instances, there may not have been enough medical
2 information to make a favorable determination.

3 You may seek reconsideration of a denial.
4 You will receive the board's determination within two
5 to four weeks, which will provide you with that
6 additional information.

7 So we're going to proceed to the voting.
8 I'll make a motion to deny Christopher Atkins'
9 application for service-connected disability
10 retirement, but the board will look favorably upon a
11 non-service-connected disability retirement.

12 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

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

15 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: Aye.

16 DR. GERRATANA: Aye.

17 DR. RUDICH: Rudich, aye.

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

20 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: I'll make a motion to
21 deny Donna Belade's application for service-connected
22 disability retirement.

23 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

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

1 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: Aye.

2 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye.

3 DR. RUDICH: Rudich, aye.

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

6 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: I'll make a motion to
7 approve Gail Byars' application for service-connected
8 disability retirement.

9 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

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

12 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: Aye.

13 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye.

14 DR. RUDICH: Rudich, aye.

15 MS. CIESLAK: Any opposed, say nay. The
16 motion passes.

17 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: I'll make a motion to
18 approve William Carson's application for non-service-
19 connected disability retirement.

20 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

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

23 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: Aye, Lieders.

24 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye.

25 DR. RUDICH: Rudich, aye.

1 MS. CIESLAK: Any opposed, say nay. The
2 motion passes.

3 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: I'll make a motion to
4 deny Jose Fuentes' application for service-connected
5 disability retirement, however the board will look
6 favorably upon a non-service-connected disability
7 retirement.

8 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

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

11 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: Lieders, aye.

12 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye.

13 DR. RUDICH: Rudich, aye.

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

16 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: I will make a motion to
17 approve Dawn Higginson's application for non-service-
18 connected disability retirement.

19 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

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

22 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: Lieders, aye.

23 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye.

24 DR. RUDICH: Rudich, aye.

25 MS. CIESLAK: Any opposed, say nay. The

1 motion passes.

2 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: I'll make a motion to
3 deny Willis McCaw's application for service-connected
4 disability retirement.

5 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

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

8 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: Lieders, aye.

9 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye.

10 DR. RUDICH: Rudich, aye.

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

13 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: I'll make a motion to
14 deny Joanna Mechlinski's application for non-service-
15 connected disability retirement.

16 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

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

19 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: Lieders, aye.

20 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye.

21 DR. RUDICH: Rudich, aye.

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

24 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: I'll make a motion to
25 deny William Mihaliak's application for service-

1 connected disability retirement, but to approve non-
2 service-connected disability retirement.

3 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

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

6 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: Lieders, aye.

7 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye.

8 DR. RUDICH: Rudich, aye.

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

11 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: I'll make a motion to
12 approve Jacqueline Miller's application for non-
13 service-connected disability retirement.

14 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

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

17 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: Lieders, aye.

18 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye.

19 DR. RUDICH: Rudich, aye.

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

22 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: I make a motion to
23 approve Carla Montaque's application for non-service-
24 connected disability retirement.

25 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

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

3 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: Lieders, aye.

4 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye.

5 DR. RUDICH: Rudich, aye.

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

8 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: I make a motion to deny
9 David Paradis' application for service-connected
10 disability retirement, but to approve non-service-
11 connected disability retirement.

12 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

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

15 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: Aye, Lieders.

16 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye.

17 DR. RUDICH: Rudich, aye.

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

20 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: I'll make a motion to
21 deny Alexander Perez' application for service-connected
22 disability retirement.

23 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

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

1 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: Lieders, aye.

2 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye.

3 DR. RUDICH: Rudich, aye.

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

6 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: I make a motion to deny
7 Orrette Salmon's application for service-connected
8 disability retirement.

9 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

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

12 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: Lieders, aye.

13 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye.

14 DR. RUDICH: Rudich, aye.

15 MS. CIESLAK: Any opposed, say nay. The
16 motion passes.

17 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: I'll make a motion to
18 deny Krister Scherer's application for service-
19 connected disability retirement.

20 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

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

23 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: Lieders, aye.

24 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye.

25 DR. RUDICH: Rudich, aye.

1 MS. CIESLAK: Any opposed, say nay. The
2 motion passes.

3 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: I make a motion to
4 approve Robert Spina's application for service-
5 connected disability retirement.

6 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

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

9 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: Lieders, aye.

10 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye.

11 DR. RUDICH: Rudich, aye.

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

14 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: I'll make a motion to
15 deny Sara Vasquez-Guerra's application for non-service-
16 connected disability retirement.

17 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

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

20 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: Lieders, aye.

21 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye.

22 DR. RUDICH: Rudich, aye.

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

25 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: I make a motion to

1 approve Michael Gallicchio's application to change his
2 application from service- to non-service - I'm sorry -
3 to approve for non-service.

4 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

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

7 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: Lieders, aye.

8 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye.

9 DR. RUDICH: Rudich, aye.

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

12 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: If there are no further
13 issues to be discussed, I make a motion to adjourn
14 today's meeting.

15 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

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

18 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: Lieders, aye.

19 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye.

20 DR. RUDICH: Rudich, aye.

21 MS. CIESLAK: All right, we are adjourned.
22 Thank you, everyone.

23 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: Thank you.

24 (Adjourned at 11:28 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 9:02 a.m. on
October 20, 2023.

Karin A. Empson

Karin A. Empson

11/05/2023

Date