

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
STATE EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT COMMISSION
MEDICAL EXAMINING BOARD MEETING

DECEMBER 1, 2023 MEETING
HELD VIA ZOOM
CONVENED AT 9:15 a.m.

Present (via Zoom) :

Dr. Nikolai Lieders
Dr. Sheldon Nova
Dr. Eric Shore
Robert Helfand, Retirement Services Division
Helena Bartolomeo, Retirement Services Division
Cindy Cieslak, Rose Kallor LLP

TRANSCRIPTIONIST: Karin A. Empson

1 (Proceedings commenced at 9:15 a.m.)

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5 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: Okay, meeting come to

6 order.

7 MS. CIESLAK: Hold on one second, Dr.

8 Lieders.

9 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: Okay.

10 MS. CIESLAK: Dr. Lieders, you can proceed

11 when you're ready.

12 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: Okay, meeting come to

13 order. The December 1st, 2023 meeting of the Medical

14 Examining Board is now in session. My name is Nikolai

15 Lieders. We also have present Dr. Eric Shore and Dr.

16 Sheldon Nova. Present from the Office of the State

17 Comptroller, Retirement Services Division, are staff

18 members from the Retirement Services Division, Mr.

19 Robert Helfand and Helena Bartolomeo. I think that's

20 it. Also General Counsel for the Retirement

21 Commission, Cindy Cieslak.

22 (Inaudible) to explain to the public, we're

23 going to go into executive session, which is private to

24 the Medical Examining Board, so we have to exclude the

25 public from that session. After we discuss all the

1 cases, after we review all the cases, again, we'll
2 finish the executive session and we'll open to the
3 public.

4 So I make a motion to - there is no agenda,
5 but to - there's nothing to change in the agenda, as I
6 understand; correct?

7 DR. NOVA: Second, Dr. Nova.

8 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: So I'm going to make a
9 motion for us to enter executive session. Any seconds?

10 DR. NOVA: Second, Dr. Nova.

11 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: Thank you. Is there
12 any discussion? If there is none, all in favor, say
13 aye.

14 DR. NOVA: Aye.

15 DR. SHORE: Shore, aye.

16 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: Okay, motion passes.
17 Okay, we are now in executive session.

18 MS. CIESLAK: This is Cindy Cieslak. Thank
19 you, Dr. Lieders. Doctors, can you confirm that your
20 motion to go into executive session includes an
21 invitation to Robert Helfand, Helena Bartolomeo, and
22 myself to enter executive session with you?

23 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: I'm sorry, yeah.

24 (Inaudible)

25 DR. NOVA: I confirm.

1 MS. CIESLAK: Thank you. What that means for
2 the individuals who are here who are not invited into
3 executive session, I'm going to place you back in the
4 waiting room. The doctors are going to review the
5 matters. We do the review of the matters in private
6 because it involves your confidential medical
7 information. And then if you're on reconsideration,
8 you'll be invited in to make your statement. At the
9 end of the doctors reviewing all of the matters, we
10 will reenter public session and you'll be able to hear
11 the decision today. Thank you.

12 So I'm going to put you back in the waiting
13 room. It's going to go back to the screen you were at
14 before the meeting started, so just hang tight. Thank
15 you.

16 (The board was in executive session from 9:18
17 a.m. until 11:52 a.m.)

18 MS. CIESLAK: Dr. Lieders, you can proceed
19 when you're ready.

20 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: Thank you. So good
21 morning, everybody. So the board will be making
22 determinations and voting on those determinations, but
23 would like to remind members that only the final vote
24 will be given today and not the reasons for the vote.
25 In some instances, there may not have been enough

1 medical information to make a determination, or perhaps
2 a non-service-connected disability is more likely than
3 a service-connected disability.

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

8 Moving right along, I make a motion to
9 approve Carl Baker's application for service-connected
10 disability retirement.

11 DR. NOVA: Second.

12 MS. CIESLAK: Is there any discussion? This
13 is Cindy Cieslak. I'll just note that, for the record,
14 Dr. Nova seconded the motion. And unless you hear that
15 Dr. Shore seconds any other motions throughout this
16 proceeding, you can presume that Dr. Nova seconded the
17 motions herein.

18 So that's my only discussion. Any - everyone
19 in favor, say aye.

20 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: Aye.

21 DR. NOVA: Aye.

22 DR. SHORE: Aye.

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

25 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: I'll make a motion to

1 deny Susan Barnett's application for service-connected
2 disability retirement.

3 DR. NOVA: Second.

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

6 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: Aye.

7 DR. NOVA: Aye.

8 DR. SHORE: Shore, aye.

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

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

14 DR. NOVA: Aye.

15 MS. CIESLAK: Dr. Nova, I'll take that as a
16 second.

17 DR. NOVA: Yes, thank you.

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

20 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: Aye.

21 DR. NOVA: Aye.

22 DR. SHORE: Aye.

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

25 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: I'll make a motion to

1 approve Denise Bystrek's application for non-service-
2 connected disability retirement.

3 DR. NOVA: Second.

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

6 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: Aye.

7 DR. NOVA: Aye.

8 DR. SHORE: Aye.

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

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

14 DR. NOVA: Second.

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

17 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: Aye.

18 DR. NOVA: Aye.

19 DR. SHORE: Aye.

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

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

25 DR. NOVA: Second.

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

3 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: Aye.

4 DR. NOVA: Aye.

5 DR. SHORE: Aye.

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

8 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: I'll make a motion to
9 deny Tonya Dillon's application for non-service-
10 connected disability retirement.

11 DR. NOVA: Second.

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

14 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: Aye.

15 DR. NOVA: Aye.

16 DR. SHORE: Aye.

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

19 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: I'll make a motion to
20 approve Dahlia Gordon's application for non-service-
21 connected disability retirement.

22 DR. NOVA: Second.

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

25 DR. NOVA: Aye.

1 DR. SHORE: Aye.

2 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: Lieders, aye.

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

5 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: I'll make a motion to
6 approve Donald Denihan's application for non-service-
7 connected disability retirement.

8 DR. NOVA: Second.

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

11 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: Aye.

12 DR. NOVA: Aye.

13 DR. SHORE: Aye.

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

16 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: I make a motion to
17 approve Richard Moore's application for service-
18 connected disability retirement.

19 DR. NOVA: Second.

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

22 DR. NOVA: Aye.

23 DR. SHORE: Aye.

24 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: Lieders, aye.

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

1 motion passes.

2 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: I make a motion to
3 approve Rocco Pagliarulo's application for service-
4 connected disability retirement.

5 DR. NOVA: Second.

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

8 DR. NOVA: Aye.

9 DR. SHORE: Aye.

10 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: Aye, Lieders.

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

13 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: I make a motion to
14 approve Jeffrey Scott's application for service-
15 connected disability retirement.

16 DR. NOVA: Second.

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

19 DR. NOVA: Aye.

20 DR. SHORE: Aye.

21 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: Aye, Lieders.

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

24 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: I'll make a motion to
25 approve Cynthia St. Paul's application for non-service-

1 connected disability retirement.

2 DR. NOVA: Second.

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

5 DR. NOVA: Aye.

6 DR. SHORE: Aye.

7 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: Aye, Lieders.

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

10 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: I make a motion to deny
11 Carlon Taylor's application for service-connected
12 disability retirement.

13 DR. NOVA: Second.

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

16 DR. SHORE: Aye.

17 DR. NOVA: Aye.

18 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: Aye, Lieders

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

21 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: I'll make a motion to
22 approve Helen Wilson's application for non-service-
23 connected disability retirement.

24 DR. NOVA: Second.

25 MS. CIESLAK: Any further discussion? There

1 being none, all in favor, say aye.

2 DR. NOVA: Aye.

3 DR. SHORE: Aye.

4 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: Lieders, aye.

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

7 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: I'll make a motion to
8 deny Tammie Young's application for service-connected
9 disability retirement, however the board would look
10 favorably upon a non-service-connected disability.

11 DR. NOVA: So, it's denied.

12 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: Denied, but we would
13 look-

14 DR. NOVA: And I thought-

15 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: --will look favorably
16 upon a non-service.

17 DR. SHORE: Correct.

18 DR. NOVA: Right.

19 MS. CIESLAK: Is there a second?

20 DR. NOVA: Second.

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

23 DR. NOVA: Aye.

24 DR. SHORE: Aye.

25 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: Aye.

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

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

6 DR. NOVA: Second.

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

9 DR. NOVA: Aye.

10 DR. SHORE: Aye.

11 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: Aye.

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

14 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: There are three
15 individuals that applied for a change from service- to
16 non-service. So I'm going to - we approved all three
17 of them. I'm going to mention their names.

18 Do we approve the change to non-service of
19 Christopher Atkins, Lleidy Deleon, and Jose Fuentes?

20 MS. CIESLAK: Is there a second for the
21 motion?

22 DR. NOVA: Second.

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

25 DR. NOVA: Aye.

1 DR. SHORE: Aye.

2 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: Aye, Lieders.

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

5 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: And all the issues are
6 - if not, we can adjourn the meeting. I will make a
7 motion for us to adjourn the meeting.

8 DR. NOVA: Second.

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

10 DR. NOVA: Aye.

11 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: Aye.

12 DR. SHORE: Aye, definitely.

13 MS. CIESLAK: The motion passes. Everyone
14 have a good weekend. Thank you.

15 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: Thank you very much.

16 DR. NOVA: You too.

17 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: Thank you-

18 (Adjourned at 12:00 p.m.)

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5 I, Karin A. Empson, do hereby
6 certify that the preceding pages are an accurate
7 transcription of the Connecticut State Employees
8 Retirement Commission, Medical Examining Board meeting
9 held electronically via Zoom, conducted at 9:15 a.m. on
10 December 1, 2023.

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19 Karin A. Empson

20 Karin A. Empson

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22 12/14/2023

23 Date

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