

1 STATE OF CONNECTICUT

2 STATE EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT COMMISSION

3 MEDICAL EXAMINING BOARD MEETING

4 -----
5 DECEMBER 6, 2024

6 HELD VIA ZOOM

7 CONVENED AT 9:03 A.M.
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9 Present (Via Zoom):

10 Dr. Lynn Rudich

11 Dr. Sheldon Nova

12 Dr. Manny Katsetos

13 Robert Helfand, Retirement Services Division

14 Helena Bartolomeo, Retirement Services Division

15 Nabil Waheed, Retirement Services Division

16 Cindy Cieslak, Rose Kallor, LLP
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3 (Proceedings commenced at 9:03 a.m.)
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5 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: The December 6, 2024 meeting of
6 the Medical Examining Board is now in session. I am Dr, Lynn
7 Rudich, Chairperson. With me is Dr. Manny Katsetos and Dr.
8 Sheldon Nova. Present also from the Office of the State
9 Comptroller Retirement Services Division are staff members
10 Helena Bartolomeo, Robert Helfand and Nabil Waheed. We also
11 have General Counsel for the Retirement Commission and Medical
12 Examining Board, Cindy Cieslak.

13 I make a motion to go into executive session, but
14 request that the chairman -- that the Retirement Services
15 Division members and counsel be allowed to remain.

16 DR. NOVA: I second, Dr. Nova.

17 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Any discussion? All in favor,
18 say aye. Rudich, aye.

19 DR. NOVA: Aye.

20 DR. KATSETOS: Katsetos, aye.

21 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Motion passes. We are now going
22 into executive session.

23 MS. CIESLAK: Thank you, Dr. Rudich. This is Cindy
24 Cieslak. What that means for everyone who is here who are
25 either applicants or members of the public, I'm going to place

1 you back in the waiting room. The doctors are going to review
2 all of the applicant's medical information in executive session
3 to maintain the confidentiality of all of your medical
4 information.

5 If you're on reconsideration, you'll be invited in to
6 make a statement. After the doctors have reviewed everyone's
7 medical information, they will reenter public session and make a
8 decision on all of the applications.

9 This process could take a couple of hours, so if
10 you're in the waiting room for a couple of hours, there's
11 nothing wrong. It's just taking some time. And once we are
12 back in public session, as long as you're still in the waiting
13 room, you'll be able to hear the decision today. So if you are
14 unable to wait, then you will get the written decision in the
15 ordinary course. So I'm going to place everyone in the waiting
16 room now. Thank you.

17 (The Board was in executive session from 9:04 a.m. to
18 11:41 a.m.)

19 MS. CIESLAK: Dr. Rudich, you can proceed when you're
20 ready.

21 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Okay. The Board is making
22 determinations and voting on those determinations, but would
23 like to remind members that only the final vote will be given
24 today and not the reasons for the vote. In some instances there
25 may not have been enough medical information to make a

1 determination or have a non-service -- or perhaps a non-service
2 connected disability is more likely than service connected
3 disability or in some cases, records were received too late to
4 be reviewed.

5 You may seek reconsideration of an initial denial.
6 You'll receive the Board's written determinations within 2 to 4
7 weeks, which will provide additional information.

8 I make a motion to deny the service connected
9 disability retirement of Katherine Arasimowicz.

10 DR. NOVA: I second.

11 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Any discussion? All in favor,
12 say aye. Rudich, aye

13 DR. KATSETOS: Katsetos, aye.

14 DR. NOVA: Aye.

15 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: The motion passes. I make a
16 motion to deny the service connected disability retirement of
17 Brenda Baerga, but the Board will look favorably on a
18 non-service connected disability application.

19 DR. NOVA: Second.

20 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Any discussion? All in favor,
21 say aye. Rudich, aye.

22 DR. NOVA: Aye.

23 DR. KATSETOS: Katsetos, aye.

24 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Motion passes. I make a motion
25 to deny the non-service connected disability retirement of Robie

1 Campochiaro.

2 DR. NOVA: Second.

3 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Any discussion? All in favor,
4 say aye. Rudich, aye.

5 DR. NOVA: Aye.

6 DR. KATSETOS: Katsetos, aye.

7 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Motion passes. I make a motion
8 to approve the non-service connected disability retirement on
9 reconsideration of Laural Chase.

10 DR. NOVA: Second.

11 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Any discussion? All in favor,
12 say aye. Rudich, aye.

13 DR. NOVA: Aye.

14 DR. KATSETOS: Katsetos, aye.

15 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Motion passes. I make a motion
16 to approve the service connected disability retirement of Keri
17 Cheney.

18 DR. NOVA: Second.

19 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Any discussion? All in favor,
20 say aye. Rudich, aye

21 DR. NOVA: Aye.

22 DR. KATSETOS: Katsetos, aye.

23 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Motion passes. I make a motion
24 to table the non-service connected disability retirement
25 application of Rosa Cuadrado.

1 DR. NOVA: Second.

2 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Any discussion? All in favor,
3 say aye. Rudich, aye.

4 DR. NOVA: Aye.

5 DR. KATSETOS: Katsetos, aye.

6 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Motion passes. I make a motion
7 to deny the service connected or non-service connected
8 retirement application of Richard Cunningham.

9 DR. NOVA: Second.

10 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Any discussion? All in favor,
11 say aye. Rudich, aye.

12 DR. NOVA: Aye.

13 DR. KATSETOS: Katsetos, aye.

14 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: I make a motion to approve the
15 non-service connected disability retirement of Amy Epps.
16 Rudich, aye.

17 MS. CIESLAK: Doctor, I apologize for the
18 interruption. I would just note that the previous motion on
19 Richard Cunningham had a unanimous pass.

20 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Correct, thank you. Sorry. I
21 make a motion to approve the non-service connected disability
22 retirement of Amy Epps.

23 DR. NOVA: Second.

24 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Any discussion? All in favor,
25 say aye. Rudich, aye.

1 DR. NOVA: Aye.

2 DR. KATSETOS: Katsetos, aye.

3 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Motion passes. I make a motion
4 to table the service connected disability retirement application
5 of Jason Harrison.

6 DR. NOVA: Second.

7 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Any discussion? All in favor,
8 say aye. Rudich, aye.

9 DR. NOVA: Aye.

10 DR. KATSETOS: Katsetos, aye.

11 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Motion passes. I make a motion
12 to approve the non-service connected disability retirement of
13 Timothy Johnson on reconsideration.

14 DR. NOVA: Second.

15 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Any discussion? All in favor,
16 say aye. Rudich, aye.

17 DR. NOVA: Aye.

18 DR. KATSETOS: Katsetos, aye.

19 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Motion passes. I make a motion
20 to approve the service connected disability requirement of
21 Daniel Loris.

22 DR. NOVA: Second.

23 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Any discussion? All in favor,
24 say aye. Rudich, aye.

25 DR. NOVA: Aye.

1 DR. KATSETOS: Katsetos, aye.

2 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Motion passes. I make a motion
3 to deny the service connected disability retirement of Vilma
4 Marrero on reconsideration, but the Board would look favorably
5 on an application for non-service connected disability.

6 DR. NOVA: Second.

7 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Any discussion? All in favor,
8 say aye. Rudich, aye.

9 DR. NOVA: Aye.

10 DR. KATSETOS: Katsetos, aye.

11 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Motion passes. I make a motion
12 to approve the non-service connected disability retirement of
13 Lisa Mas.

14 DR. NOVA: Second.

15 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Any discussion? All in favor,
16 say aye. Rudich, aye

17 DR. NOVA: Aye.

18 DR. KATSETOS: Katsetos, aye.

19 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Motion passes. I make a motion
20 to approve the non-service connected disability retirement of
21 Heidi O'Connor.

22 DR. NOVA: Second.

23 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Any discussion? All in favor,
24 say aye. Rudich, aye.

25 DR. NOVA: Aye.

1 DR. KATSETOS: Katsetos, aye.

2 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Motion passes. I make a motion
3 to table the service connected or non-service connected
4 disability retirement of Alicia Pronovost.

5 DR. NOVA: Second.

6 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Any discussion? All in favor,
7 say aye. Rudich, aye.

8 DR. NOVA: Aye.

9 DR. KATSETOS: Katsetos, aye.

10 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Motion passes. I make a motion
11 to approve the non-service connected disability retirement of
12 Dean Stevenson.

13 DR. NOVA: Second.

14 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Any discussion? All in favor,
15 say aye. Rudich, aye.

16 DR. NOVA: Aye.

17 DR. KATSETOS: Katsetos, aye.

18 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: I make a motion to approve the
19 non-service connected disability retirement of Haydee Sullivan.

20 DR. NOVA: Second.

21 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Any discussion? All in favor,
22 say aye. Rudich, aye.

23 DR. NOVA: Aye.

24 DR. KATSETOS: Katsetos, aye.

25 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: I make a motion --

1 MS. CIESLAK: Dr. Rudich, my apologies for the
2 interruption. For Dean Stevenson and Haydee Sullivan the motion
3 passes for both of those. Thank you.

4 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Yeah, okay. I make a motion to
5 approve the non-service connected disability retirement of
6 Barbara Fritz.

7 DR. NOVA: Second.

8 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Any discussion? All in favor,
9 say aye. Rudich, aye.

10 DR. NOVA: Aye.

11 DR. KATSETOS: Katsetos, aye.

12 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Motion passes. I make a motion
13 to approve non-service connected disability of Keith
14 Lukasiewski.

15 DR. NOVA: Second.

16 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Any discussion? All in favor,
17 say aye. Rudich, aye.

18 DR. NOVA: Aye.

19 DR. KATSETOS: Katsetos, aye.

20 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Motion passes. I make a motion
21 to adjourn the meeting.

22 DR. NOVA: Second.

23 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Any discussion? All in favor,
24 say aye. Rudich, aye.

25 DR. NOVA: Aye.

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DR. KATSETOS: Katsetos, aye.

CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Today's session of the Medical
Examining Board is adjourned.

(Adjourned at 11:50 a.m.)

CERTIFICATE

I certify that this document is a true and accurate description of the proceedings obtained from the recorded meeting of the State of Connecticut State Employees Retirement Commission, Medical Examining Board on December 6, 2024 to the best of my ability.

Wendy Malitsky

Wendy Malitsky