

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
STATE EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT COMMISSION
MEDICAL EXAMINING BOARD MEETING

JULY 12, 2024 MEETING
HELD VIA ZOOM

Present (Via Zoom):

Dr. Mike Gerstenfeld

Dr. Frank Gerratana

Dr. Sheldon Nova

Robert Helfand, Retirement Services Division

Helena Bartolomeo, Retirement Services Division

Nabil Waheed, Retirement Services Division

Cindy Cieslak, Rose Kallor, LLP

TRANSCRIPTIONIST: Boden Truitt

1 (Proceedings commenced at 9:05 a.m.)

2 MS. CIESLAK: Dr. Gerstenfeld, you can proceed when
3 you're ready.

4 DR. GERSTENFELD: Thank you. The Medical Examining
5 Board is now called to order. The July 12th, 2024 meeting of
6 the Medical Examining Board is now in session. I am Dr. Mike
7 Gerstenfeld, Chairperson. Present are Dr. Frank Gerratana and
8 Dr. Sheldon Nova.

9 Present from the Office of the State Controller
10 Retirement Division -- Retirement Services Division are the
11 staff members of the Retirement Services Division, Robert
12 Helfand, Helena Bartolomeo and Nabil Waheed. Also present is
13 the General Counsel for the Retirement Commission and the
14 Medical Examining Board, Attorney Cindy Cieslak.

15 Is there a Medical Examining motion to amend the
16 agenda?

17 MS. CIESLAK: This is Cindy. No, I don't believe we
18 have a motion to amend today.

19 DR. GERSTENFELD: Is there a Medical Examining motion
20 to remove an item from the agenda?

21 MS. CIESLAK: This is Cindy. I don't believe there
22 is that as well.

23 DR. GERSTENFELD: If not we will go into executive
24 session. I also request that members of the Retirement
25 Services Division and Counsel be allowed to remain. I make a

1 motion to go into executive session. Is there a second?

2 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

3 DR. GERSTENFELD: Thank you.

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

6 DR. NOVA: Aye.

7 DR. GERSTENFELD: Aye.

8 MS. CIESLAK: All right. The motion passes
9 unanimously. This is Cindy Cieslak. For everyone who is here
10 as an applicant or an attorney or members of the public, I'm
11 going to place you in the waiting room. Because during
12 executive session, the doctors are going to discuss all of the
13 applicant's personal and confidential medical information.

14 Those applicants who are on reconsideration will
15 be invited into executive session individually to make a
16 statement to the doctors and answer any of the doctor's
17 questions. Once the doctors have reviewed all of the matters
18 in executive session, we will reenter -- we will reenter public
19 session, at which point everyone who is in the waiting room
20 will be invited back in to hear the doctor's determinations.

21 This meeting generally does last a couple of
22 hours, so you may be in the waiting room for a couple of hours.
23 So I just wanted to kind of give you that heads up because
24 sometimes people email and call in trying to figure out if
25 they've lost the meeting. So just hang tight in the waiting

1 room and when we reenter public session, you will be invited
2 back in. Thank you.

3 (The Board was in executive session from 9:05
4 a.m. until 12:27 p.m.)

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

7 DR. GERSTENFELD: Thank you. The Board will be
8 making determinations and voting on those determinations, but I
9 would like to remind members that only the final vote will be
10 given today and not the reasons for the vote. In some
11 instances, there may not have been enough medical information
12 to make a determination or perhaps a service-connected
13 disability is more likely a non-service-connected disability.

14 You may seek reconsideration of an initial
15 denial. You'll receive the Board's written determination
16 within two to four weeks, which will provide you with that
17 additional information. So I motion to deny service-connected
18 -- a disability approved non-service-connected disability for
19 Altana Amet.

20 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

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

23 DR. NOVA: Aye.

24 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye.

25 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

1 MS. CIESLAK: The motion passes.

2 DR. GERSTENFELD: I motion to table Laurie Bernier's
3 application for service-connected disability retirement.

4 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

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

7 DR. NOVA: Aye.

8 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye.

9 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

10 MS. CIESLAK: The motion passes.

11 DR. GERSTENFELD: I motion to approve non-service-
12 connected disability retirement for Wendy Blake.

13 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

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

16 DR. NOVA: Aye.

17 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye.

18 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

19 MS. CIESLAK: The motion passes.

20 DR. GERSTENFELD: I motion to approve service-
21 connected disability for Steven Bromley.

22 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

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

25 DR. NOVA: Aye.

1 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye

2 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

3 MS. CIESLAK: The motion passes.

4 DR. GERSTENFELD: I motion to approve non-service-
5 connected disability retirement for Rashala Burrus.

6 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

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

9 DR. NOVA: Aye.

10 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye.

11 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

12 MS. CIESLAK: The motion passes.

13 DR. GERSTENFELD: I motion to approve service-
14 connected disability for Cynthia Cassada.

15 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

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

18 DR. NOVA: Aye.

19 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye.

20 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

21 MS. CIESLAK: The motion passes.

22 DR. GERSTENFELD: I motion to approve service-
23 connected disability for Talia Eaves.

24 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

25 MS. CIESLAK: Any further discussion? There being

1 none, all in favor say, aye.

2 DR. NOVA: Aye.

3 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye.

4 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

5 MS. CIESLAK: The motion passes.

6 DR. GERSTENFELD: I motion to approve service-
7 connected disability for Patrick Eye.

8 DR. GERRATANA: Gerrattana, second.

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

11 DR. NOVA: Aye.

12 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye.

13 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

14 MS. CIESLAK: The motion passes.

15 DR. GERSTENFELD: I motion to approve non-service-
16 connected disability for Maria Giuliano.

17 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

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

20 DR. NOVA: Aye.

21 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye.

22 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

23 MS. CIESLAK: The motion passes.

24 DR. GERSTENFELD: I motion -- I motion -- I motion to
25 approve service-connected disability for Roberto Gomez.

1 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

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

4 DR. NOVA: Aye.

5 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye.

6 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

7 MS. CIESLAK: The motion passes.

8 DR. GERSTENFELD: I motion to deny service-connected
9 disability for Capriese Jemmott.

10 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

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

13 DR. NOVA: Aye.

14 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye.

15 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

16 MS. CIESLAK: The motion passes

17 DR. GERSTENFELD: I motion to approve service-
18 connected disability for Mariusz Maloid.

19 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

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

22 DR. NOVA: Aye.

23 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye.

24 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

25 MS. CIESLAK: The motion passes.

1 DR. GERSTENFELD: I motion to deny service-connected
2 disability for Dwayne McBride.

3 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

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

6 DR. NOVA: Aye.

7 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye.

8 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

9 MS. CIESLAK: The motion passes.

10 DR. GERSTENFELD: I motion to deny service-connected
11 disability but approve non-service-connected disability for
12 John Moore.

13 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

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

16 DR. NOVA: Aye.

17 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye.

18 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

19 MS. CIESLAK: The motion passes.

20 DR. GERSTENFELD: I motion to approve non-service-
21 connected disability for Marcy Ouellette.

22 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

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

25 DR. NOVA: Aye.

1 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye.

2 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

3 MS. CIESLAK: The motion passes.

4 DR. GERSTENFELD: I motion to approve service-
5 connected disability for Stephen Phipps.

6 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

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

9 DR. NOVA: Aye.

10 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye.

11 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

12 MS. CIESLAK: The motion passes.

13 DR. GERSTENFELD: I motion to deny non-service-
14 connected disability for Gary Simpson.

15 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

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

18 DR. NOVA: Aye.

19 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye.

20 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

21 MS. CIESLAK: The motion passes.

22 DR. GERSTENFELD: I'm sorry. I motion to approve
23 non-service-connected disability for Julie Smith.

24 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

25 MS. CIESLAK: Any further discussion? There being

1 none, all in favor say, aye.

2 DR. NOVA: Aye.

3 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye.

4 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

5 MS. CIESLAK: The motion passes.

6 DR. GERSTENFELD: I motion to deny service-connected
7 disability but approve non-service-connected disability for
8 Stephen Sopko.

9 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

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

12 DR. NOVA: Aye.

13 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye.

14 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

15 MS. CIESLAK: The motion passes.

16 DR. GERSTENFELD: I motion to deny service-connected
17 disability for Russell Tomatore.

18 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

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

21 DR. NOVA: Aye.

22 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye.

23 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

24 MS. CIESLAK: The motion passes.

25 DR. GERSTENFELD: I motion to accept non-service-

1 connected disability retirement for Kwasi McCall.

2 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

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

5 DR. NOVA: Aye.

6 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye.

7 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

8 MS. CIESLAK: The motion passes.

9 DR. GERSTENFELD: I motion to continue entitlement
10 pursuant to the Memorandum of Understanding of August 6th,
11 2015, for Sharon Brown.

12 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

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

15 DR. NOVA: Aye.

16 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye.

17 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

18 MS. CIESLAK: The motion passes.

19 DR. GERSTENFELD: Thank you everybody. I make a
20 motion to adjourn today's Medical Examining Board meeting.

21 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second, with thanks to the
22 Chair.

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

24 DR. NOVA: Aye.

25 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye.

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DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

MS. CIESLAK: We're adjourned. Thank you, everyone.

DR. GERRATANA: Thank you.

DR. GERSTENFELD: Thank you everybody.

DR. GERRATANA: Have a good weekend.

(Adjourned at 12:36 p.m.)

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A Plus Reporting, LLC

55 Whiting Street, Suite 1A

Plainville, CT 06062

203-269-9976

scheduling@aplusreportingservice.com

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Boden Truitt

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Boden Truitt,

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Transcriber

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