

1 STATE OF CONNECTICUT

2 STATE EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT COMMISSION

3 MEDICAL EXAMINING BOARD MEETING

4 -----
5 DECEMBER 20, 2024

6 HELD VIA ZOOM

7 CONVENED AT 9:03 A.M.
8 -----

9 Present (Via Zoom):

10 Sachin Parekh, M.D.

11 Michael Gerstenfeld, M.D.

12 Poleak So, M.D.

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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2 (Proceeding commenced at 9:03 a.m.)
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4 CHAIRPERSON PAREKH: The December 20, 2024 meeting of
5 the Medical Examining Board is now in session. I, Dr. Sachin
6 Parekh will serve as chairperson. Present are Dr. Michael
7 Gerstenfeld and Dr. Poleak So. Present from the Office of the
8 State Comptroller and Retirement Services Division are staff
9 members Helena Bartolomeo, Robert Helfand and Nabile Waheed.
10 General counsel for the Retirement Commission and Medical
11 Examining Board is Cindy Cieslak.

12 I make a motion now to go into executive session and
13 request that the members of the Retirement Services Division and
14 General Counsel be allowed to remain. Is there a second?

15 MS. CIESLAK: Dr. So, you're muted.

16 DR. SO: So, second.

17 MS. CIESLAK: Now I was muted. Any discussion? There
18 being none, all in favor, say aye.

19 DR. GERSTENFELD: Aye.

20 DR. SO: Aye.

21 CHAIRPERSON PAREKH: Aye.

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

24 What this means for the applicants that we have on
25 here, I'm going to place you back in the waiting room. The

1 doctors go into executive session to discuss your confidential
2 medical information, so that's not a public discussion, and then
3 anyone who is on reconsideration, we will invite in to make a
4 statement. After the doctors have reviewed all of the records
5 provided, we will reenter public session, at which time the
6 determinations will be made in our public session. And, it
7 could take a couple of hours, so please, you know, be patient
8 with us, and then we'll invite you back in once we enter public
9 session. Okay?

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11 (Executive Session from 9:04 a.m. to 10:50 a.m.)

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13 MS. CIESLAK: Dr. Parekh, you can proceed when you're
14 ready.

15 CHAIRPERSON PAREKH: The Board will be making
16 determinations and voting on those determinations, but would
17 like to remind members that only the final vote will be given
18 today and not the reasons for the vote.

19 In some instances there may not have been enough
20 medical information to make a determination, or perhaps a
21 non-service connected disability is more likely a service
22 connected disability.

23 You may seek reconsideration of an initial denial.
24 You will receive the Board's written determination within 2 to 4
25 weeks, which will provide you with that additional information.

1 The Board votes to approve continued entitlement for
2 Mario Alvarez.

3 DR. SO: So, second.

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

6 CHAIRPERSON PAREKH: Aye.

7 DR. SO: Aye.

8 DR. GERSTENFELD: Aye.

9 MS. CIESLAK: The motion passes unanimously.

10 CHAIRPERSON PAREKH: The Board votes to approve
11 continued entitlement for Etheline Bisette.

12 DR. SO: So, second.

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

15 CHAIRPERSON PAREKH: Aye.

16 DR. SO: Aye.

17 DR. GERSTENFELD: Aye.

18 MS. CIESLAK: The motion passes unanimously.

19 CHAIRPERSON PAREKH: The Board votes to approve
20 continued entitlement for Denise Bystrek.

21 DR. SO: So, second.

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

24 CHAIRPERSON PAREKH: Aye.

25 DR. SO: Aye.

1 DR. GERSTENFELD: Aye.

2 MS. CIESLAK: The motion passes.

3 CHAIRPERSON PAREKH: The Board votes to approve
4 continued entitlement for Jacqueline Coombs.

5 DR. SO: So, second.

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

8 CHAIRPERSON PAREKH: Aye.

9 DR. SO: Aye.

10 DR. GERSTENFELD: Aye.

11 MS. CIESLAK: The motion passes unanimously.

12 CHAIRPERSON PAREKH: The Board votes to table the
13 application for continued entitlement for Jason Deary.

14 DR. SO: So, second.

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

17 CHAIRPERSON PAREKH: Aye.

18 DR. SO: Aye.

19 DR. GERSTENFELD: Aye.

20 MS. CIESLAK: The motion passes unanimously.

21 CHAIRPERSON PAREKH: The Board votes to approve
22 continued entitlement for Stephen Gelinias.

23 DR. SO: So, second.

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

1 CHAIRPERSON PAREKH: Aye.

2 DR. SO: Aye.

3 DR. GERSTENFELD: Aye.

4 MS. CIESLAK: The motion passes unanimously.

5 CHAIRPERSON PAREKH: The Board votes to approve
6 continued entitlement for Samuel Gianpoalo.

7 DR. SO: So, second.

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

10 CHAIRPERSON PAREKH: Aye.

11 DR. SO: Aye.

12 DR. GERSTENFELD: Aye.

13 MS. CIESLAK: The motion passes unanimously.

14 CHAIRPERSON PAREKH: The Board votes to table the
15 application for continued entitlement for Frank Ginise.

16 DR. SO: So, second.

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

19 CHAIRPERSON PAREKH: Aye.

20 DR. SO: Aye.

21 DR. GERSTENFELD: Aye.

22 MS. CIESLAK: The motion passes unanimously.

23 CHAIRPERSON PAREKH: The Board votes to approve
24 continued entitlement for Kaishawda Holley.

25 DR. SO: So, second.

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

3 CHAIRPERSON PAREKH: Aye.

4 DR. SO: Aye.

5 DR. GERSTENFELD: Aye.

6 MS. CIESLAK: The motion passes unanimously.

7 CHAIRPERSON PAREKH: The Board votes to approve
8 continued entitlement for Sonia Ibarondo.

9 DR. SO: So, second.

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

12 CHAIRPERSON PAREKH: Aye.

13 DR. SO: Aye.

14 DR. GERSTENFELD: Aye.

15 MS. CIESLAK: The motion passes unanimously.

16 CHAIRPERSON PAREKH: The Board votes to approve
17 continued entitlement for Allysan Johnson.

18 DR. SO: So, second.

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

21 CHAIRPERSON PAREKH: Aye.

22 DR. SO: Aye.

23 DR. GERSTENFELD: Aye.

24 MS. CIESLAK: The motion passes unanimously.

25 CHAIRPERSON PAREKH: The Board votes to deny continued

1 entitlement for Kristina Kaczorowski.

2 DR. SO: So, second.

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

5 CHAIRPERSON PAREKH: Aye.

6 DR. SO: Aye.

7 DR. GERSTENFELD: Aye.

8 MS. CIESLAK: The motion passes unanimously.

9 CHAIRPERSON PAREKH: The Board votes to approve
10 continued entitlement for Lee Caldwell.

11 DR. SO: So, second.

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

14 CHAIRPERSON PAREKH: Aye.

15 DR. SO: Aye.

16 DR. GERSTENFELD: Aye.

17 MS. CIESLAK: The motion passes unanimously.

18 CHAIRPERSON PAREKH: The Board votes to table the
19 application for continued entitlement for Stephanie Middleton.

20 DR. SO: So, second.

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

23 CHAIRPERSON PAREKH: Aye.

24 DR. SO: Aye.

25 DR. GERSTENFELD: Aye.

1 MS. CIESLAK: The motion passes unanimously.

2 CHAIRPERSON PAREKH: The Board votes to approve
3 continued entitlement for William Mihaliak.

4 DR. SO: So, second.

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

7 CHAIRPERSON PAREKH: Aye.

8 DR. SO: Aye.

9 DR. GERSTENFELD: Aye.

10 MS. CIESLAK: The motion passes unanimously.

11 CHAIRPERSON PAREKH: The Board votes to table the
12 application for continued entitlement for Charles Revere.

13 DR. SO: So, second.

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

16 CHAIRPERSON PAREKH: Aye.

17 DR. SO: Aye.

18 DR. GERSTENFELD: Aye.

19 MS. CIESLAK: The motion passes unanimously.

20 CHAIRPERSON PAREKH: The Board votes to approve
21 continued entitlement for David Rodriguez.

22 DR. SO: So, second.

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

25 CHAIRPERSON PAREKH: Aye.

1 DR. SO: Aye.

2 DR. GERSTENFELD: Aye.

3 MS. CIESLAK: The motion passes unanimously.

4 CHAIRPERSON PAREKH: The Board votes to approve
5 continued entitlement for Lucien Vaillant.

6 DR. SO: So, second.

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

9 CHAIRPERSON PAREKH: Aye.

10 DR. SO: Aye.

11 DR. GERSTENFELD: Aye.

12 MS. CIESLAK: The motion passes unanimously.

13 CHAIRPERSON PAREKH: The Board votes to approve
14 continued entitlement pursuant to the Memorandum of
15 Understanding of August 6, 2015 for the following applicants:
16 Louis Arbelo, Jr., Giuseppe Bongiovanni, Terry Bowens, Annette
17 Charles-Victorin, Dennis Clarke, Luman Colon, Judy Dion, Wanda
18 Guzman-Sinko, Thomas Jones, Tonya Keith-West, Susan Martin,
19 Henri Matos, Maribel Nieves and Michael Sawka.

20 DR. SO: So, second.

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

23 MS. CIESLAK: The motion passes unanimously.

24 CHAIRPERSON PAREKH: I make a motion to adjourn the
25 meeting. Is there a second?

1 DR. SO: So, second.
2 MS. CIESLAK: Any discussion? All in favor, say aye.
3 CHAIRPERSON PAREKH: Aye.
4 DR. SO: Aye.
5 DR. GERSTENFELD: Aye.
6 MS. CIESLAK: We are adjourned. Thank you, everyone.
7 Happy holidays.
8 CHAIRPERSON PAREKH: Thank you. Happy holidays.
9 (Meeting adjourned at 10:58 a.m.)

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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 20, 2024 to the best of my ability.

Wendy Malitsky

Wendy Malitsky

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