

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
STATE EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT COMMISSION
MEDICAL EXAMINING BOARD MEETING

SEPTEMBER 6, 2024

HELD VIA ZOOM

CONVENED AT 9:02 A.M.

Present (Via Zoom):

Frank Gerratana, M.D

Ralph Rosenberg, M.D

Sachin Parekh, M.D.

Robert Helfand, Retirement Services Division

Helena Bartolomeo, Retirement Services Division

Nabil Waheed, Retirement Services Division

Cindy Cieslak, Rose Kallor LLP

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

MS. CIESLAK: Good morning. We're about to

1 begin. Just give us one second. All right. Doctor,
2 Gerratana, you can begin when you're ready.

3 CHAIRPERSON GERRATANA: Good morning,
4 everyone. The September 6, 2024 meeting of the Medical
5 Examining Board is now in session. I'm Dr. Frank
6 Gerratana, chairperson. Also present are Dr. Ralph
7 Rosenberg and Dr. Sachin Parekh. Present from the
8 Office of the State Comptroller Retirement Services
9 Division are staff members from the Retirement Services
10 Division Robert Helfand, Helena Bartolomeo and Nabil
11 Waheed. And the general counsel for the Retirement
12 Commission and Medical Examining Board, Attorney Cindy
13 Cieslak. Now I'll make a motion that we go into
14 executive session for the purposes of discussing
15 individual members disability health issues and I
16 request that the members of the Retirement Services
17 Division and counsel be allowed to maintain -- be
18 allowed to remain, and is there a second?

19 DR. PAREKH: I second that.

20 CHAIRPERSON GERRATANA: All of those in favor?

21 DR. PAREKH: Aye.

22 CHAIRPERSON GERRATANA: All of those opposed?

23 The motion passes.

24 DR. ROSENBERG: Dr. Gerratana, for
25 consistency, I didn't get to say aye, so I'll say aye

1 now.

2 CHAIRPERSON GERRATANA: Thank you Dr.
3 Rosenberg. Apologize for rushing.

4 DR. ROSENBERG: Not a problem.

5 MS. CIESLAK: All right. Everyone, this is
6 Cindy Cieslak, I'm going to place everyone back in the
7 waiting room. The doctors discuss all of your medical
8 information in executive session, which means it's
9 private, not open to the public. Those individuals who
10 are on reconsideration will be invited in to make a
11 statement when the doctors are ready to hear from you,
12 and then at the end, we will reenter public session and
13 everyone will be invited back in so that you can hear
14 the decisions today. This sometimes can be a long
15 process. It can be a couple of hours. So if it seems
16 like you're in the waiting room for a long time, that's
17 how it normally goes, so be patient with us, and then
18 when we reenter public session, we'll let you all back
19 in. Thank you.

20 (The board was in executive session from 9:03
21 a.m. until 11:50 a.m.)

22 MS. CIESLAK: Dr. Gerratana, you can proceed
23 when you're ready.

24 CHAIRPERSON GERRATANA: The board has just
25 come out of executive session. The board now will be

1 making determinations and voting on those
2 determinations, but would like to remind members that
3 only the final vote will be given today and not the
4 reasons for the vote. In some instances there may not
5 have been enough medical information to make a
6 determination, or perhaps a service connected disability
7 is more likely a non service connected disability. You
8 may seek reconsideration of an initial denial. You will
9 receive the board's written determination within 2 to 4
10 weeks, which will provide you with additional
11 information. The board will now vote the application
12 requests. Concerning Angel Aviles, I move that the
13 request for a service connected disability retirement be
14 denied. Is there a second?

15 DR. PAREKH: Parekh, second.

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

18 DR. ROSENBERG: Rosenberg, aye.

19 DR. PAREKH: Parekh, aye.

20 CHAIRPERSON GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye. All
21 opposed, nay? The motion passes. Concerning Terry
22 Bowens' I move that the request for a service connected
23 and disability retirement be denied, but a non service
24 connected retirement be approved. Is there a second?

25 DR. PAREKH: Parekh, second.

1 CHAIRPERSON GERRATANA: Any discussion? All
2 those in favor, say aye.

3 DR. ROSENBERG: Rosenberg, aye.

4 DR. PAREKH: Parekh, aye.

5 CHAIRPERSON GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye. The
6 motion passes. Concerning Sherease Brown, I move that
7 the request for a non service connected disability
8 retirement be denied. Is there a second?

9 DR. PAREKH: Second.

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

12 DR. ROSENBERG: Rosenberg, aye.

13 DR. PAREKH: Parekh, aye.

14 CHAIRPERSON GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye. The
15 motion passes. Concerning Evangelista Contrarias, I
16 move that the request for a service connected disability
17 retirement would be denied. Is there a second?

18 DR. PAREKH: Parekh, second.

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

21 DR. ROSENBERG: Rosenberg, aye.

22 DR. PAREKH: Parekh, aye.

23 CHAIRPERSON GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye. The
24 motion passes. Concerning Jose Estrada, I move that the
25 request for a service connected disability retirement be

1 denied but that the board looks favorably on a non
2 service connected retirement. Is there a second?

3 DR. PAREKH: Parekh, second.

4 CHAIRPERSON GERRATANA: Any discussion? All
5 in favor, say aye.

6 DR. ROSENBERG: Rosenberg, aye.

7 DR. PAREKH: Parekh, aye.

8 CHAIRPERSON GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye. The
9 motion passes. Concerning Wanda Guzman-Sinko I move
10 that the request for a service connected disability
11 retirement be denied, but that a non service connected
12 retirement be approved. Is there a second?

13 DR. PAREKH: Parekh, second.

14 CHAIRPERSON GERRATANA: All in favor, say aye.

15 DR. ROSENBERG: Rosenberg, aye.

16 DR. PAREKH: Parekh, aye.

17 CHAIRPERSON GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye. The
18 motion passes. Concerning Sheila Jones, I move that the
19 request for a service connected disability retirement be
20 denied. Is there a second?

21 DR. PAREKH: Second.

22 CHAIRPERSON GERRATANA: Is there any
23 discussion? All in favor, say aye.

24 DR. ROSENBERG: Rosenberg, aye.

25 DR. PAREKH: Parekh, aye.

1 CHAIRPERSON GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye. The
2 motion passes. Concerning John Julianelle, I move that
3 the request for a service connected disability
4 retirement be denied. Is there a second?

5 DR. PAREKH: Parekh, second.

6 CHAIRPERSON GERRATANA: All in favor, say aye.

7 DR. ROSENBERG: Rosenberg, aye.

8 DR. PAREKH: Parekh, aye.

9 CHAIRPERSON GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye. The
10 motion passes. Concerning Matthew Lima, I move that the
11 request for a service connected disability retirement be
12 denied. Is there a second?

13 DR. PAREKH: Parekh, second.

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

16 DR. ROSENBERG: Rosenberg, aye.

17 DR. PAREKH: Parekh, aye.

18 CHAIRPERSON GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye. The
19 motion passes. Concerning Dawn Londin-Agnifilo, I move
20 that the request for a service connected disability
21 retirement be denied. Is there a second?

22 DR. PAREKH: Parekh, second.

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

25 DR. ROSENBERG: Rosenberg, aye.

1 DR. PAREKH: Parekh, aye.

2 CHAIRPERSON GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye. The
3 motion passes. Concerning Dorian Lord, I move that the
4 posthumous request for a non service connected
5 disability retirement be approved. Is there a second?

6 DR. PAREKH: Parekh, second.

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

9 DR. ROSENBERG: Rosenberg, aye.

10 DR. PAREKH: Parekh, aye.

11 CHAIRPERSON GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye. The
12 motion passes. Concerning Joshua Mendez, I move that
13 the request for a service connected disability
14 retirement be denied. Is there a second?

15 DR. PAREKH: Parekh, second.

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

18 DR. ROSENBERG: Rosenberg, aye.

19 DR. PAREKH: Parekh, aye.

20 CHAIRPERSON GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye. The
21 motion passes. Concerning Philip Mayette, I move that
22 the request for a service connected disability
23 retirement be denied, but the board looks favorably on a
24 non service connected disability retirement. Is there a
25 second?

1 DR. PAREKH: Parekh, second.

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

4 DR. ROSENBERG: Rosenberg, aye.

5 DR. PAREKH: Parekh, aye.

6 CHAIRPERSON GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye. The
7 motion passes. Concerning Lynn Proto, I move that the
8 request for a non service connected disability
9 retirement be denied. Is there a second?

10 DR. PAREKH: Parekh second.

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

13 DR. ROSENBERG: Rosenberg, aye.

14 DR. PAREKH: Parekh, aye.

15 CHAIRPERSON GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye. The
16 motion passes. Concerning Cynthia Randolph, I move that
17 the request for a non service connected disability
18 retirement be denied. Is there a second?

19 DR. PAREKH: Parekh, second.

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

22 DR. ROSENBERG: Rosenberg, aye.

23 DR. PAREKH: Parekh, aye.

24 CHAIRPERSON GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye. The
25 motion passes. Concerning Joseph Riccillo, I move that

1 the request for a service connected disability
2 retirement be approved. Is there a second?

3 DR. PAREKH: Parekh, second.

4 CHAIRPERSON GERRATANA: All discussion? All
5 in favor, say aye.

6 DR. ROSENBERG: Rosenberg, aye.

7 DR. PAREKH: Parekh, aye.

8 CHAIRPERSON GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye. The
9 motion passes. Concerning Ambrose Stevens, I move that
10 the request for posthumous non service connected
11 disability retirement be approved. Is there a second?

12 DR. PAREKH: Parekh, second.

13 CHAIRPERSON GERRATANA: Any discussion? All
14 in favor, say aye.

15 DR. ROSENBERG: Rosenberg, aye.

16 DR. PAREKH: Parekh, aye.

17 CHAIRPERSON GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye. The
18 motion passes. Concerning Lisa Suarez, I move that the
19 request for a non service connected disability
20 retirement on reconsideration be approved. Is there a
21 second?

22 DR. PAREKH: Parekh, second.

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

25 DR. ROSENBERG: Rosenberg, aye.

1 DR. PAREKH: Parekh, aye.

2 CHAIRPERSON GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye. The
3 motion passes. Concerning Cammi Wilson, I move that the
4 request for a service connected disability retirement be
5 approved. Is there a second?

6 DR. PAREKH: Parekh, second.

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

9 DR. ROSENBERG: Rosenberg, aye.

10 DR. PAREKH: Parekh, aye.

11 CHAIRPERSON GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye. The
12 motion passes. And lastly, concerning Nadine Wylie, I
13 move that the request for a service connected disability
14 retirement be approved. Is there a second?

15 DR. PAREKH: Parekh, second.

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

18 DR. ROSENBERG: Rosenberg, aye.

19 DR. PAREKH: Parekh, aye.

20 CHAIRPERSON GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye. The
21 motion passes. That concludes the business of today's
22 Medical Examining Board.

23 MS. CIESLAK: Dr. Gerratana, do you want to
24 move to adjourn?

25 CHAIRPERSON GERRATANA: I make a motion that

1 the meeting be adjourned.

2 DR. PAREKH: Parekh, second.

3 DR. ROSENBERG: Rosenberg.

4 CHAIRPERSON GERRATANA: All those in
5 favor?

6 DR. ROSENBERG: Sorry. Rosenberg, aye.

7 DR. PAREKH: Parekh, aye.

8 CHAIRPERSON GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye. Thank
9 you all for attending.

10 DR. PAREKH: Thank you.

11 MS. CIESLAK: Thank you everyone. Have a good
12 weekend.

13 (Meeting adjourned at 1:26 p.m.)
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2 **CERTIFICATE**

3
4 I certify that this document is a true and
5 accurate description of the proceedings obtained from
6 the recorded meeting of the State of Connecticut State
7 Employees Retirement Commission, Medical Examining Board
8 on September 6, 2024 to the best of my ability.

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10 

11 **Wendy Malitsky**

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