

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

STATE EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT COMMISSION

MEDICAL EXAMINING BOARD MEETING

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DATE: June 4, 2025

HELD VIA Zoom

CONVENED AT 9:00 A.M.  
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Present (Via Zoom):

Dr. Lynn Rudich, Chairperson

Dr. Sheldon Nova

Dr. Sohrab Zahedi

Patrick Fairbanks, Retirement Services Division

Robert Helfand, Retirement Services Division

Helena Bartolomeo, Retirement Services Division

Alexandra Cipolla, Retirement Services Division

Cindy Cieslak, Rose Kallor, LLP

1 (Proceedings commenced at 9:06 a.m.)

2 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: The June 4, 2025 meeting of the  
3 Medical Examining Board is now in session. My name is Dr. Lynn  
4 Rudich. I'm chairperson. We also have Dr. Sheldon Nova and Dr.  
5 Sohrab Zahedi with us.

6 Present from the Office of the State Comptroller,  
7 Retirement Services Division are staff members Helena  
8 Bartolomeo, Alexandra Cipolla, Patrick Fairbanks and Robert  
9 Helfand.

10 And we also have General Counsel for the Retirement  
11 Commission and Medical Examining Board, Cindy Cieslak.

12 I'm going to make a motion to go into Executive  
13 Session. Is there a second?

14 DR. NOVA: Second.

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

17 DR. NOVA: Nova, aye.

18 ATTORNEY CIESLAK: This is Cindy Cieslak. Dr. Zahedi  
19 you were muted, but I saw you say aye.

20 DR. ZAHEDI: Zahedi, aye.

21 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Motion passes. We'll be going  
22 into Executive Session to discuss the cases separately and  
23 privately. When we're done with that, we'll be calling the  
24 people who are on reconsideration, may come into our session to  
25 discuss their cases, and later on in a few hours we'll be

1 calling everybody in to make a vote on our findings.

2 ATTORNEY CIESLAK: Thank you, Dr. Rudich. I'm going  
3 to place everyone back in the waiting room. Like Dr. Rudich  
4 said, it might be a couple hours while they're reviewing the  
5 applicants, and then the doctors will hear from people in  
6 reconsideration and then reenter a public session. If you are  
7 able to wait, you'll be able to hear the decision then. Thank  
8 you.

9 (Executive Session from 9:07 a.m. to 12:23 p.m.)

10 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: The Board will be making  
11 determinations and voting on those determinations, but would  
12 like to remind members that only the final vote will be given  
13 today and not the reason for the vote.

14 In some instances, there may not have been enough  
15 medical information to make a determination, or perhaps a  
16 non-service connected disability is more likely than a service  
17 connected disability.

18 You may seek reconsideration of an initial denial.  
19 You'll receive the Board's written determination within 2 to 4  
20 weeks which will provide additional information.

21 I make a motion to approve the non-service connected  
22 disability retirement of Randol Abelli.

23 DR. NOVA: Nova, second.

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

1 DR. NOVA: Nova, aye.

2 DR. ZAHEDI: Zahedi, aye.

3 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Motion passes.

4 I make a motion to deny the service connected and  
5 non-service connected disability retirement of Jacqueline  
6 Acevedo.

7 DR. NOVA: Nova, second.

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

10 DR. NOVA: Nova, aye.

11 DR. ZAHEDI: Zahedi, aye.

12 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Motion passes.

13 I make a motion to table the non-service connected  
14 disability retirement application of Scott Ali.

15 DR. NOVA: Second, Nova.

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

18 DR. NOVA: Nova, aye.

19 DR. ZAHEDI: Zahedi, aye.

20 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Motion passes. I make a motion  
21 to table the non-service connected disability application of  
22 Marilette Benjamin.

23 DR. NOVA: Nova, second.

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

1 DR. NOVA: Nova, aye.

2 DR. ZAHEDI: Zahedi, aye.

3 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Motion passes.

4 I make a motion to table the service connected  
5 disability retirement of Matthew Blair.

6 DR. NOVA: Nova, second.

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

9 DR. NOVA: Nova, aye.

10 DR. ZAHEDI: Zahedi, aye.

11 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Motion passes.

12 I make a motion to approve the non-service connected  
13 disability retirement of James Bowe.

14 DR. NOVA: Nova, second.

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

17 DR. NOVA: Nova, aye.

18 DR. ZAHEDI: Zahedi, aye.

19 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Motion passes.

20 I make a motion to deny the service connected  
21 disability retirement of Enrique Camacho, but the Board would  
22 approve continuing non-service connected disability retirement.

23 DR. NOVA: Nova, second.

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

1 DR. NOVA: Nova, aye.

2 DR. ZAHEDI: Zahedi, aye.

3 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Motion passes.

4 I make a motion to approve the service connected  
5 disability retirement of William Crooms.

6 DR. NOVA: Nova, second.

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

9 DR. NOVA: Nova, aye.

10 DR. ZAHEDI: Zahedi, aye.

11 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Motion passes.

12 I make a motion to approve the non-service connected  
13 disability retirement of Stephen Dargan.

14 DR. NOVA: Nova, second.

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

17 DR. NOVA: Nova, aye.

18 DR. ZAHEDI: Zahedi, aye.

19 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Motion passes.

20 I make a motion to approve the service connected  
21 disability retirement of Mathew Ewing.

22 DR. NOVA: Nova, second.

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

25 DR. NOVA: Nova, aye.

1 DR. ZAHEDI: Zahedi, aye.

2 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Motion passes.

3 I make a motion to deny the non-service connected  
4 disability retirement of Leonard Fowler.

5 DR. NOVA: Nova, second.

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

8 DR. NOVA: Nova, aye.

9 DR. ZAHEDI: Zahedi, aye.

10 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Motion passes.

11 I make a motion to approve the non-service connected  
12 disability retirement of Catherine Hermann.

13 DR. NOVA: Nova, second.

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

16 DR. NOVA: Nova, aye.

17 DR. ZAHEDI: Zahedi, aye.

18 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Motion passes.

19 I make a motion to approve the non-service connected  
20 disability retirement of Tara Lewis.

21 DR. NOVA: Nova, second.

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

24 DR. NOVA: Nova, aye.

25 DR. ZAHEDI: Zahedi, aye.

CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Motion passes.

I make a motion to deny the service connected disability of Jacqueline Longo.

DR. NOVA: Nova, second.

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

DR. NOVA: Nova, aye.

DR. ZAHEDI: Zahedi, aye.

CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Motion passes.

I make a motion to table the non-service connected disability retirement of Jose Lopez.

DR. NOVA: Nova, second.

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

DR. NOVA: Nova, aye.

DR. ZAHEDI: Zahedi, aye.

CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Motion passes.

I make a motion to deny the service connected disability retirement of Daniel Lunn, but the Board would look favorably on an application for non-service connected retirement.

DR. NOVA: Nova, second.

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

DR. NOVA: Nova, aye.



1 DR. ZAHEDI: Zahedi, aye.

2 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Motion passes.

3 I make a motion to deny the service connected  
4 disability retirement of Frank Moore, but the Board would look  
5 favorably on an application for non-service connected disability  
6 retirement.

7 DR. NOVA: Nova, second.

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

10 DR. NOVA: Nova, aye.

11 DR. ZAHEDI: Zahedi, aye.

12 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Motion passes.

13 I make a motion to deny the non-service connected  
14 disability retirement of Kersten Moore.

15 DR. NOVA: Nova, second.

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

18 DR. NOVA: Nova, aye.

19 DR. ZAHEDI: Zahedi, aye.

20 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Motion passes.

21 I make a motion to table the non-service connected  
22 disability retirement of Deborah Robinson.

23 DR. NOVA: Nova, second.

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

1 DR. NOVA: Nova, aye.

2 DR. ZAHEDI: Zahedi, aye.

3 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Motion passes.

4 I make a motion to deny the service connected or  
5 non-service connected disability retirement of Monica Robles.

6 DR. NOVA: Nova, second.

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

9 DR. NOVA: Nova, aye.

10 DR. ZAHEDI: Zahedi, aye.

11 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Motion passes.

12 I make a motion to deny the non-service connected  
13 disability retirement of Nigel Rodney.

14 DR. NOVA: Nova, second.

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

17 DR. NOVA: Nova, aye.

18 DR. ZAHEDI: Zahedi, aye.

19 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Motion passes.

20 I make a motion to deny the service connected  
21 disability retirement of Christine Searson.

22 DR. NOVA: Nova, second.

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

25 DR. NOVA: Nova, aye.

1 DR. ZAHEDI: Zahedi, aye.

2 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Motion passes.

3 I make a motion to deny the non-service connected  
4 disability retirement of Todd Sherback.

5 DR. NOVA: Nova, second.

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

8 DR. NOVA: Nova, aye.

9 DR. ZAHEDI: Zahedi, aye.

10 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Motion passes.

11 I make a motion to approve the service connected  
12 disability retirement of Tyra Taylor.

13 DR. NOVA: Nova, second.

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

16 DR. NOVA: Nova, aye.

17 DR. ZAHEDI: Zahedi, aye.

18 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Motion passes.

19 I make a motion to approve the service connected  
20 disability retirement of Lance Wood.

21 DR. NOVA: Nova, second.

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

24 DR. NOVA: Nova, aye.

25 DR. ZAHEDI: Zahedi, aye.

CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Motion passes.

I make a motion to approve the non-service connected disability retirement of Aleshia Caple.

DR. NOVA: Nova, second.

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

DR. NOVA: Nova, aye.

DR. ZAHEDI: Zahedi, aye.

CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Motion passes.

I make a motion to approve the non-service connected disability retirement of Raymond Santiago.

DR. NOVA: Nova, second.

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

DR. NOVA: Nova, aye.

DR. ZAHEDI: Zahedi, aye.

CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: I make a motion to adjourn this meeting of the Medical Examining Board.

DR. NOVA: Nova, second.

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

DR. NOVA: Nova, aye.

DR. ZAHEDI: Zahedi, aye.

CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Motion passes.

(Meeting adjourned at 12:34 p.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 June 4, 2025 to the best of my ability.

*Wendy Malitsky*

Wendy Malitsky

My Commission Expires  
March 31, 2030