

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
STATE EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT COMMISSION
MEDICAL EXAMINING BOARD

DATE: October 2, 2026

LOCATION: VIA ZOOM

Present:

Sokpoleak So, M.D.

Nikolai Lieders, M.D.

Manny Katsetos, M.D.

Others present:

Robert Helfand, Retirement Services Division.

Alexandra Cipolla, Retirement Services Division

Patrick Fairbanks, Retirement Services Division

Cindy Cieslak, Rose Kallor

1 (Proceedings began at 9:25 a.m.)

2

3 DR. SO: The October 2, 2026 meeting of the
4 Medical Examining Board is now in session. My name is
5 Sokpoleak So, I'll be chairing this meeting.

6 Present with me is Dr. Nikolai Lieders, Dr.
7 Manny Katsetos and myself. Present from the Office of
8 the State Comptroller Retirement Service --

9 CINDY CIESLAK: Oh, Dr. So --

10 DR. SO: -- General Counsel for the Retirement
11 Commission and Medical Examining Board, Cindy Cieslak.

12 CINDY CIESLAK: Dr. So, real quick. This is
13 Cindy Cieslak. I just want to clarify for the record
14 because you cut out for a second, so, I'll just clarify.

15 From the Retirement Services Division, we have
16 Robert Helfand, Alexandra Cipolla and Patrick Fairbanks.

17 DR. SO: Okay. I make a motion for an
18 amendment to the agenda for today. It is to postpone
19 Mary Stagis' hearing for today. Is there a second?

20 DR. LIEDERS: Lieders, I second.

21 CINDY CIESLAK: Any discussion? All in favor
22 say aye.

23 DR. LIEDERS: Lieders, aye.

24 DR. KATSETOS: Katsetos, aye.

25 DR. SO: So, aye.

1 CINDY CIESLAK: All right. The motion passes.

2 DR. SO: Okay. I make a motion to go into
3 executive session and then I request the members of the
4 Retirement Service Division and counsel be allowed to
5 remain. Is there a second?

6 DR. LIEDERS: Lieders, second.

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

9 Oh, wait. It looks like Attorney Zimmerman has
10 a question.

11 ATTORNEY ZIMMERLIN: I do. I think Tina Marie
12 Bonneau is also being considered for non-service as well
13 as service.

14 CINDY CIESLAK: All right, we'll address that
15 when it's necessary.

16 ATTORNEY ZIMMERLIN: Okay.

17 CINDY CIESLAK: Okay, so, there's a motion
18 pending on the floor to go into executive session.
19 There's a -- it's been seconded. No further discussion.
20 All in favor say aye.

21 DR. LIEDERS: Lieders, aye.

22 DR. KATSETOS: Katsetos, aye.

23 DR. SO: So, aye.

24 CINDY CIESLAK: All right, the motion passes.
25 What this means for all of the applicants, members of the

1 public, counsel; we're going to place you back in the
2 waiting room. The doctors discuss the medical
3 information in executive session where it's private
4 because the medical information of all the applicants is
5 maintained as confidential.

6 When you are on reconsideration, you will be
7 invited in to make a statement to the Medical Examining
8 Board during executive session. Everyone will be invited
9 back in when we reenter public session so you'll be able
10 to hear the decision today.

11 The process for going through the applications
12 and the medical information can take some time, so, if
13 you are in the waiting room for, you know, an hour or
14 two, that's typical. So just be patient with us. Thank
15 you. So now I'm going to put people back in the waiting
16 room.

17
18 (Executive Session from 9:27 a.m. to 12:12
19 p.m.)

20 CINDY CIESLAK: Dr. So, you can proceed when
21 you're ready.

22 DR. SO: Thank you. The Board will be making
23 determinations and voting on those determinations, but
24 would like to remind members that only the final vote
25 will be given today and not the reasons for the vote.

1 In some instances, there may not have been
2 enough medical information to make a determination, or
3 perhaps a non-service-connected disability is more likely
4 than a service connected disability.

5 You may seek reconsideration of an initial
6 denial. You will receive the Board's written
7 determination within two to four weeks, which we will
8 provide you with that additional information.

9 Okay, we'll start. I motion to deny service-
10 connected disability retirement and approve non-service-
11 connected disability retirement for Tina Marie Bonneau.

12 DR. LIEDERS: Lieders, I second the motion.

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

15 DR. LIEDERS: Aye, Lieders.

16 DR. SO: So, aye.

17 DR. KATSETOS: Katsetos, aye.

18 CINDY CIESLAK: The motion passes unanimously.

19 DR. SO: I motion to approve non-service-
20 connected disability retirement for Gina Burns.

21 DR. LIEDERS: Lieders, I second it.

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

24 DR. LIEDERS: Aye, Lieders.

25 DR. SO: So, aye.

1 DR. KATSETOS: Katsetos, aye.

2 CINDY CIESLAK: The motion passes unanimously.

3 DR. SO: I motion to deny service-connected
4 disability retirement application of Julian Centeno.

5 DR. LIEDERS: Lieders, I second the motion.

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

8 DR. LIEDERS: Lieders, aye.

9 DR. SO: So, aye.

10 DR. KATSETOS: Katsetos, aye.

11 CINDY CIESLAK: The motion passes unanimously.

12 DR. SO: I motion to deny service-connected
13 disability retirement for Willard Copeland but favor a
14 non-service-connected disability retirement application.

15 DR. LIEDERS: Lieders, I second the motion.

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

18 DR. LIEDERS: Lieders, aye.

19 DR. SO: So, aye.

20 DR. KATSETOS: Katsetos, aye.

21 CINDY CIESLAK: The motion passes unanimously.

22 DR. SO: I motion to approve a non-service-
23 connected disability retirement application for Milagros
24 DeJesus.

25 DR. LIEDERS: Lieders, I second the motion.

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

3 DR. LIEDERS: Lieders, aye.

4 DR. SO: So, aye.

5 DR. KATSETOS: Katsetos, aye.

6 CINDY CIESLAK: The motion passes unanimously.

7 DR. SO: I motion to approve Michael
8 Franceskino for service-connected disability retirement
9 application.

10 DR. LIEDERS: Lieders, I second the motion.

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

13 DR. LIEDERS: Lieders, aye.

14 DR. SO: So, aye.

15 DR. KATSETOS: Katsetos, aye.

16 CINDY CIESLAK: The motion passes unanimously.

17 DR. SO: I motion to deny Ashley Gibson's
18 application for service-connected disability retirement.

19 DR. LIEDERS: Lieders, I second the motion.

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

22 DR. LIEDERS: Lieders, aye.

23 DR. SO: So, aye.

24 DR. KATSETOS: Katsetos, aye.

25 CINDY CIESLAK: The motion passes unanimously.

1 DR. SO: I motion to table Thomas Neborsky's
2 disability retirement application.

3 DR. LIEDERS: Lieders, I second the motion.

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

6 DR. LIEDERS: Lieders, aye.

7 DR. SO: So, aye.

8 DR. KATSETOS: Katsetos, aye.

9 CINDY CIESLAK: The motion passes unanimously.

10 DR. SO: I motion to approve non-service-
11 connected disability retirement application for Maria
12 Silva.

13 DR. LIEDERS: Lieders, I second the motion.

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

16 DR. LIEDERS: Lieders, aye.

17 DR. SO: So, aye.

18 DR. KATSETOS: Katsetos, aye.

19 CINDY CIESLAK: The motion passes unanimously.

20 DR. SO: I motion to deny non-service-connected
21 disability retirement application for Tamika Terry.

22 DR. LIEDERS: Lieders, I second the motion.

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

25 DR. LIEDERS: Lieders, aye.

1 DR. SO: So, aye.

2 DR. KATSETOS: Katsetos, aye.

3 CINDY CIESLAK: The motion passes unanimously.

4 DR. SO: I motion to deny service-connected
5 disability retirement application but favor non-service-
6 connected disability retirement for Lisa Valenti on
7 reconsideration.

8 DR. LIEDERS: Lieders, second the motion.

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

11 DR. LIEDERS: Lieders, aye.

12 DR. SO: So, aye.

13 DR. KATSETOS: Katsetos, aye.

14 CINDY CIESLAK: The motion passes unanimously.

15 DR. SO: I motion to table service-connected
16 disability retirement application for Andrew Wilson.

17 DR. LIEDERS: Lieders, I second the motion.

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

20 DR. LIEDERS: Lieders, aye.

21 DR. SO: So, aye.

22 DR. KATSETOS: Katsetos, aye.

23 CINDY CIESLAK: The motion passes unanimously.

24 DR. SO: I motion to approve the continuation
25 for disability retirement for Nancy Flanagan.

1 DR. LIEDERS: Lieders, second the motion.

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

4 DR. LIEDERS: Lieders, aye.

5 DR. SO: So, aye.

6 DR. KATSETOS: Katsetos, aye.

7 CINDY CIESLAK: The motion passes unanimously.

8 DR. SO: I motion to continue entitlement
9 disability retirement for Todd Evangelisti.

10 DR. LIEDERS: Lieders, I second the motion.

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

13 DR. LIEDERS: Lieders, aye.

14 DR. SO: So, aye.

15 DR. KATSETOS: Katsetos, aye.

16 CINDY CIESLAK: The motion passes unanimously.

17 DR. SO: I motion to approve the continued
18 entitlement to disability retirement of Khai Johnson.

19 DR. LIEDERS: Lieders, I second the motion.

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

22 DR. LIEDERS: Lieders, aye.

23 DR. SO: So, aye.

24 DR. KATSETOS: Katsetos, aye.

25 CINDY CIESLAK: The motion passes unanimously.

1 DR. SO: I motion to approve the continuation
2 of disability retirement application on reconsideration
3 for Kristina Kaczorowski.

4 DR. LIEDERS: Lieders, I second the motion.

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

7 DR. LIEDERS: Lieders, aye.

8 DR. SO: So, aye.

9 DR. KATSETOS: Katsetos, aye.

10 CINDY CIESLAK: The motion passes unanimously.

11 DR. SO: I motion to approve the continued
12 disability retirement application of Stephen Midford.

13 DR. LIEDERS: Lieders, second the motion.

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

16 DR. LIEDERS: Lieders, aye.

17 DR. SO: So, aye.

18 DR. KATSETOS: Katsetos, aye.

19 CINDY CIESLAK: The motion passes unanimously.

20 DR. SO: I motion to table to continue
21 disability retirement application of Haydee Sullivan.

22 DR. LIEDERS: Lieders, I second the motion.

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

25 DR. LIEDERS: Lieders, aye.

1 DR. SO: So, aye.

2 DR. KATSETOS: Katsetos, aye.

3 CINDY CIESLAK: The motion passes unanimously.

4 DR. SO: I motion to approve non-service-
5 connected disability retirement application of Tasheena
6 Womack. I

7 DR. LIEDERS: second the motion.

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

10 DR. LIEDERS: Lieders, aye.

11 DR. SO: So, aye.

12 DR. KATSETOS: Katsetos, aye.

13 CINDY CIESLAK: The motion passes unanimously.

14 DR. SO: I motion to approve the following
15 individuals by memorandum of understanding: Talia Eaves
16 and Kebran Moss Solomon.

17 DR. LIEDERS: I second the motion.

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

20 DR. LIEDERS: Lieders, aye.

21 DR. SO: So, aye.

22 DR. KATSETOS: Katsetos, aye.

23 CINDY CIESLAK: The motion passes unanimously.

24 DR. SO: I motion to adjourn the meeting.

25 DR. LIEDERS: Lieders, I second the motion.

1 CINDY CIESLAK: All in favor say aye.

2 DR. LIEDERS: Lieders, aye.

3 DR. SO: So, aye.

4 DR. KATSETOS: Katsetos, aye.

5 CINDY CIESLAK: The motion passes unanimously.

6 We are adjourned.

7

8

9 (Meeting adjourned at 12:21 p.m.)

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

I, Wendy Malitsky, do hereby certify that the foregoing is, to the best of my skill and ability, a true and accurate transcript of the State Employees' Retirement Commission, Medical Examining Board held on October 2, 2026.



Wendy Malitsky, Notary Public

My Commission Expires March 31, 2030

1	5	application 6:4 6:14,23 7:9,18 8:2,11,21 9:5 9:16 11:2,12 11:21 12:5	12:10,11,12,19 12:20,21,22 13:1,2,3,4
1 14:1 10 14:10 11 14:11 12 14:12 12:21 13:9 13 14:13 14 14:14 15 14:15 16 14:16 17 14:17 18 14:18 19 14:19	5 14:3		
	6		
	6 14:3		b
	7	applications 4:11	back 4:1,9,15 began 2:1 best 14:2 board 1:3 2:4 2:11 4:8,22 14:3 board's 5:6 bonneau 3:12 5:11 burns 5:20
	7 14:4	approve 5:10 5:19 6:22 7:7 8:10 9:24 10:17 11:1,11 12:4,14	
	8	ashley 7:17	
	8 14:5	attorney 3:9,11 3:16	
	9	aye 2:22,23,24 2:25 3:8,20,21 3:22,23 5:14 5:15,16,17,23 5:24,25 6:1,7,8 6:9,10,17,18,19 6:20 7:2,3,4,5 7:12,13,14,15 7:21,22,23,24 8:5,6,7,8,15,16 8:17,18,24,25 9:1,2,10,11,12 9:13,19,20,21 9:22 10:3,4,5,6 10:12,13,14,15 10:21,22,23,24 11:6,7,8,9,15 11:16,17,18,24 11:25 12:1,2,9	c
2	a		centeno 6:4 certificate 14:1 certify 14:2 chairing 2:5 cieslak 1:14 2:9 2:11,12,13,21 3:1,7,14,17,24 4:20 5:13,18 5:22 6:2,6,11 6:16,21 7:1,6 7:11,16,20,25 8:4,9,14,19,23 9:3,9,14,18,23 10:2,7,11,16,20 10:25 11:5,10 11:14,19,23 12:3,8,13,18,23 13:1,5
2 1:4 2:3 14:1,4 20 14:20 2026 1:4 2:3 14:4 2030 14:11 21 14:21 22 14:22 23 14:23 24 14:24 25 14:25	a.m. 2:1 4:18 ability 14:2 able 4:9 accurate 14:3 additional 5:8 address 3:14 adjourn 12:24 adjourned 13:6 13:9 agenda 2:18 alexandra 1:12 2:16 allowed 3:4 amendment 2:18 andrew 9:16 applicants 3:25 4:4		
3			
3 14:2 31 14:11 35502 14:8			
4			
4 14:2			

cindy 1:14 2:9 2:11,12,13,21 3:1,7,14,17,24 4:20 5:13,18 5:22 6:2,6,11 6:16,21 7:1,6 7:11,16,20,25 8:4,9,14,19,23 9:3,9,14,18,23 10:2,7,11,16,20 10:25 11:5,10 11:14,19,23 12:3,8,13,18,23 13:1,5 cipolla 1:12 2:16 clarify 2:13,14 commission 1:2 2:11 14:3,11 comptroller 2:8 confidential 4:5 connected 5:3,4 5:10,11,20 6:3 6:12,14,23 7:8 7:18 8:11,20 9:4,6,15 12:5 connecticut 1:1 considered 3:12 continuation 9:24 11:1 continue 10:8 11:20	continued 10:17 11:11 copeland 6:13 counsel 2:10 3:4 4:1 cut 2:14 d date 1:4 decision 4:10 dejesus 6:24 denial 5:6 deny 5:9 6:3,12 7:17 8:20 9:4 determination 5:2,7 determinations 4:23,23 disability 5:3,4 5:10,11,20 6:4 6:13,14,23 7:8 7:18 8:2,11,21 9:5,6,16,25 10:9,18 11:2 11:12,21 12:5 discuss 4:2 discussion 2:21 3:7,19 5:13,22 6:6,16 7:1,11 7:20 8:4,14,23 9:9,18 10:2,11 10:20 11:5,14 11:23 12:8,18	division 1:11 1:12,13 2:15 3:4 doctors 4:2 dr 2:3,6,6,9,10 2:12,17,20,23 2:24,25 3:2,6 3:21,22,23 4:20,22 5:12 5:15,16,17,19 5:21,24,25 6:1 6:3,5,8,9,10,12 6:15,18,19,20 6:22,25 7:3,4,5 7:7,10,13,14,15 7:17,19,22,23 7:24 8:1,3,6,7,8 8:10,13,16,17 8:18,20,22,25 9:1,2,4,8,11,12 9:13,15,17,20 9:21,22,24 10:1,4,5,6,8,10 10:13,14,15,17 10:19,22,23,24 11:1,4,7,8,9,11 11:13,16,17,18 11:20,22,25 12:1,2,4,7,10 12:11,12,14,17 12:20,21,22,24 12:25 13:2,3,4	e eaves 12:15 employees 1:2 14:3 entitlement 10:8,18 evangelisti 10:9 examining 1:3 2:4,11 4:7 14:3 executive 3:3 3:18 4:3,8,18 expires 14:11 f fairbanks 1:13 2:16 favor 2:21 3:8 3:20 5:14,23 6:7,13,17 7:2 7:12,21 8:5,15 8:24 9:5,10,19 10:3,12,21 11:6,15,24 12:9,19 13:1 final 4:24 flanagan 9:25 floor 3:18 following 12:14 foregoing 14:2 four 5:7 franceskino 7:8 further 3:19 5:13,22 6:6,16 7:1,11,20 8:4
--	---	---	---

8:14,23 9:9,18 10:2,11,20 11:5,14,23 12:8,18	k	8:22,22,25,25 9:8,8,11,11,17 9:17,20,20 10:1,1,4,4,10 10:10,13,13,19 10:19,22,22 11:4,4,7,7,13 11:13,16,16,22 11:22,25,25 12:7,10,10,17 12:20,20,25,25 13:2,2	meeting 2:3,5 12:24 13:9 members 3:3 3:25 4:24 memorandum 12:15 michael 7:7 midford 11:12 milagros 6:23 moss 12:16 motion 2:17 3:1 3:2,17,24 5:9 5:12,18,19 6:2 6:3,5,11,12,15 6:21,22,25 7:6 7:7,10,16,17,19 7:25 8:1,3,9,10 8:13,19,20,22 9:3,4,8,14,15 9:17,23,24 10:1,7,8,10,16 10:17,19,25 11:1,4,10,11,13 11:19,20,22 12:3,4,7,13,14 12:17,23,24,25 13:5
g	kaczorowski 11:3 kallor 1:14 katsetos 1:9 2:7 2:24,24 3:22 3:22 5:17,17 6:1,1,10,10,20 6:20 7:5,5,15 7:15,24,24 8:8 8:8,18,18 9:2,2 9:13,13,22,22 10:6,6,15,15,24 10:24 11:9,9 11:18,18 12:2 12:2,12,12,22 12:22 13:4,4	likely 5:3 lisa 9:6 location 1:5 looks 3:9	
general 2:10 gibson's 7:17 gina 5:20 given 4:25 go 3:2,18 going 4:1,11,15	h	m	
haydee 11:21 hear 4:10 hearing 2:19 held 14:3 helfand 1:11 2:16 hour 4:13	kebran 12:16 khai 10:18 know 4:13 kristina 11:3	m.d. 1:7,8,9 maintained 4:5 make 2:17 3:2 4:7 5:2 making 4:22 malitsky 14:2 14:10 manny 1:9 2:7 march 14:11 maria 8:11 marie 3:11 5:11 mary 2:19 means 3:25 medical 1:3 2:4 2:11 4:2,4,7,12 5:2 14:3	
i	l		n
individuals 12:15 information 4:3,4,12 5:2,8 initial 5:5 instances 5:1 invited 4:7,8	lieders 1:8 2:6 2:20,20,23,23 3:6,6,21,21 5:12,12,15,15 5:21,21,24,24 6:5,5,8,8,15,15 6:18,18,25,25 7:3,3,10,10,13 7:13,19,19,22 7:22 8:3,3,6,6 8:13,13,16,16		name 2:4 nancy 9:25 neborsky's 8:1 necessary 3:15
j			
johnson 10:18 julian 6:4			

nikolai 1:8 2:6 non 3:12 5:3,10 5:19 6:14,22 8:10,20 9:5 12:4 notary 14:10	proceed 4:20 proceedings 2:1 process 4:11 provide 5:8 public 4:1,9 14:10 put 4:15	11:12,21 12:5 14:3 right 3:1,14,24 robert 1:11 2:16 room 4:2,13,16 rose 1:14	solomon 12:16 stagis 2:19 start 5:9 state 1:1,2 2:8 14:3 statement 4:7 stephen 11:12 sullivan 11:21
o	q	s	t
october 1:4 2:3 14:4 office 2:7 oh 2:9 3:9 okay 2:17 3:2 3:16,17 5:9	question 3:10 quick 2:12	second 2:14,19 2:20 3:5,6 5:12 5:21 6:5,15,25 7:10,19 8:3,13 8:22 9:8,17 10:1,10,19 11:4,13,22 12:7,17,25 seconded 3:19 seek 5:5 service 2:8 3:4 3:12,13 5:3,4,9 5:10,19 6:3,12 6:14,22 7:8,18 8:10,20 9:4,5 9:15 12:4 services 1:11 1:12,13 2:15 session 2:4 3:3 3:18 4:3,8,9,18 signature 14:8 silva 8:12 skill 14:2 sokpoleak 1:7 2:5	table 8:1 9:15 11:20 take 4:12 talia 12:15 tamika 8:21 tasheena 12:5 terry 8:21 thank 4:14,22 think 3:11 thomas 8:1 time 4:12 tina 3:11 5:11 today 2:18,19 4:10,25 todd 10:9 transcript 14:3 true 14:2 two 4:14 5:7 typical 4:14
p	r		u
p.m. 4:19 13:9 passes 3:1,24 5:18 6:2,11,21 7:6,16,25 8:9 8:19 9:3,14,23 10:7,16,25 11:10,19 12:3 12:13,23 13:5 patient 4:14 patrick 1:13 2:16 pending 3:18 people 4:15 place 4:1 postpone 2:18 present 1:6,10 2:6,7 private 4:3	ready 4:21 real 2:12 reasons 4:25 receive 5:6 reconsideration 4:6 5:5 9:7 11:2 record 2:13 reenter 4:9 remain 3:5 remind 4:24 reporter's 14:1 request 3:3 retirement 1:2 1:11,12,13 2:8 2:10,15 3:4 5:10,11,20 6:4 6:13,14,23 7:8 7:18 8:2,11,21 9:5,6,16,25 10:9,18 11:2		unanimously 5:18 6:2,11,21 7:6,16,25 8:9 8:19 9:3,14,23

10:7,16,25 11:10,19 12:3 12:13,23 13:5 understanding 12:15
v
valenti 9:6 vote 4:24,25 voting 4:23
w
wait 3:9 waiting 4:2,13 4:15 want 2:13 weeks 5:7 wendy 14:2,10 willard 6:13 wilson 9:16 womack 12:6 written 5:6
z
zimberlin 3:9 3:11,16 zoom 1:5