

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
STATE EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT COMMISSION
MEDICAL EXAMINING BOARD MEETING

SEPTEMBER 9th, 2022 MEETING
HELD VIA ZOOM
CONVENED AT 9:08 a.m.

Present (via Zoom):

Dr. Nikolai Lieders
Dr. Sheldon Nova
Dr. Eric Shore
Robert Helfand, Retirement Services Division
William Cassada, Retirement Services Division
Helena Bartolomeo, Retirement Services Division
Colin Newman, Retirement Services Division
Cindy M. Cieslak, Rose Kallor LLP

TRANSCRIPTIONIST: Karin A. Empson

1 (Proceedings commenced at 9:08 a.m.)

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5 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: Hi. My name is Nikolai
6 Lieders. The September 9th meeting of the Medical
7 Examining Board is now in session. Members of the
8 Medical Examining Board are myself, Dr. Eric Shore, and
9 Dr. Sheldon Nova. Present from the Office of the State
10 Comptroller, Retirement Services Division are staff
11 members of the Retirement Services Division Mr. Robert
12 Helfand, Mr. Colin Newman, Mr. William Cassada, and
13 Helene Bartolomeo, as well as General Counsel for the
14 Retirement Commission Cindy Cieslak.

15 I heard there was a change in the agenda.
16 Am I mistaken or-

17 Cindy, is there a change in the agenda?

18 MS. CIESLAK: Yes. I believe we will need a
19 motion to amend the agenda - this is Cindy Cieslak - to
20 add Mark Brown (phonetic) as a change to non-service.

21 Bill, can you confirm that?

22 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: Mark Brown. Can you-

23 MR. CASSADA: Yeah, yeah. This is Mark
24 Brown. Change to non-service only. No review
25 required.

1 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: Right, just change to
2 non-service, okay. So I make a motion to change the
3 agenda to add Mr. Mark Brown to the agenda. Any
4 seconds?

5 DR. NOVA: Second, Dr. Nova.

6 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: Is there any
7 discussion? All in favor, say aye.

8 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKERS: Aye.

9 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: Aye. Opposed, say nay.

10 (No audible response)

11 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: Motion passes. The
12 agenda is slightly modified.

13 Just to explain our procedure here to the
14 public, we very soon are going to go into executive
15 session where we will be discussing each case. The
16 public will not be present during the executive
17 session. After all the cases are discussed, the
18 members will have an opportunity to - or some people
19 will have an opportunity to make a personal statement,
20 after which, we will vote, and that will be a public
21 meeting again.

22 So I will make a motion for us to go into
23 executive session.

24 DR. SHORE: Shore, second.

25 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: Is there any

1 discussion? All in favor, say aye.

2 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKERS: Aye.

3 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: All opposed, say nay.

4 (No audible response)

5 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: The motion passes. So
6 we're going to go into executive session. I'm going to
7 ask the members of the Retirement Services Division as
8 well as counsel to be allowed to remain during the
9 meeting.

10 MS. CIESLAK: All right. This is Cindy
11 Cieslak. Thank you, Dr. Lieders. So we are going into
12 executive session, so everyone from the public or from
13 the agenda, we're going to place you back into the
14 waiting room. If you are on reconsideration, you will
15 be invited in to make your statement. And then when
16 the doctors go into public session to vote, we'll
17 invite you back in from the waiting room. Thank you.

18 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: So what happened with
19 the-

20 MS. CIESLAK: Hold on. Dr. Lieders, hold on
21 one second. I've got to put everyone in the waiting
22 room before we start discussing the matters.

23 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: Oh, I'm sorry.

24 (The Board was in executive session from 9:10
25 a.m. until 12:02 p.m.)

1 MR. SOUCIER: Good afternoon.

2 MS. CIESLAK: Hi, everyone. This is Cindy
3 Cieslak. I'm General Counsel to the Medical Examining
4 Board. The doctors just exited executive session and
5 will be proceeding with the public session portion of
6 the meeting. Thank you.

7 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: Okay. Can we proceed?

8 MS. CIESLAK: Yes.

9 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: My name is Nikolai
10 Lieders. The Board will be making determinations and
11 voting on those determinations, but would like to
12 remind members that only the final vote will be given
13 today and not the reasons for the vote. In some
14 instances, there may not have been enough medical
15 information to make a determination, or perhaps a non-
16 service-connected disability is more likely than a
17 service-connected disability.

18 You may seek reconsideration of an initial
19 denial. You will receive the Board's written
20 determination within two to four weeks, which will
21 provide you with that additional information. So we
22 will proceed to vote. I apologize if I don't pronounce
23 any of the names correctly.

24 The first one is I make a motion to table
25 Sharon Brown's application for service-connected

1 disability retirement.

2 DR. SHORE: Shore, second.

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

5 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKERS: Aye.

6 MS. CIESLAK: Any opposed, say nay.

7 (No audible response)

8 MS. CIESLAK: The motion passes.

9 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: I'll make a motion to
10 deny Denise Bystrek's application for non-service-
11 connected disability retirement.

12 DR. SHORE: Second.

13 MS. CIESLAK: Dr. Shore seconded the motion.
14 Any further discussion? There being none, all in
15 favor, say aye.

16 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKERS: Aye.

17 MS. CIESLAK: Any opposed, say nay.

18 (No audible response)

19 MS. CIESLAK: The motion passes.

20 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: I'll make a motion to
21 deny Cynthia Cassada's application for service-
22 connected disability retirement.

23 DR. SHORE: Shore, second.

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

1 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKERS: Aye.

2 MS. CIESLAK: Any opposed, say nay.

3 (No audible response)

4 MS. CIESLAK: The motion passes.

5 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: I'll make a motion to
6 approve Donald Chaffee's application for non-service-
7 connected disability retirement.

8 DR. SHORE: Shore, second.

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

11 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKERS: Aye.

12 MS. CIESLAK: Any opposed, say nay.

13 (No audible response)

14 MS. CIESLAK: The motion passes.

15 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: I make a motion to deny
16 Lisa Cloud's application for non-service-connected
17 disability retirement.

18 DR. SHORE: Shore, second.

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

21 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKERS: Aye.

22 MS. CIESLAK: Any opposed, say nay.

23 (No audible response)

24 MS. CIESLAK: The motion passes.

25 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: I'll make a motion to

1 approve Lurman Colon's application for service-
2 connected disability retirement.

3 DR. SHORE: Shore, second.

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

6 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKERS: Aye.

7 MS. CIESLAK: Any opposed, say nay.

8 (No audible response)

9 MS. CIESLAK: The motion passes.

10 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: I'll make a motion to
11 table Sean Crawford's application for service-connected
12 disability retirement.

13 DR. SHORE: Shore, second.

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

16 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKERS: Aye.

17 MS. CIESLAK: Any opposed, say nay.

18 (No audible response)

19 MS. CIESLAK: The motion passes.

20 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: I'll make a motion to
21 approve Louis Gaedt's application for non-service-
22 connected disability retirement.

23 DR. SHORE: Shore, second.

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

1 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKERS: Aye.

2 MS. CIESLAK: Any opposed, say nay.

3 (No audible response)

4 MS. CIESLAK: The motion passes.

5 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: I'll make a motion to
6 approve Michael Georgetti's application for service-
7 connected disability retirement.

8 DR. SHORE: Shore, second.

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

11 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKERS: Aye.

12 MS. CIESLAK: Any opposed, say nay.

13 (No audible response)

14 MS. CIESLAK: The motion passes.

15 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: I'll make a motion to
16 deny Jeffrey Haskell's application for service-
17 connected disability retirement.

18 DR. SHORE: Shore, second.

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

21 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKERS: Aye.

22 MS. CIESLAK: Any opposed, say nay.

23 (No audible response)

24 MS. CIESLAK: The motion passes.

25 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: I'll make a motion to

1 deny Kristen Heyward-Miller's application for non-
2 service-connected disability retirement.

3 DR. SHORE: Shore, second.

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

6 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKERS: Aye.

7 MS. CIESLAK: Any opposed, say nay.

8 (No audible response)

9 MS. CIESLAK: The motion passes.

10 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: I'll make a motion to
11 approve Luke Jenne's application for non-service-
12 connected disability retirement.

13 DR. SHORE: Second, Shore.

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

16 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKERS: Aye.

17 MS. CIESLAK: Any opposed, say nay.

18 (No audible response)

19 MS. CIESLAK: The motion passes.

20 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: I'll make a motion to
21 approve Mylinh Le-Jones' application for non-service-
22 connected disability retirement.

23 DR. SHORE: Shore, second.

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

1 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKERS: Aye.

2 MS. CIESLAK: Any opposed, say nay.

3 (No audible response)

4 MS. CIESLAK: The motion passes.

5 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: I'll make a motion to
6 approve Terri Marshall's application for non-service-
7 connected disability retirement.

8 DR. SHORE: Shore, second.

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

11 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKERS: Aye.

12 MS. CIESLAK: Any opposed, say nay.

13 (No audible response)

14 MS. CIESLAK: The motion passes.

15 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: I'll make a motion to
16 approve Holly Maurice's application for non-service-
17 connected disability retirement.

18 DR. SHORE: Shore, second.

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

21 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKERS: Aye.

22 MS. CIESLAK: Any opposed, say nay.

23 (No audible response)

24 MS. CIESLAK: The motion passes.

25 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: I'll make a motion to

1 table Colen Moore's application for non-service-
2 connected disability retirement.

3 DR. SHORE: Shore, second.

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

6 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKERS: Aye.

7 MS. CIESLAK: Any opposed, say nay.

8 (No audible response)

9 MS. CIESLAK: The motion passes.

10 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: I'll make a motion to
11 approve Rachel Reynold's application for non-service-
12 connected disability retirement.

13 DR. SHORE: Shore, second.

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

16 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKERS: Aye.

17 MS. CIESLAK: Any opposed, say nay.

18 (No audible response)

19 MS. CIESLAK: The motion passes.

20 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: I'll make a motion to
21 approve Samuel Rosario's application for non-service-
22 connected disability retirement.

23 DR. SHORE: Shore, second.

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

1 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKERS: Aye.

2 MS. CIESLAK: Any opposed, say nay.

3 (No audible response)

4 MS. CIESLAK: The motion passes.

5 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: I'll make a motion to
6 approve Matthew Savitsky's application for non-service-
7 connected disability retirement.

8 DR. SHORE: Shore, second.

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

11 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKERS: Aye.

12 MS. CIESLAK: Any opposed, say nay.

13 (No audible response)

14 MS. CIESLAK: The motion passes.

15 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: I'll make a motion to
16 approve OnaMay Slauson's application for service-
17 connected disability retirement.

18 DR. SHORE: Shore, second.

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

21 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKERS: Aye.

22 MS. CIESLAK: Any opposed, say nay.

23 (No audible response)

24 MS. CIESLAK: The motion passes.

25 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: I'll make a motion to

1 approve Christopher Soucier's application for service-
2 connected disability retirement.

3 DR. SHORE: Shore, second.

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

6 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKERS: Aye.

7 MS. CIESLAK: Any opposed, say nay.

8 (No audible response)

9 MS. CIESLAK: The motion passes.

10 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: I'll make a motion to
11 approve Lisa Tanguay's application for non-service-
12 connected disability retirement.

13 DR. SHORE: Shore, second.

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

16 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKERS: Aye.

17 MS. CIESLAK: Any opposed, say nay.

18 (No audible response)

19 MS. CIESLAK: The motion passes.

20 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: I'll make a motion to
21 approve Vivian Valencia's application for non-service-
22 connected disability retirement.

23 DR. SHORE: Shore, second.

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

1 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKERS: Aye.

2 MS. CIESLAK: Any opposed, say nay.

3 (No audible response)

4 MS. CIESLAK: The motion passes.

5 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: I'll make a motion to
6 approve Michelle Viltrakis' application for service-
7 connected disability retirement.

8 DR. SHORE: Shore, second.

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

11 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKERS: Aye.

12 MS. CIESLAK: Any opposed, say nay.

13 (No audible response)

14 MS. CIESLAK: The motion passes.

15 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: I'll make a motion to
16 approve Victoria Wiggs' application for non-service-
17 connected disability retirement.

18 DR. SHORE: Shore, second.

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

21 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKERS: Aye.

22 MS. CIESLAK: Any opposed, say nay.

23 (No audible response)

24 MS. CIESLAK: The motion passes.

25 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: I'll make a motion to

1 approve Tracie Hernandez' request to change her status
2 from service-connected to non-service-connected.

3 DR. SHORE: Shore, second.

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

6 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKERS: Aye.

7 MS. CIESLAK: Any opposed, say nay.

8 (No audible response)

9 MS. CIESLAK: The motion passes.

10 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: And finally I'll make a
11 motion to approve Mark Brown's request to change his
12 application from service-connected to non-service-
13 connected.

14 DR. SHORE: Shore, second.

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

17 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKERS: Aye.

18 MS. CIESLAK: Any opposed, say nay.

19 (No audible response)

20 MS. CIESLAK: The motion passes.

21 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: Okay. If we don't have
22 any further business, I will make a motion to adjourn
23 today's meeting. Is there a second?

24 DR. NOVA: Nova, second.

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

1 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKERS: Aye.

2 MS. CIESLAK: Any opposed, say nay.

3 (No audible response)

4 MS. CIESLAK: We are adjourned.

5 DR. SHORE: Nikolai, can we send our stuff

6 to-

7 (Adjourned at 12:11 p.m.)

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I, Karin A. Empson, do hereby
certify that the preceding pages are an accurate
transcription of the Connecticut State Employees
Retirement Commission, Medical Examining Board meeting
held electronically via Zoom, conducted at 9:08 a.m. on
September 9th, 2022.

Karin A. Empson

Karin A. Empson

10/11/2022

Date