

# **STATE BOARD OF MEDIATION AND ARBITRATION**

**38 WOLCOTT HILL ROAD, WETHERSFIELD, CT 06109**

## **MINUTES OF SBMA BOARD MEETING**

Monday, March 17, 2025

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A meeting of the Connecticut State Board of Mediation and Arbitration was held on Monday, March 17, 2025. The meeting was held virtually, via Teams.

Present: Gerald Weiner, Esq., Chairman  
Dennis Murphy, Esq., Deputy Chairman  
Betty Kuehnel, Labor Member  
Peter Carozza, Labor Member  
Ken Baldyga, Management Member  
Michael Culhane, Management Member

Guests: Douglas Cho, Esq., Director/Mediator

The meeting of the State Board of Mediation and Arbitration was opened by Gerald T. Weiner, Chairman, at 8:42 a.m.

### 1) Minutes of Previous Meeting:

A motion was made by Dennis Murphy and seconded by Gerald Weiner to accept the minutes of the Board meeting from January 27, 2025, and the motion passed unanimously via voice vote.

## 2) Old Business:

- A. Review of Outstanding Arbitration Hearings: The number of pending arbitrations, the number of cases held in abeyance, scheduled and re-scheduled were examined by the Board. There are approximately 127 cases pending which is a decrease from 154; scheduled cases increased from 96 to 115; rescheduled cases increased from 8 to 17; and cases held in abeyance decreased from 29 to 13. Hearings completed decreased from 13 to 12. Mediation figures were also reviewed by the Board, and binding arbitration case figures were reviewed for contracts expiring in 2024 and 2025.
- B. Review of Fiscal Year Figures: The Board reviewed review fiscal year figures from July 1, 2024, to January 21, 2025, and also reviewed fiscal year figures from July 1, 2024, to March 6, 2025.
- C. Applications to Vacate: All open applications to vacate were briefly reviewed as to their status. No new applications to vacate were filed. Three court decisions were issued. Two court decisions denied applications to vacate in City of New Haven & CACP (Santiago) and Town of Montville & IAFF Local 3386. One court decision granting an application to vacate and remanding the case back to the arbitration panel was issued in City of Waterbury & CACP (Hinkle). Appeals to the Appellate Court were filed in both the Town of Montville decision and the City of Waterbury decision. In addition, in the case of City of New Haven & CACP (Kendall), the City had filed an Appellate Court appeal of a trial court's denial of the City's application to vacate; however the City has subsequently withdrawn its Appellate Court appeal.
- D. Outstanding Overdue Awards: There are no overdue awards at this time.

## 3) New Business:

- A. A discussion was held updating the status for hiring a new Secretary 2 employee, and to note that OPM has issued a statewide hiring freeze, so this staff position will not be filled unless SBMA can get an exception granted by OPM.
- B. An update on testing the hearing room panic buttons was provided, with the buttons all having passed the testing.

C. The Board was informed that the former Arbitrators' Lounge, Room #8, has been remodeled to be an additional SBMA hearing room. There will now be three SBMA rooms available for in-person arbitration hearings and mediations.

D. The passing of long-time management arbitrator J. Stuart Boldry was acknowledged. Mr. Boldry was praised for having served the Board with enthusiasm and energy for over 30 years, having been appointed in 1994 by then-Governor Lowell Weicker.

4) Motion to Adjourn:

A motion to adjourn was made by Peter Carozza and seconded by Ken Baldyga, and the motion passed unanimously by voice vote. The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:03 a.m.

*Douglas A. Cho, Esq.*  
*Director/Mediator*

*March 24, 2025*