

STATE BOARD OF MEDIATION AND ARBITRATION

38 WOLCOTT HILL ROAD, WETHERSFIELD, CT 06109

MINUTES OF SBMA BOARD MEETING

Monday, July 21, 2025

A meeting of the Connecticut State Board of Mediation and Arbitration was held on Monday, July 21, 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 8:45 a.m.

1) Minutes of Previous Meeting:

A motion was made by Peter Carozza and seconded by Betty Kuehnel to accept the minutes of the Board meeting from May 19, 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 104 cases pending which is a decrease from 120; scheduled cases decreased from 92 to

78; rescheduled cases increased to 15 from 10; and cases held in abeyance decreased from 9 to 5. Hearings completed decreased from 16 to 10. Mediation figures were also reviewed by the Board, and binding arbitration case figures were reviewed for contracts expiring in 2024 and 2025.

B. Outstanding Overdue Awards: There are no overdue awards at this time.

C. Applications to Vacate: All open applications to vacate were briefly reviewed as to their status. No new applications to vacate were filed. The Superior Court issued decisions granting applications to vacate in two Middlebury/FOP cases (Randy Ireland and Alton Cronin) and those decisions have been appealed to the Appellate Court by the Union. The Union withdrew a pending application to vacate in Stamford BOE & SBOEEA. The State Appellate Court reinstated an appeal it had dismissed for failure to comply with procedures in Town of Montville & IAFF Local 3386 (Staffing Issue).

3) New Business:

A. A discussion was held regarding the status of the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service, in particular the large staff cutbacks at the FMCS which may require SBMA to attempt to offer additional services to unions and employers in the State of Connecticut.

4) Executive Session:

A. A motion was made by Peter Carozza and seconded by Ken Baldyga to go into executive session to discuss filling a mediator vacancy expected at the end of 2025. The motion passed unanimously via voice vote. The Board went into executive session to discuss filling this vacancy. Peter Carozza made a motion to end the executive session, which was seconded by Dennis Murphy, and the motion passed unanimously via voice vote. No official Board actions or votes were taken during the executive session.

5) Motion to Adjourn:

A motion to adjourn was made by Dennis Murphy and seconded by Ken Baldyga, and the motion passed unanimously by voice vote. The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:50 a.m.

Douglas A. Cho, Esq.
Director/Mediator

July 28, 2025