

STATE BOARD OF MEDIATION AND ARBITRATION

38 WOLCOTT HILL ROAD, WETHERSFIELD, CT 06109

MINUTES OF ARBITRATORS MEETING

Tuesday, January 21, 2020

An arbitrators meeting of the Connecticut State Board of Mediation and Arbitration was held on Tuesday, January 21, 2020 at 38 Wolcott Hill Road, Wethersfield, Connecticut, 06109.

Present: Gerald T. Weiner, Esq., Chairman
 Dennis C. Murphy, Esq., Deputy Chairman
 David A. Ryan, Management Member
 Raymond D. Shea, Labor Member
 Michael C. Culhane, Esq.

Excused Absence: Betty Kuehnel, Labor Member

Guest: Patricia A. Fitton, Director/Mediator

The Tuesday, January 21, 2020 meeting of the Board of Mediation and Arbitration was opened by Dennis C. Murphy, Deputy Chairman at 8:45 a.m.

- 1) Minutes of Previous Meeting: A motion to accept the minutes of the previous meeting held on November 18, 2019 was made by Dennis C. Murphy, Esq., Deputy Chairman, and was seconded by David A. Ryan, Management Member. The motion passed unanimously.

Old Business

- A. The requirements of records retention were discussed. Requests have been submitted to the Legal Department of the DOL for advice regarding specific documents. The Director will continue to follow up with the Legal Department and will keep the Board informed.
- B. The ongoing Motions to Vacate awards were reviewed. The Motions to Vacate continue to make slow progress through the Court system.
- C. Progress is being made on providing increased security for hearing rooms and the entire building. Hand-held panic buttons are again available and have been tested. Staff and Security will coordinate regarding the disbursement and retrieval of the buttons.
- D. An All Arbitrators meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 16, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. Staff is sending “save the date” notices to everyone; final notices will be made in the 1st or 2nd week in February. The Board will consider and develop agenda items for the meeting.

New Business

- A. The staff raised the issue of double bookings. The Board affirmed that double bookings are not allowed.
- B. The issue of clarifying the time frame allowed for making the claim of arbitrability was discussed. The Board directed Director/Mediator Fitton to develop language for inclusion in the hearing notices that would define the time frame. Ms. Fitton will generate drafts of such language for consideration by the Board.
- C. The parties’ selection of their advocate arbitrators was considered. The statute was reviewed and the staff will be advised accordingly.

Director’s Report

- A. The pressing need to fill the full time mediator position continues. The low salary range presents a challenge to finding a highly qualified candidate.
- B. The part time mediator’s position has been extended through March 31, 2020. The Director will pursue a further extension for April, 2020.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by David A. Ryan, Management Member and Gerald T. Weiner, Esq. Chairman, seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 9:50 a.m.

Patricia A. Fitton, Director