

STATE BOARD OF MEDIATION AND ARBITRATION

38 WOLCOTT HILL ROAD, WETHERSFIELD, CT 06109

MINUTES OF ARBITRATORS MEETING

MONDAY, JULY 15, 2019

An arbitrators meeting of the Connecticut State Board of Mediation and Arbitration was held on Monday, July 15, 2019 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
 Michael C. Culhane, Management Member
 Raymond D. Shea, Labor Member

Excused Absence: Betty Kuehnel, Labor Member

Guest: Patricia A. Fitton, Director/Mediator

The Monday, July 15, 2019 meeting of the Board of Mediation and Arbitration was opened by Gerald T. Weiner, Chair at 8:35 a.m.

- 1) Minutes of Previous Meeting: A motion to accept the minutes of the previous meeting held on May 20, 2019 and to correct the attendance at the April 4, 2019 special meeting was made by Raymond Shea, Labor Member, and was seconded by Dennis Murphy, Esq., Deputy Chairman. The motion passed unanimously.

Old Business

- A. Awards: all outstanding arbitration awards have been received and there are no overdue awards at this time
- B. The ongoing Motions to Vacate awards were reviewed. The Motions to Vacate continue to make slow progress through the Court system; there were no particular developments to report.

New Business

- A. Postponements: three types of hearing postponements were discussed at length by the Board: 1) parties seeking postponements in advance of the hearing date, 2) parties asking the Panel for a continuance of the hearing on the hearing date, and 3) parties asking to hold a case in abeyance. The Board determined that there would no changes in Board policies regarding postponements at this time.
Awards: the issue of parties asking Panel chairs to postpone awards was reviewed. It was noted that while awards should not be delayed interminably, if the deferral helps achieve settlement between the parties, then the goals and objectives of the Board are well served.
- B. End of Year Fiscal Report: filings of State cases doubled over last year. Billed case had a slight decline. Filing fees that are overdue are being vigorously pursued.
- C. Electronic Filing of Grievance Arbitration Requests: the regulations require that the submission of the demand for arbitration be accompanied by the filing fee. Presently there is no way for the filing fee to be made electronically. Dennis Murphy, Esq., Chairman moved that the Board allow for the electronic filing of demands for arbitration and that electronically submitted demands for arbitration will be considered filed upon receipt of the fee in accordance with the regulations. David Ryan, Management Member, seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Director's Report

Director/Mediator Fitton reported that a violence prevention meeting was held at the Annex on June 3rd. Various improvements to the security in the building were discussed including the no weapons policy being highlighted on all the SBMA hearing notices, a weapons question being include in the sign in log, hand held panic buttons for the hearing rooms, and visitors being checked with a wand by the security guard. Ms. Fitton was pleased to report that Thomas McDonough, Esq. is progressing in his training as a mediator. Joseph Dubin is providing much of that training and is already being contacted directly by parties who want him as their mediator. The extension of Thomas Clifford's work time continues to be requested. Ms. Fitton further reported that she is scheduled to speak to a meeting of AFSCME Co. 4 staff representatives in either July or August. She will emphasize the mediation and arbitration services available through the SBMA.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made Dennis Murphy, Esq., Deputy Chairman, it was seconded by Raymond Shea, Labor Member, and was passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 9:41 a.m.

Patricia A. Fitton, Director