

STATE BOARD OF MEDIATION AND ARBITRATION

38 WOLCOTT HILL ROAD, WETHERSFIELD, CT 06109

MINUTES OF ARBITRATORS MEETING

MONDAY, MAY 20, 2019

An arbitrators meeting of the Connecticut State Board of Mediation and Arbitration was held on Monday, May 20, 2019 at 38 Wolcott Hill Road, Wethersfield, Connecticut, 06109.

Present: Gerald T. Weiner, Esq., Chairman
 David A. Ryan, Management Member
 Betty Kuehnel, Labor Member
 Raymond D. Shea, Labor Member

Excused Absence: Dennis C. Murphy, Esq. Deputy Chairman
 Michael C. Culhane, Management Member

Guests: Kurt Westby, Commissioner
 Patricia A. Fitton, Director/Mediator

The Monday, May 20, 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 March 18, 2019 was made by David Ryan, Management Member, and was seconded by Betty Kuehnel, Labor Member. The motion was passed unanimously.

Old Business

- A. Data for postponements and withdrawals for the months of March and April, 2019 were reviewed. It was noted that case withdrawals had increased. The Board is appreciative of Brigitte Bisson's ongoing efforts to track postponements and withdrawals.
- B. Awards: all outstanding arbitration awards have been received and there are no overdue awards at this time.
- C. The ongoing Motions to Vacate awards were reviewed. Particularly noted was an Application for Administrative Appeal. Carol Ceilo researched this issue and found that the SBMA is specifically exempt from the provisions that were cited. It was determined that the State Attorney Generals' Office did not need to intervene on behalf of the SBMA.
- D. The Board considered and unanimously rejected allowing electronic signatures on awards.
- E. The concern for the prevention of potential violence at the Annex will be addressed at a meeting on June 3rd.

New Business

- A. The Board Chair and the Deputy Chair received requests from a former state employee who had been terminated; this person was seeking redress from the SBMA regarding his/her termination. The Board requested Director/Mediator Fitton to respond appropriately to the individual.

Director's Report

Director/Mediator Fitton reported that a private sector union and employer, who were facing an imminent strike deadline, contacted her for mediation. A quick response to the mediation request resulted in a tentative agreement that averted the strike. Ms. Fitton was delighted to announce that at long last the full time and .4 part time mediator positions were to be filled effective May 24th. Thomas McDonough, former SBLR Assistant Agent will be the full time mediator and Joseph Dubin, who recently retired after almost nineteen years as a federal mediator, will be the .4 mediator. Commissioner Westby was thanked for his tireless efforts in filling these much needed

positions. All the disputed grievance filing fees were paid in full and any overdue fees are being vigorously pursued. Ms. Fitton further reported that she was scheduled to speak to a meeting of the state's Human Resource Directors and Labor Relations Specialists. She would inform them of the mediation and arbitration services available through the SBMA and would explain the positive effects on department budgets that could be realized through the SBMA services. The potential savings are particularly significant when the parties realize that many of the SBMA arbitrators are the same arbitrators that they usually access through very costly private dispute resolution services.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made David Ryan, Management Member; it was seconded by Raymond Shea, Labor Member, and was passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 9:20 a.m.

Patricia A. Fitton, Director