

CONNECTICUT STATE BOARD OF LABOR RELATIONS

**BOARD MEETING
January 11, 2010**

MINUTES

Present: John W. Moore, Jr., Patricia V. Low, Wendella A. Battey, Katherine C. Foley, Karen K. Buffkin, Alexandra Gross and Joanne Coligan

The meeting was called to order by John W. Moore, Jr., Chairman, at 11:00 a.m.

I. WELCOME NEW GENERAL COUNSEL

John Moore welcomed Karen K. Buffkin as the new General Counsel of the SBLR. Mr. Moore thanked Alex Gross for the fine job she did as Acting General Counsel since last February.

II. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

Upon a motion duly made by Patricia V. Low and seconded by Wendella A. Battey, the Board unanimously

VOTED to accept the Minutes of the December 17, 2009 Board Meeting as presented.

III. GENERAL COUNSEL'S REPORT

- a.) **Scheduling** - Alex Gross reported that Pat Low will notify the office as to what date in February she is available to schedule the MDC deliberations.
- b.) **Review of Records** - Alex reported that six records are due in January and five records are due in February, most of which have several extensions behind them.
- c.) **Litigation** - Alex reported that in **State of Connecticut Public Safety (appealed from Dec. #4249)**, she expects notification by January 26th regarding the date to be assigned for argument. In **Region 16 Board of Education (appealed from Dec. #4270)**, Alex reported that briefs have been submitted and we are waiting for an argument date from the CT Supreme Court. In **Town of Hamden (appealed from Dec. #4343)**, Alex reported that we are waiting for a pre-trial conference to be scheduled in CT Appellate Court.

IV. AGENT'S REPORT

- a.) **Postponement Request** - Kathy Foley reported that we received a fax from Attorney Stephen Sedor requesting that the Bridgeport Teacher's hearing (TPP-28,251), scheduled for February 18th, be postponed. His main witness was in an auto accident and will not be available for the February 18th hearing. Kathy advised the Board that "witness not available" falls under our policy for granting postponements. The Board unanimously granted the postponement.

- b.) **Mark Lewis** - Kathy Foley presented a brief chronology of the Mark Lewis case. She noted that Mark Lewis was fired from his job as a Probation Officer with the State 8 or 9 years ago. Six years later, he filed a complaint with the Labor Board. The Board dismissed the complaint. Two years later he filed two more complaints. These cases were dismissed, appealed and scheduled for a hearing. After a number of postponements and a no show, the Board dismissed the case. Lewis requested that the hearing be reopened which the Board granted. He was mailed a letter informing him that the Board granted his request along with notification that a hearing has been scheduled for March 22, 2010.
- c.) **Statistics** - Kathy Foley reported that 340 cases have been filed since July 1, 2009. This is 39 cases more than were filed last year at this time; 336 cases have been closed and 315 cases remain open.
- d.) **Petitions** - Kathy Foley reported that we are now in the window period for filing petitions. She noted that UPSEU has filed seven petitions so far - all raids, and six of the seven involve large Council 4 units. Kathy anticipates that Wayne Gilbert will be filing more petitions before its over.

Kathy stated that Peter Blum, who has been appointed Deputy Chairman of Mediation and Arbitration, praised the Labor Board for its decision in selecting Karen Buffkin for the General Counsel position.

V. **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the meeting, a motion was duly made by Patricia V. Low, seconded by Wendella A. Battey, and it was unanimously

VOTED to adjourn the meeting.