

STATE BOARD OF MEDIATION AND ARBITRATION

38 WOLCOTT HILL ROAD, WETHERSFIELD, CT 06109

MINUTES OF SBMA BOARD MEETING

Monday, July 17, 2023

A meeting of the Connecticut State Board of Mediation and Arbitration was held on Monday, July 17, 2023. This meeting was held virtually, via Teams.

Present: Gerald T. Weiner, Esq., Chairman
Dennis C. Murphy, Esq. Deputy Chairman
Betty Kuehnel, Labor Member
Peter Carozza, Labor Member
Michael Culhane, Management Member

Guest: Douglas Cho, Esq., Director/Mediator

Public Guests: Steven McEleheny
Richard Kosinski

The meeting of the State Board of Mediation and Arbitration was opened by Gerald T. Weiner, Chairman, at 8:30 a.m.

- 1) Minutes of Previous Meeting: A motion was made by Dennis Murphy to accept the minutes of the May 15, 2023, Board meeting. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.
- 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 two hundred and fifty (250) cases pending which is a slight decrease from 270;

scheduled cases increased from 105 to 160; rescheduled cases decreased from 35 to 25; and cases held in abeyance increased from 31 to 37.

- B. Review of Fiscal Year Figures: The SBMA fiscal year figures to date were compared to the past year and have decreased slightly; cases received to date have decreased from 258 to 220; revenues collected to date have also decreased slightly from \$113,850 to \$89,875; however, state cases filed to date have increased from 28 to 78.
- C. Outstanding Overdue Awards: There is one overdue award at this time, which is late by a few weeks; the public arbitrator indicated that it is in progress and should be sent to SBMA in the next week.
- D. Applications to Vacate: All open applications to vacate were briefly reviewed as to their status. One new application to vacate involving the Madison Police Department has been filed since the last Board meeting and was briefly summarized.
- E. Update on Summer Conference September 28, 2023. A brief discussion of the Summer Conference was held, and some possible speakers to invite reviewed.

3) New Business:

- A. Adding New Members to Review Panels for Interest Arbitration Awards: The Board discussed the current pool of arbitrators available to review interest arbitration awards that have been rejected by municipal legislative bodies, and the available persons of qualified AAA labor arbitrators who are eligible to serve on the review panel. Dennis Murphy moved that the Board authorize Douglas Cho to make selections from the list of qualified arbitrators any appointments to hear rejected interest arbitration awards, and Michael Culhane seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.
- B. The Board discussed problems scanning and signing arbitration awards, and a proposal to “/s/” sign arbitration awards in the future. Peter Carozza moved to support a change to “/s/” signatures of arbitration awards, and Betty Kuehnel seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

4) Director’s Report:

- A. Resignation of Lionel Williams: Mr. Williams recently resigned as an alternate labor arbitrator with the Board. The Board noted that he was appointed in 1995 by Governor Rowland and served for 28 years.

Comments from former SBMA Director Patricia Fitton were that he worked for AFT Connecticut for over 20 years; was the first field representative to introduce the use of computers at work; was an extremely adept negotiator, a very effective organizer; was responsible for bringing over numerous locals; and people considered him an excellent staff mentor. Gerry Weiner noted that he was a very nice person, a good arbitrator, very conscientious, hardworking, always came to an executive session fully prepared, and he was sorry to see him resign.

- 5) Motion to Adjourn: A motion to adjourn was made by Dennis Murphy and seconded by Gerry Weiner; the motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:56 a.m.

Douglas A. Cho, Esq.
Director/Mediator