



STATE OF WASHINGTON
PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT RELATIONS COMMISSION

MICHAEL P. SELLARS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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MINUTES

June 13, 2023

The regular meeting of the Public Employment Relations Commission was called to order
at 10:09 a.m.

PERC Conference Room
112 Henry Street NE, Suite 300
Olympia, Washington 98506

Those present and participating:
Marilyn Glenn Sayan, Chairperson
Mark R. Busto, Commissioner
Elizabeth Ford, Commissioner
Mike Sellars, Executive Director
Charity Atchison, Appeals Administrator
Vanessa Smith, Confidential Secretary

Also present in Olympia:

Herb Harris, Washington Federation of State Employees
Daniel Comeau, PERC, Labor Relations Adjudicator/Mediator
Dario de la Rosa, PERC, Unfair Labor Practice/Representation Administrator
Lynn Eccles, PERC, Legal Assistant
Matt Greer, PERC, Labor Relations Adjudicator/Mediator
Sean Leonard, PERC, Labor Relations Adjudicator/Mediator
Katie Sypher, PERC, Labor Relations Adjudicator/Mediator

Also present via Zoom:

Kristin Lamson, Office of the Attorney General
Bruce Glant, CAGE

Minutes of the Previous Meetings

The minutes of the previous meeting held on April 11, 2023, were adopted as presented.

Report of the Executive Director

1. Daniel Comeau, who left PERC at the beginning of the year, decided he preferred to be a neutral and came back. We are excited to have him back as of June 1.

2. Lorene Ross retired effective May 31, 2023, after 33½ years with the state. Mike and the Commission expressed thanks for her years of service.
3. The first in-person LERA conference since 2019 was held in Tacoma at the end of April. Registration was capped at 400 attendees, and the conference was a success. Mike thanked Matt Greer, Dario de la Rosa, Lisa Hartrich, and other staff for all their work in putting on the conference.
4. One of the new rules that went into effect in January allows clientele to request advisory opinions from the executive director. We received our first request from a state group, and Mike is currently working on the opinion.
5. PERC staff members Sean Leonard and Chris Casillas are currently mediating two strikes involving separate bargaining units at the University of Washington. It is unusual to see strikes outside of the K-12 sector, but they happen occasionally.
6. The Annual Report for 2022 was issued at the beginning of May. Mike thanked Vanessa for all her work in creating the report.
7. With respect to case statistics, we continue to see an ebb and flow throughout the year. June is steady so far but not high. The number of cases filed by self-represented individuals seems to have evened out this year, making up 15% of unfair labor practice complaints filed so far. Representation activity remains steady, and it has stayed high ever since 2019. A large number of cases filed in May were unfair labor practice complaints. Additionally, we are already almost to last year's number of decisions at this point of the year. Last year had the lowest number of examiner decisions and hearings held as far back as we could find. We are seeing more cases going to hearing this year.
8. We are approaching the end of the biennium. Because we have vacancies and no travel, we do not have budget concerns. The conference room upgrades discussed at the previous meeting are coming.

Court & Commission Docket

Charity provided an update on the case currently pending in court and a brief overview of the cases before the Commission. Lists of pending cases that have been appealed to court or the Commission are available on the agency website.

Consideration of Dispute Resolution Panel Application

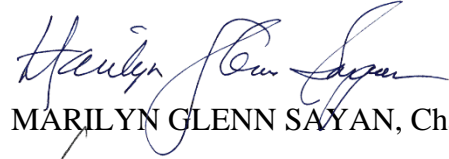
The Commission reviewed and unanimously accepted the application of Henry Farber for membership on the Dispute Resolution Panel. Arbitrator Farber will be referred for grievance arbitration cases.

Adjournment

There being nothing further to come before the Commission, the public meeting was adjourned at 10:36 a.m.

APPROVED at Olympia, Washington, this 12th day of September, 2023.

PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT RELATIONS COMMISSION



MARILYN GLENN SAYAN, Chairperson



MARK R. BUSTO, Commissioner



ELIZABETH FORD, Commissioner