

PERB Meeting Minutes

Date and Time: February 21, 2025 at 9:30 a.m.

Location: Bandana Square PERB/BMS Conf Room 7

Attendance

Board Members: Laura Cooper, Margaret Luger-Nikolai, Martin Munic

Alternate Board Members: Marlin Osthus, Scott Lepak, Dick Kaspari (remote)

PERB Staff: Jess Anna King, Executive Director/General Counsel; Jack Kall, Investigator; Kyle Reigen, Office Admin. Support; Sara Seid, Student Worker

1. CALL TO ORDER at 9:41 AM

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM January 17, 2025 MEETING

Luger-Nikolai moved, Munic second. Motion approved.

3. BOARD CHAIR REPORT

We will continue to cite US Supreme Court decisions in our work. We are not bound by NLRB decisions that may change with administrations, but they will continue to be instructive when interpreting PELRA.

4. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/GENERAL COUNSEL REPORT

- a. FY2025 Budget/Finance Update and FY26/27 Biennium Planning
Any balance in FY25, including rollover funds from FY24 will be returned to General Fund at fiscal year-end. Planning to invest current funds on website revamp using contractors rather than PERB staff. Revamp is expected to include a more robust search function for PERB orders and an online form for filing a ULP charge. Exploring sending 2-4 staff and board members to the ALRA annual conference for professional development. ALRA is the only association for other PERB/BMS agencies in other states and Canada. Will provide details as they come. Planning to fund another Odyssey Fund for future IT and agency technology needs. Expanded use of OF may allow for MyCase licenses in future years.
- b. Staffing – Investigator Sr. and Student Worker positions
Because of biennium budget uncertainty, currently holding off on Student Worker posting which is ready to go live. If we face reductions in funding, will need to reduce staffing and would start with Student Worker position. Increased interest and applications in Investigator Sr. position. The process is ongoing

with interviews happening. Exploring all options for staffing and balancing transparency to candidates of state budget process.

c. Legislative update

Governor's most recent budget maintained PERB funding at \$750,000, no proposed cuts, and proposed increase across all agencies at just over 1%.

Jess Anna King and Meg Luger-Nikolai provided a PERB overview to Senate Labor Committee. No request from the House.

d. Other

Bar association fees and dues: Motion to pay for bar association fees or bar dues for ED/GC by Luger-Nikolai, Munic second. Motion passed.

Training requests: Two new requests for training by PERB. Standard training will include an overview of ULPs under PELRA, and PERB process pursuant to PELRA and MN Rules 7325.

5. NEXT MEETINGS

Due to construction in PERB/BMS conference rooms some dates have been adjusted to use PELSB's conference room, next door to the PERB offices in Bandana Square. Our thanks to PELSB!

- a. Monday, March 24, 2025 at 9:30 a.m. (Bandana Square PELSB Conf Rm)
- b. Friday, April 18, 2025 at 9:30 a.m. (Bandana Square PELSB Conf Rm)
- c. Friday, May 23, 2025 at 9:30 a.m. (Bandana Square BMS/PERB Conf Rm)
- d. Friday June 27, 2025 at 9:30 a.m. (Bandana Square BMS/PERB Conf Rm)

6. OTHER

7. ACTIVE CASES

Pursuant to Minn. Stat. §179A.041, subd. 10, the meeting was closed at 10:28 for deliberations regarding active cases 24-U-001, 24-U-030, 24-U-059, 24-U-060, 24-U-061, 25-U-070, 25-U-075, 25-U-092, 25-U-093, and 25-U-105.

8. ADJOURN at 12:30 p.m.