

PERB Meeting Minutes

Date and Time: May 23, 2025 at 9:30 a.m.

Location: BMS Conference Room at 1021 Bandana Blvd. E, St. Paul, MN

Attendance

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

Alternate Board Members: Marlin Osthus, Dick Kaspari, Scott Lepak

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

1. CALL TO ORDER at 9:30 AM

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM April 18, 2025 MEETING

Munic moved, Luger-Nikolai second. Minutes approved.

3. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/GENERAL COUNSEL REPORT

a. Legislative update/FY26-27 Appropriations

Omnibus Bill that passed both chambers includes PERB budget of \$762,000 for FY26 and \$772,000 for FY27. Also, carry forward authority passed earlier this week allowing PERB to carry over funds between bienniums.

b. FY2025 Budget/Finance Update

FY 26 Budget – Budget work is underway to reduce unspent encumbrances. At the June meeting we will review the PERB's FY26 budget. As part of the FY change, we will reopen the HO RFP with an improved rate. We are working on the Interagency Agreement with the BMS regarding costs that should come to PERB and others that are BMS only.

Odyssey Fund - Determination will be part of proposed FY26 budget discussion. Odyssey fund lasts for 4 years. We've requested authority to fund it, but may alter how much we contribute.

c. Staffing – Investigator Sr. and Student Worker positions

Anna Cobb starts on June 25 as the new Investigator Sr.

The Student Worker position is not going to be filled for the summer. We will hire for the fall.

d. PERB Website Redesign and Update

PERB has decided on three priorities for the website update: search functions for decisions, documents, and research, a new FAQ page that can be updated, and a fillable online charge form. Currently we are assessing bids from vendors. Some updates may have independent costs such as the fillable online form. Board shared items they would like to see on the website including an essay of public sector labor law. Luger-Nikolai volunteered to assist in drafting language for the essay or annotating statutes on the website. PERB will reach out to stakeholders regarding what they need on our website.

e. PERB Staff Mediators

Pursuant to the conversation at the April Board meeting, trained Investigators may mediate as “PERB Staff” per Minnesota Rule 7325.0130 in cases they are not the assigned Investigator. The decision whether and when to assign will be made by the ED/GC.

f. Board Chair Selection and Member and Alternate Terms

Pursuant to Minn. Stat. 179A.041, subd. 1, at the June meeting, the Board will select one of its members to serve as chair for a term beginning July 1. Additionally, Board Member and Alternate terms are ending in December 2025 and January 2026. More information on timeline and process for that in the coming months.

4. NEXT MEETINGS

- a. Friday, June 27, 2025 at 9:30 a.m. (Bandana Square BMS/PERB Conf Rm)
- b. Friday, July 25, 2025 at 9:30 a.m. (Bandana Square BMS/PERB Conf Rm)
- c. Friday, August 29, 2025 at 9:30 a.m. (Bandana Square BMS/PERB Conf Rm)
- d. Friday, September 26, 2025 at 9:30 a.m. (Bandana Square BMS/PERB Conf Rm)

5. ACTIVE CASES

Pursuant to Minn. Stat. §179A.041, subd. 10, the meeting was closed at 10:51 a.m. for deliberations regarding active cases 24-U-030, 25-U-064, 25-U-071, 25-U-103, and 25-U-124.

6. ADJOURN at 11:35 AM