

PERB Meeting Minutes

Date and Time: July 17, 2026 at 9:30 a.m.

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

Attendance

Board Members: Laura Cooper, David Aron, Kathy Megarry

Alternate Board Members: Dick Kaspari and Marty Munic

PERB Staff: Jess Anna King, Executive Director/General Counsel; Molly Fischl, Investigator; Ikran Noor, Student Worker

1. CALL TO ORDER at 9:31 AM

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM JUNE 5, 2026 MEETING

Megarry moved, Aron second. Minutes approved.

3. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/GENERAL COUNSEL REPORT

a. Staffing

Investigators: Abby Frerick starts next week as a new Investigator Senior. In the process of opening a Temporary Investigator Senior position because of agency need. Will fund with FY carry forward. Will be adding additional permanent position to next budget request.

Law Clerk: Ikran Noor will be staying with the PERB for the fall semester. PERB will post Law Clerk position in the fall for the spring semester and summer.

HR: Closed meeting at 9:35 AM pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 13D.01, subd. 2(2). Re-opened at 9:44 AM.

b. Hearing Officers/CAH

Interagency Agreement with CAH in place; funds have been encumbered for services. Training is all day on 9/11/26. Osthus is the lead on the curriculum. Discussion of public data classification of training materials.

c. Budget/Finance/Legislative

FY27: Budget is entered but do not yet know carry forward amount.

FY28-29: Budget work underway for the Governor's Office budget for the next biennium. PERB will consider full-capacity funding and full-agency status instead of under the BMS for finances. The rationale for the proposals include: PERB staff is insufficient for the volume of ULP charges; CAH is going to cost more but will reduce administrative burden; and potential conflicts for reviewing challenges to BMS Commissioner decisions. Full-capacity funding would allow for an additional Investigator Sr, and additional position(s) for Paralegal and/or Program Director or Staff Attorney. Only savings from BMS are the finance savings which will eventually change, and the price will increase for BMS and PERB. Full-agency status would mean SmART does budget, finance, government relations, and HR. Ongoing discussions about all these items.

d. Website

New website is live. "File A Charge" page and "Decisions" search pages are still in progress.

5. NEXT MEETINGS

- a. Friday, August 28, 2026 at 9:30 a.m. (Bandana Square BMS/PERB Conf Rm)
- b. Friday, October 2, 2026 at 9:30 a.m. (Bandana Square BMS/PERB Conf Rm)
- c. Friday, November 20, 2026 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 10:08 a.m. for deliberations regarding active cases 24-U-010, 24-U-036, 26-U-161, 26-U-173, 26-P-177, 26-P-178, 26-P-197, and 26-U-208.

8. ADJOURN at 11:00 AM.