



TO: Pennsylvania Parole Board Members

FROM: Farrah Conjar
Executive Secretary II to the Chairman

DATE: June 10, 2021

RE: Board Meeting Minutes
May 19, 2021

In compliance with *Act 175*, known as the *Sunshine Law*, effective September 17, 1976, the Office of Board Secretary provided notification to the public of the scheduled meeting on May 19, 2021, of the Pennsylvania Parole Board.

The public meeting convened at 9:00 AM at Riverfront Office Center in Harrisburg, PA with Chairman Theodore Johnson presiding. A quorum of Board Members was present.

Attendance

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chairman Ted Johnson | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BD Member Leo Dunn | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BD Member Tony Moscato |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BD Member Maureen Barden | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BD Member Jim Fox | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BD Member Linda Rosenberg |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BD Member Khadija Diggs | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BD Member Mark Koch | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Alan Robinson, Chief Counsel | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Deb Carpenter, Board Secretary | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chad Allensworth, Chief Hearing Officer | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Scott Woolf, Director – Office of Board Secretary | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Neil Malady, Policy/Legislative Affairs | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Laura Treaster, Special Assistant | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Morgan Davis, Assistant Chief Counsel | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Meghan Dade, SOAB Executive Director | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Janaki Theivakumaran, SOAB | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Farrah Conjar, Executive Secretary | |
| | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> John Manning, Deputy Chief Counsel | |
| | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Suzanne Estrella, Office of Victim Advocate | |

The Chairman recognized public guests:
Mark Bergstrom, Pennsylvania Sentencing Commission

APPROVAL OF MARCH BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Board Member Fox motioned to approve the Parole Board minutes. Board Member Moscato seconded the motion. The Parole Board unanimously approved the minutes.

OFFICE AND STAFF REPORTS

Office of Victim Advocate (OVA) Report

There was no report from the Office of Victim Advocate.

Sexual Offenders Assessment Board (SOAB)

Sexual Offenders Assessment Board Executive Director Meghan Dade

- Completed round of training for new agents at BTA.
- Quarterly trainings for the rest of 2021 will be held virtually.
- Training will be held this Friday May 21, 2021 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. with Jill Levinson who is specialized in trauma informed care.
- Input from parole board was helpful.

Communications/Media Report

Special Assistant Laura Treaster

- Work was continuing on existing projects.

Policy and Legislative Affairs Report

Policy and Legislative Affairs Director Neil Malady

- Senate Bill 411 is in House Judiciary Committee. The House Judiciary Committee is attempting to introduce its own version of the legislation.
- House and Senate are in session for three days, will adjourn and come back June 7, 2021 for budget. Senator Brown needs to bring merger bill to budget table.
- Medical parole will be introduced by Senator Baker
- No new information to report on the two Board Member vacancies for the Board.
- BM Fox asked about Karen's Law. He would like all decision makers to be provided with a summary of Karen's Law.

Office of Chief Counsel Report

Chief Counsel John Manning

- Tim Keating is out on medical leave.
- On May 7, 2021 the legal office conducted a training with hearing examiners and the four new hearing agents. A lot of questions were asked and another training session will be conducted later this summer.

Office of Hearing Examiners Report

Chief Hearing Examiner Chad Allensworth

- Working on replacing the AA position.

Board Secretary Report

Board Secretary Deb Carpenter

- Conditions on the 361: Board will look at the 361 conditions and should update all at once. Put together a small work group to update conditions. BM Diggs and BM Fox will participate in the update of the conditions.
- Update from HR on Budget for the year: This year it looks we will have a surplus in personnel, not sure if that will hurt us next year. She said she did not know if that will impact our 2021-2022 final number, or if they will put funds in budgetary reserve.
- Telework: Commonwealth is working on a permanent telework plan. No union agreement has been reached as yet, so therefore we cannot train staff or roll out a schedule until union agrees.
- Updating conditions sent around this morning for Board Members to look at and send back to Deb. She said the topic would be discussed at next month's Board Meeting.
- Risk assessment: DOC decided on a model and included Marc Bergstrom in on the risk assessment. The target is fall to start using the assessment tool. Cannot incorporate until it is finalized with Mark Bergstrom.

Office of Board Secretary Report

Office of Board Secretary Director Scott Woolf

- Vote chart: Terminology on how the Board is referencing the voting for two or five vote cases is changing to be consistent with the law of majority or panel vote cases.
- Discussion with the Board Members about Juvenile lifers and Commutation cases with reference to the 2016 resolution. The question posed to the Board was whether these cases needed to be seen by every Board member or a majority of Board Members. *BM Dunn made a motion that Juvenile Lifer and Commutation cases for the initial interview should be reviewed by a majority of the Board. After they have had their initial interview, they should then be reviewed as a majority vote case. Additionally, at the initial interview, the majority vote is NOT a no vote by the Hearing Examiner and Board Member. Unlike other majority vote cases where if the initial panel refuses it is treated like a panel and voting stops. In Commutation and Juvenile Lifer cases voting continues and the majority votes are the result. BM Koch seconded the motion and the Board voted to approve.*
- *Board Member Fox motioned to designate the offense Aggravated Assault – Victim Less than 13 years of age as a majority vote case; currently the offense is a panel decision. The motion was not approved 3 Y: 4 N.*

OLD BUSINESS

Nothing to report.

ADDITIONAL REPORTS/PRESENTATIONS

Nothing to report.

ADJOURNMENT

At 09:50 AM Board Member Fox made a motion to adjourn the public session. The motion was seconded by Board Member Moscato. The Board Members voted unanimously to adjourn the public session.

SAW/FC