STATE OF CONNECTICUT

OFFICE OF STATE ETHICS

CITIZEN'S ETHICS ADVISORY BOARD
OFFICE OF STATE ETHICS
165 Capitol Avenue, Suite 1200, Hartford, CT 06106

MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 17, 2026 REGULAR MEETING

The Citizen's Ethics Advisory Board (Board) of the Office of State Ethics (OSE) held a Meeting on Thursday, September 17, 2026.

Chair of the Board, N. Beth Cook, called the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m.

The following Board members were present:

N. Beth Cook, *Chair*
Charles Chiusano, *Vice-chair*
Karess Cannon
Meaghan Cooper
Kenneth Greenberg
Cheryl Lipson
Laura Schuyler

The following staff members of the OSE were present:

Peter Lewandowski, *Executive Director*
Brian O'Dowd, *General Counsel*
Mark Wasielewski, *Ethics Enforcement Officer*
Sarah Clark, *Director of Education & Communications*
Marianne Sadowski, *Assistant General Counsel*
Diane Buxo, *Assistant General Counsel*
Sam Rosengren, *Assistant Ethics Enforcement Officer*
Jillian Wyrebek, *Associate Accounts Examiner*
Melissa Hamilton, *Clerk of the Citizen's Ethics Advisory Board / Paralegal Specialist, Legal Division*
Malissa Hurry, *Paralegal Specialist, Enforcement Division*

The following topics were addressed during the meeting:

1. The Minutes of the August 20, 2026 regular Board meeting were presented for approval.

On the motion of Ms. Lipson, seconded by Ms. Cannon, with Mr. Greenberg abstaining, the Board voted six to zero to approve the Minutes of the August 20, 2026 regular meeting.

2. The Minutes of the July 31, 2026 Special Meeting of the Nominations Committee were presented to the subcommittee members for approval.

On the motion of Ms. Lipson, seconded by Mr. Greenberg, the Nominations Committee voted two to zero to approve the Minutes of its July 31, 2026 special meeting.

3. Chair Cook began the chairperson's report recognizing several staff members of the OSE who recently celebrated 20 years or more of service with OSE. Then, she provided an update from the Strategic Plan subcommittee.

4. Associate Accounts Examiner Jillian Wyrebek presented two client lobbyist audit reports to the Board for approval:

(i) Dattco, Inc.

On the motion of Mr. Greenberg, seconded by Ms. Schuyler, the Board voted seven to zero to approve the audit report for Dattco, Inc.

(ii) Newport Academy

On the motion of Vice-chair Chiusano, seconded by Ms. Lipson, the Board voted seven to zero to approve the audit report for Newport Academy.

5. General Counsel O'Dowd presented the Petition for Advisory Opinion from Joseph Aresimowicz, chair of the State Marshal Commission. Mr. O'Dowd recommended that the Board approve the Petition.

On the motion of Vice-chair Chiusano, seconded by Ms. Lipson, the Board voted seven to zero to approve the Petition for Advisory Opinion submitted by Joseph Aresimowicz.

6. General Counsel O'Dowd presented the Legal Division report, noting the issuance of an informal staff opinion addressing whether a state agency may hire children of agency staff for paid durational research positions.

7. Ethics Enforcement Officer Wasielewski presented the Enforcement Division (Division) report and asked for a volunteer to serve as Hearing Officer for the Uniform Administrative Procedure Act (UAPA) hearings on November 12, 2026. Mr. Greenberg volunteered.

   In addition, Mr. Wasielewski provided the following highlights:

   - The Division participated in a UAPA hearing on September 10, 2026, regarding the alleged untimely filing of a Statement of Financial Interests (SFI).
   - Currently, there is one UAPA hearing scheduled for October 8, 2026, regarding the alleged late filing of a lobbyist's financial disclosure form, ETH-2D. The subject in that matter has submitted a counteroffer, which is scheduled to be discussed at today's meeting.
   - Yesterday, the Division settled Docket No. 2025-43, concerning a state employee's use of a state vehicle for personal financial gain.

8. Before the Board's discussion of a counteroffer related to the Matter of the Connecticut State Firefighters Association (Docket No. 2026-91 UL), Ms. Lipson left the room, as did Legal Division Attorneys Buxo and Sadowski.

   Mr. Wasielewski presented a counteroffer received from the subject concerning their alleged untimely filing of the second quarter ETH-2D. Following discussion of the counteroffer, the Board rendered its recommendation to Mr. Wasielewski.

9. Education & Communications Director Clark presented the Education & Communications report. She highlighted the following items from the written report:

- An article authored by Executive Director Lewandowski is set to be published in COGEL's [Council on Governmental Ethics Laws] October publication of The Guardian. The article will discuss balancing confidentiality and transparency.

- Attendance at the Government Digital Summit (with OSE's Information Technology Analyst II, Alaaeldin Ali), at which various state agencies introduced and discussed technologies their agencies have implemented or plan to implement, and a list of technological resources available to all state agencies was provided.

10. Executive Director Lewandowski presented the Executive Director report, addressing the following matters:

    - **Board Seat Vacancy.** An update was provided on the gubernatorial appointment.

    - **Biennium Budget Proposal.** OSE budget proposal for fiscal year 2028-2029 (for personal services and operating expenses) has been submitted.

    - **Systems Upgrade.** Meetings were recently held with potential vendors for the upgrades to OSE's SFI and lobbyist systems. Once proposals are received from the vendors, they will be submitted to the Office of Policy and Management in support of OSE's request for funding through the Bonding Commission.

    - **Personnel Update.** The hiring process for the vacant staff attorney position in the Enforcement Division is ongoing. Second round of interviews was recently held.

    - **Workspace Expansion.** Meetings with vendors and the Department of Administrative Services facilities staff will take place to discuss the addition of a workstation in the Enforcement Division.

    - **Legislative Proposals.** Discussions on potential legislative proposals for the next legislative session will begin at the October 15, 2026 meeting.

11. Public comments were requested, but none were provided. It was further noted that neither a Closed Session nor an Executive Session was required.

12. Adjournment

On the motion of Vice-chair Chiusano, seconded by Ms. Lipson, the Board voted seven to zero to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Melissa Hamilton
Clerk of the Citizen's Ethics Advisory Board
Office of State Ethics
Paralegal Specialist

October 15, 2026

Date approved.
(By the Citizen's Ethics Advisory Board)