

Connecticut Higher Education Trust (“CHET”) Advisory Committee Annual Meeting

Monday, December 10, 2021, 9:30 A.M. – 11:00 A.M.

Zoom Meeting / Public Webinar

<https://portal.ct.gov/OTT/Financial-Education/CHET/CHET-Advisory-Committee>

MINUTES

Members Present

Shawn T. Wooden, State Treasurer and Trustee of CHET
State Representative Kathleen M. McCarty, Ranking Member, Education Committee
State Representative Sean Scanlon, House Co-Chair, Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee
State Representative Holly Cheeseman, Ranking Member, Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee
Kerry Kelly, Interim CFO, Connecticut State Community College
Timothy D. Larson, Executive Director, Office of Higher Education
Patrick Torre, Associate Vice President for Finance, University of New Haven

Members Absent

State Representative Bobby Sanchez, House Co-Chair, Education Committee
State Senator Douglas McCrory, Senate Co-Chair, Education Committee
State Senator Eric C. Berthel, Ranking Member, Education Committee
State Senator John Fonfara, Senate Co-Chair, Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee
State Senator Henri Martin, Ranking Member, Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee
Steven McDowell Jr., Associate Vice President for Financial Aid Services and Title IX Services, Connecticut State Community College
Julie Savino, Executive Director, University Financial Assistance, Sacred Heart University
Holly Williams, Fiscal and Program Policy Section Director, Office of Policy and Management

Others Present

Darrell Hill, Deputy Treasurer, Office of the Treasurer
Ted Wright, Chief Investment Officer, Office of the Treasurer
Raynald Leveque, Deputy Chief Investment Officer, Office of the Treasurer
Peter Gajowiak, Senior Investment Officer, Office of the Treasurer
Raymond Tuohey, Executive Secretary, Office of the Treasurer
Claire Shaughnessy, AON Investments
Jared Newman, Fidelity Investments
Tony Durkin, Fidelity Investments
Ron Hazel, Senior Director, Retirement & College Savings – Advisor Plan, Fidelity Investments
Andrea Feirstein, AKF Consulting
Heather Zakian, Institutional Portfolio Management, Fidelity Investments
Dan Terio, Vice President, Asset Allocation Investment Product, Fidelity Investments
Gabriella Martin, Director of Public Affairs, Office of the Treasurer
Jessica Bialas, Director, 529 Investment Product, Fidelity Investments
Karina Henry, Administrative Assistant, Office of the Treasurer

Call to Order

Treasurer Shawn T. Wooden called the meeting to order at 9:33 a.m. He greeted the members virtually and welcomed them to the meeting. Treasurer Wooden then welcomed the newest members of the

CHET Advisory Committee to the meeting and delivered welcoming remarks that highlighted the activity of the office in 2021.

He then turned the meeting over to Deputy Chief Investment Officer Raynald Leveque to chair the remainder of the meeting.

Adoption of Minutes

Treasurer Wooden made a request to entertain a motion to approve the minutes from the prior meeting on December 7, 2020. A motion was made by State Rep. Sean Scanlon to approve the minutes, seconded by State Rep. Kathleen McCarthy. The minutes were approved with one minor correction by majority vote.

Presentation by the Office of the Treasurer

Raynald Leveque began his remarks by introducing the newly appointed Chief Investment Officer, Ted Wright, to the Committee members. He then briefed the Committee on the agenda for the meeting.

Raynald Leveque gave an overview of the conversion from TIAA-CREF (Direct) & Hartford Funds (Advisor) to Fidelity. Next, he discussed the benefits that Fidelity brings to improve investment outcomes to CHET. Lastly, he spoke to initiatives that will be enhancements to the CHET programs and highlighted those enhancements since the conversion to Fidelity Investments. State Rep. Kathleen McCarthy inquired about the Progressive glidepath benefit, and Mr. Leveque provided a brief overview of the benefit.

Presentation by Fidelity Investments

Tony Durkan, gave his opening remarks and introduced members of the Fidelity team. Ron Hazel gave a presentation of the CHET Advisor program and provided an overview of the 529 Industry Update. Jared Newman gave an overview of the CHET Direct program. He responded to questions from Rep. Kathleen McCarthy and Rep. Holly Cheesman about the CHET program. Heather Zakian provided a more detailed explanation of the investment philosophy and process regarding glide path strategic asset allocation.

Presentation by AKF Consulting

Andrea Ferstein discussed AKF's role in setting a baseline for the CHET program. She gave an overview of the 529 Savings Market, Trends and Developments, and commented on Morningstar Rating Methodology.

Next Meeting Date

Raynald Leveque announced plans to schedule a meeting in December 2022.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:06 AM.