



CT TEACHERS' RETIREMENT BOARD

765 ASYLUM AVENUE HARTFORD, CT 06105-2822

Toll free 1-800-504-1102 (860) 241-8400 Fax (860) 241-9295

“An Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer”

www.ct.gov/trb

MINUTES

September 2, 2015

2:00 pm

The meeting of the Teachers' Retirement Board was called to order at 2:10 pm by Chairperson Clare Barnett on Wednesday, September 2, 2015 at 765 Asylum Avenue, Hartford, CT.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Clare Barnett, Teacher Member
William Myers, Teacher Member
Al Bredehorst, Teacher Member
Clifford Silvers, Public Member
Jonathan Johnson, Public Member
Maureen Honan, Teacher Member
Rosalyn Schoonmaker, Teacher Member
Elaine Lowengard, Public Member
Lisa Mosey, Teacher Member
Deborah Spalding, Designee (Office of the State Treasurer)
Gregory Messner, Designee (Office of Policy and Management)

BOARD MEMBERS NOT IN ATTENDANCE:

Kathy Demsey, Designee (State Department of Education)
Charles Higgins, Public Member

STAFF PRESENT:

Darlene Perez, TRB Administrator
Shantelle Varrs, Fiscal Administrative Manager
Charlene Hill, Administrative Assistant

OTHERS PRESENT:

Robyn Kaplan-Cho, CEA
Thomas Singleton, ARTC
Thomas Danehy, CAPSS
Karen Nolen, OPM
Tom Lally, TRB Benefit Consultant
Holly Governali, Stirling Benefits
Rick Follman, ARTC
Walt Ciplinski, Retiree

Open meeting –Chairperson, Clare Barnett

Clare welcomed Lisa Mosey who rejoined the Teachers' Retirement Board as a Teacher member effective July 1, 2015.

1. Agency Report:

Darlene Perez discussed three legal issues the agency has responded to including a formal complaint brought against the agency by two retirees for not supplying information the agency deems as protected by HIPAA, the agency trying to recoup post death benefit payments from a deceased member's estate that is now in the "unclaimed funds" in the Treasurer's Office, and a lawsuit that was brought against the State of CT. These legal issues have consumed a great deal of Darlene's and the staff's time.

Staffing

The hiring for three vacant positions in the Fiscal Division have been postponed until the moratorium that has been placed is lifted.

2. Approval of the June 24, 2015 Meeting Minutes.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the June 24, 2015 meeting minutes. All members voted in favor and the motion was passed (with two abstentions, Rosalyn Schoonmaker and Elaine Lowengard due to absence.)

3. Consideration and Approval of the Administrator's Actions regarding:

- a) Granting of service retirement benefits for the months of June, July, and August, 2015.
- b) Survivor benefits for the months of June, July, and August, 2015.
- c) Reports & recommendations of the Medical Review Committee regarding applications for Disability Payments as presented to the Medical Review Committee at the June, July, and August, 2015 meeting.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the granting of service retirement, survivor benefits and applications for a disability allowance for the months of June, July, and August, 2015. All members voted in favor and the motion was passed.

4. Consideration and Approval of rate changes for the health benefit programs offered by the TRB as recommended and presented by the Board's Benefit Consultant, Tom Lally.

Tom discussed the new rates for the medical and drug, dental, vision and hearing programs effective January 1, 2016. The retiree contribution per member per month for medical and drug will be \$95, the dental contribution will be \$48, and the vision and hearing contribution will be \$5, for a total combined contribution of \$148 for all coverages.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the new health benefit program rates effective January 1, 2016. All members voted in favor and the motion was passed.

5. Status report on Audit Recommendations provided by Bill Myers.

Bill advised that the audit committee will continue to meet on a monthly basis. Mark Aronowitz and Mike Janusko, two Temporary Workers Retired who were assigned to audit the agency books, last day at TRB was August 19, 2015. On August 18, 2015 Mark and Mike met with OPM and the Comptroller's office to present their final report. Bill discussed the work Mark and Mike did while at TRB including but not limited to providing oversight of all financial operations of the TRB, reconciling the internal records of the TRB with the States system of accounting (CORE-CT), overseeing the development of a plan to correct the findings of the auditor's report dated September 11, 2014, overseeing the development and documentation of proper policies and procedures for handling the accounting of the TRB's health funds. Included in their final report, Mark and Mike recommended the TRB have access to legal counsel and the hiring of an Assistant Administrator. The audit committee will continue to meet and report back to the Board.

The General Consultant at the Treasurer's Office is doing an asset allocation and study on how much of the money that is in the medical fund can be put into the Trust.

Darlene Perez discussed the status of TRB acquiring outside legal counsel. The type of specialized technical legal counsel the TRB is seeking includes expertise in governmental pension systems, plans that are exempt from ERISA, and Federal regulations. Darlene discussed the Attorney General's Opinion in regards to post retirement re-employment as an example of the special expertise that is needed. The Attorney General's Office has been asked for assistance by confirming they do not have anyone in their office with the special expertise needed by the TRB so progress is being made in this area.

MATTERS FOR THE BOARD INFORMATION:

Retirement Statistics for the months of June, July, and August, 2015.

COMMENTS FROM OBSERVERS:

Rick Follman asked if the deductible will remain the same. Tom Lally advised that the deductible will be \$360.00 in year 2016.

Rick Follman asked for clarification for the dental extension. Darlene Perez advised that the extension for the dental will be for the calendar year 2016.

ADJOURNMENT – 2:40 PM