



CT TEACHERS' RETIREMENT BOARD

765 ASYLUM AVENUE HARTFORD, CT 06105-2822

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

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DRAFT MINUTES

November 7, 2018 at 3:00 pm

The meeting of the Teachers' Retirement Board was called to order at 3:05 p.m. by Chairperson, Clare Barnett on Wednesday, November 7, 2018.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Clare Barnett, Teacher Member
William Myers, Teacher Member
Charles Higgins, Public Member
Jonathan Johnson, Public Member
Lisa Mosey, Teacher Member
Steven Muench, Teacher Member
Melissa McCaw, Public Member
William Murray, Teacher Member
Stephen McKeever, Teacher Member, AFT
Laurie Martin, Office of the State Treasurer
Gregory Messner, Office of Policy and Management

BOARD MEMBERS NOT IN ATTENDANCE:

Kathy Demsey, State Department of Education

STAFF PRESENT:

Helen Sullivan, Administrator
Charlene Hill, Assistant to the Administrator

OTHERS PRESENT:

John Garrett, Cavanaugh Macdonald Consulting, LLC
Ben Mobley, Cavanaugh Macdonald Consulting, LLC
James Stirling, Stirling Benefits
Robyn Kaplan-Cho, CEA
Karen Nolen, OPM
Dr. Joe Fields, TRB Health Consultant
Walt Ciplinski, Retired Teacher
Ken Poppe, CEA-ARTC, Retired Teacher
Mary Hendrickson, Retired Teacher
June Pinkin, HFT-Retirees
Christina Gellman- OFA
Rick Follman, ARTC

Open meeting – Chairperson

Chairperson, Clare Barnett announced that long time board member Elaine Lowengard has resigned from serving on the board effective October 1, 2018. Clare thanked Elaine for serving on the Board expressing her appreciation on behalf of the Board and active and retired teachers for her dedication to attending the meetings, always being prepared and her willingness to serve on selection, appeal and other committees when asked. In addition, State Senator, Beth Bye was in attendance and also thanked Elaine for her service. Senator Bye presented Elaine with a Citation on behalf of herself, Senator McCrory and Majority Leader Matt Ritter for Elaine's more than two decades of service, her diligence and integrity.

1. Consideration and Approval of the June 30, 2018 Actuarial Valuation Report, presented by John Garrett, Actuary from Cavanaugh Macdonald Consulting.

John Garrett and Ben Mobley, Actuaries from Cavanaugh Macdonald Consulting, LLC provided a presentation of the actuarial valuation of the assets and liabilities of the System as of June 30, 2018 which included but was not limited to general observations, historical trend information, valuation results and contribution rates and projection of funded ratio.

A discussion followed.

A motion was made by Greg Messner and seconded by Bill Murray to approve the June 30, 2018 Actuarial Valuation Report. All members voted, with one opposed, Laurie Martin and one abstention, Charles Higgins; all other members voted in favor and the motion was passed.

Chairperson, Clare Barnett advised that discussions regarding further reducing the discount interest rate are ongoing.

2. Consideration and Approval of the recommendation from the Vendor Selection Committee on the Actuarial Services RFP process results.

Bill Murray discussed the Actuarial Services RFP process. After careful review of the proposals submitted, the Vendor Selection Committee unanimously voted to recommend Cavanaugh Macdonald Consulting, LLC to continue to provide actuarial services to the TRB.

A motion was made by Bill Murray and seconded Charles Higgins to approve the recommendation of the Vendor Selection Committee to select Cavanaugh Macdonald Consulting as the Actuarial Consultant for the TRB. All members voted in favor and the motion was passed.

3. Agency Report :

Health Insurance/Open Enrollment:

Helen Sullivan, TRB Administrator confirmed that the health insurance open enrollment launched on October 15, 2018. A mass mailing was conducted and information was sent out to every member regardless of what plan the member had. TRB Consultant, Dr. Joe Fields along with Helen conducted a statewide effort of open enrollment meetings. Meetings were held in all counties except one. There were a total of 12 meetings that were held. The meetings were also streamed live online via webinar for those who could not attend the meetings. Members also had the option of calling in to listen to the meetings. Overall the meetings went well and the responses have been positive. The open enrollment period is scheduled to close on November 15, 2018 however, it may be extended an extra week for members to be sure they're making the right decision. Changes are being tracked and have been minimal for both carriers. We will continue to be in contact with both carriers and monitor changes on a daily and weekly basis.

Annual Statements:

Helen announced that member Annual statements will be going out at the end of December to all active and inactive teachers.

Staffing Update:

We are in the process of hiring an Assistant Accountant and two financial clerks. We received a huge response especially to the financial clerk posting so we are still going through the recruitment process and hope to fill the positions quickly. In addition, one of our Accounting Career Trainee's has been promoted to Accountant.

4. Consideration and Approval of the Board Meeting Minutes for October 3, 2018.

A motion was made by Bill Myers and seconded by Lisa Mosey to approve the meeting minutes for October 3, 2018. All members voted in favor (with one abstention, Melissa McCaw due to absence) and the motion was passed.

5. Consideration and Approval of the Appeal Subcommittee's recommendation.

Bill Murray discussed a member's appeal to purchase service. The member was not able to meet statutory requirements or provide the proper documentation required therefore, the subcommittee recommended to the Board to uphold the decision to deny the member's appeal.

A motion was made by Bill Murray and seconded by Charles Higgins to approve the Appeal Subcommittee's recommendation to deny the member's appeal. All members voted in favor and the motion was passed.

6. Certification and Approval of Nomination Petitions.

Petitions were received from two retired teachers (Clare Barnett, William Murray) and two active teachers (Lisa Mosey, Steven Muench) for the term beginning July 1, 2019. Chairperson, Clare Barnett discussed the petition process and confirmed that the four nomination petitions received met all of the requirements for qualification and the signatures were verified.

A motion was made by Bill Myers and seconded by Charles Higgins to approve the nomination petitions for Clare Barnett, Bill Murray, Lisa Mosey and Steven Muench. All members voted in favor and the motion was passed.

7. Consideration and Approval of the Administrator's actions regarding:

- a. Granting of service retirement benefits for the month of October, 2018
- b. Survivor benefits for the month of October, 2018.
- c. Reports & recommendations of the Medical Review Committee regarding applications for Disability Payments as presented to the Medical Review Committee at the October, 2018 meeting.

A motion was made by Lisa Mosey and seconded by Bill Murray to approve the granting of service retirement, survivor benefits and applications for a disability allowance for the month of October, 2018. All members voted in favor and the motion was passed.

8. Consideration and Approval of the 2019 COLA increase of 1.5% for those who retired on or after September, 1992 and an increase of 1% for those who joined the system on or after July 1, 2007.

A motion was made by Bill Myers and seconded by Lisa Mosey to approve the 2019 COLA increase. All members voted in favor and the motion was passed.

MATTERS FOR THE BOARD INFORMATION:

Retirement Statistics for the month of October, 2018.

At 4:00 p.m. A motion was made by Bill Myers and seconded by Bill Murray to go into Executive Session. All members voted in favor and the motion was passed.

The Board came out of executive session at 4:10 p.m.

A motion was made by Steven Muench and seconded by Bill Myers to approve the personnel discussion held in executive session. All members voted in favor and the motion was passed.

COMMENTS FROM OBSERVERS:

Comments from observers included Jamie Stirling thanking Elaine Lowengard for many years of service on the Board. Additional information regarding the COLA was requested and the member was advised of information posted on the website. An inquiry was made as to how the Board will evaluate the insurance plan changes during the time period from July to December? And, what role would retired teachers play in that evaluation? The member suggested that retirees who have experience with the plan may be beneficial with assisting with the evaluation.

Chairperson, Clare Barnett advised that there will be some surveys conducted in regards to the health insurance changes and open enrollment. It will give us a balanced picture of how members are assessing how well things are going.

ADJOURNMENT:

With no other comments or announcements, a motion was made by Bill Murray and seconded by Lisa Mosey to adjourn the meeting. All members voted in favor and the motion was passed.

The meeting adjourned at 4:20 p.m.