



**CT TEACHERS' RETIREMENT BOARD**  
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**MINUTES**  
**Teachers' Retirement Board**  
**April 21, 2021**

A regular meeting of the Teachers' Retirement Board was held virtually on April 21, 2021. The meeting convened at 3:00 p.m.

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Clare Barnett, Chair, Retired Teacher Member  
William Murray, Vice-Chair, Retired Teacher Member  
John Flores, Office of the State Treasurer  
Lisa Heavner, Public Member  
Charles Higgins, Public Member  
Kathleen Holt, Public Member  
Jonathan Johnson, Public Member  
Stephen McKeever, Active Teacher Member, AFT  
Gregory Messner, Office of Policy and Management  
Steven Muench, Active Teacher Member  
Thomas Nicholas, Active Teacher Member  
Keith Norton, State Department of Education

**ABSENT:**

Lisa Mosey, Active Teacher Member

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Helen Sullivan, Administrator  
Charlene Hill, Assistant to the Administrator  
Javiel Resto, IT  
Keith Petit, IT  
Amanda Harley, RBO

**ALSO PRESENT:**

Terry DeMattie, Segal Consulting  
Karen Nolen, OPM  
Bill Myers, Retired Teacher

Walt Ciplinski, RTHA  
Rita McDougald-Campbell, Retired Teacher  
Mary Hendrickson, Farmington Valley RTA, ARTC, RTHA  
Mc Cyril Espanol, Pageant Media  
Daniel Diodato, Pageant Media  
Paula Bacolini, ARTC, RTHA  
Jackie Fastaia, ARTC

## **Call to Order**

Chairperson Barnett called the regular meeting of the Teachers' Retirement Board to order at 3:04 pm.

### **1. Executive Session to discuss a security matter**

A motion was moved by Steve Muench and seconded by Greg Messner to enter executive session. The Board voted unanimously in favor to enter executive session and the motion was passed.

The Board entered executive session at 3:07 p.m.

The Board exited executive session at 3:24 p.m.

### **2. February 10, 2021 Board Meeting Minutes**

A motion was moved by Charles Higgins and seconded by Steve McKeever to approve the meeting minutes for February 10, 2021. The Board voted with 7 in favor and 4 abstentions. John Flores, Lisa Heavner, Thomas Nicholas, and Keith Norton were not in attendance at the February 10, 2021 meeting. The motion was passed.

### **3. New Board Members**

Chairperson Barnett introduced two new board members. John Flores, General Counsel for the Office of the State Treasurer (OTT) will serve as the designee for the OTT. Lisa Heavner, a former First Selectwoman will serve as a public member.

3:30 pm Bill Murray re-entered the meeting.

### **4. Agency report**

#### **Staffing:**

Administrator Sullivan provided the agency report. Fiscal Administrative Manager, Loc Pho has accepted a new position at the new FMLA agency. His last day at TRB is May 6, 2021. Another retirement examiner position has been filled in our benefits division.

The new person will be starting in a couple weeks. We also have Keith Petit who is a new hire to our IT division.

### **Health Insurance Update:**

Our health insurance plans have been running very smooth. Our website contains satisfaction reports and information on how we're doing. The Medicare Advantage prior authorization approved first contact rate for inpatient is 92.6%, outpatient authorization approvals are at 97.2% and diagnostic tests is averaging 94.2%. There are cases in which additional information may be required for the approval process. These numbers are for first quarter 2021. There has been a small influx in calls for the Express Scripts plan but it's being managed well. The Anthem Medicare Supplement team moved to a new platform, so their call response time was a little slower during that transition period, but they have improved since getting that platform up and running

### **Technology Enhancements:**

Our FileNet program that we have been working on for a little over a year will be going live in the next couple weeks. This program will be instrumental for staff. Over 2000 square feet of our paper records have been scanned into this program that is easy to maintain and utilize. Loc and the team have also built some other programs as a work around for our pension software system which are on the website including a member statement section to assist the active teachers and a much-improved pension calculator that Javiel did a great job revamping. We have been working with the IT optimization team. We hope to provide some self-service options on our website in the next several months. We would really like to get our outdated pension system updated. We are very positive and will provide updates as we get them.

## **5. Administrator's actions regarding:**

- a. Granting of service retirement benefits for the months of February and March 2021.
- b. Survivor benefits for the months February and March 2021.
- c. Reports & recommendations of the Medical Review Committee regarding applications for Disability Payments as presented to the Medical Review Committee at the February and March 2021 meetings.

A motion was moved by Bill Murray and seconded by Charles Higgins to approve the granting of service retirement, survivor benefits and applications for a disability allowance for the months of February and March 2021. All members voted unanimously in favor and the motion was passed.

## **MATTERS FOR THE BOARD INFORMATION:**

Retirement Statistics for the months of February and March 2021.

## **OBSERVER COMMENTS:**

Rita McDougald-Campbell thanked the board for having a video feed so observers can see who is in the meeting and any exhibits that might be presented.

Paula Bacolini thanked the board for having the video feed but commented that it was difficult to get on and suggested another format for simpler, easier access.

Bill Myers welcomed the two new board members and thanked Administrator Helen and everyone at the agency for all their work. He is looking forward to the continued technology enhancements.

## **ADJOURNMENT:**

With no other comments or announcements, a motion was moved by Steve McKeever and seconded by Bill Murray to adjourn the meeting. All members voted unanimously in favor to adjourn the meeting and the motion was passed.

The meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m.