



CT TEACHERS' RETIREMENT BOARD

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MINUTES
Teachers' Retirement Board
November 3, 2021

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

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Clare Barnett, Chair, Retired Teacher Member
William Murray, Vice-Chair, Retired Teacher Member
Joslyn Delancey, Active 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
Gregory Messner, Office of Policy and Management
Lisa Mosey, Active Teacher Member
Keith Norton, State Department of Education

ABSENT:

Stephen McKeever, Active Teacher Member, AFT
Thomas Nicholas, Active Teacher Member

STAFF PRESENT:

Helen Sullivan, Administrator
Charlene Hill, Assistant to the Administrator
Keith Petit, Fiscal Administrative Manager
Javiel Resto, IT Analyst
Amanda Harley, Retirement Benefits Officer

ALSO, PRESENT:

Bruce Barth, Robinson & Cole
John Garrett, Cavanaugh Macdonald Consulting
Ben Mobley, Cavanaugh Macdonald Consulting
Terry DeMattie, Segal Consulting

Daniel Rhodes, Segal Consulting
Jennifer Slutzky, Segal Consulting
Karen Nolen, OPM
Robyn Kaplan-Cho, CEA
Christina Gellman, OFA
Bill Myers
Rita McDougald-Campbell
Susan Schmidek
Steven Manning
Barbara Oppedisano
Mary Hendrickson
J Wilson
Kenneth Poppe

Call to Order

Vice-Chair Bill Murray called the regular meeting of the Teachers' Retirement Board to order at 3:11 p.m.

1. Executive Session:

At 3:13 p.m. the Board entertained a motion to enter executive session with Administrator Helen Sullivan and Attorney Bruce Barth to discuss litigation. The motion was moved by Charles Higgins and seconded by Keith Norton. All members voted unanimously in favor and the motion was passed.

At 3:40 p.m. A motion was moved by Greg Messner and seconded by John Flores to exit executive session. All members voted unanimously in favor and the motion was passed.

2. Approval of the September 8, 2021 Board Meeting Minutes:

A motion was moved by Charles Higgins and seconded by Bill Murray to approve the September 8, 2021 meeting minutes. All members voted in favor with two abstentions Kathleen Holt and Keith Norton and the motion was passed.

3. Agency report provided by Helen Sullivan, Administrator:

Health Insurance OE Update:

The UnitedHealthcare team attended the CEA luncheon. They have completed three weeks of open enrollment meetings virtually and in person. The open enrollment meetings have been going very well. The dedicated UnitedHealthcare website is launched and TRB's website is updated. The written materials are ahead of schedule. We have been getting great feedback on the presentations and communications that were sent out. We received some emails and phone calls from members prior to the start of the open enrollment meetings. A lot of the calls and emails have slowed down and pretty

much stopped, now that we've had the meetings. Terry, Helen and Amanda attended the meetings. The feedback has been wonderful. People seem to be very receptive. The UnitedHealthcare team did a remarkable job during COVID. They added additional meetings, were prepared for overflow, followed CMS guidelines, had additional staff to greet people, and staff available to answer pharmacy questions, network questions, gym questions, and an AV team to run the webinars. There were some additional benefits to the Medicare Advantage program so information was put in handbags to explain some of those additional programs. The presentations and information are online on the UnitedHealthcare website as well as the TRB website. Helen thanked the TRB staff for answering calls and emails to answer members' questions.

Staffing Update:

A new position Assistant Administrator, State Program Manager has been approved and an internal candidate, Charlene Hill has been selected for the position. We are completing the final steps with HR. The IT Analyst position has been filled. Naomi Calvi has accepted the position and has started in that role. She has been doing very well and exceeding our expectations.

Clare advised Helen's evaluation has been completed. Helen has done outstanding work which can't all be fit into the evaluation. A lot has gone on in the past year including COVID, moving to a new office, and digitizing records. Helen has been doing a tremendous amount of top-quality work.

At 4:00 pm Kathleen Holt exited the meeting.

Clare thanked the Treasurer for giving the Teachers' Retirement System a portion of the surplus money, somewhere between \$903 and \$906 million dollars. The Treasurer was also able to give some money to the State Employees Retirement System. Clare, John Flores, and John Garret will be in discussions with the Treasurer regarding the placement of the money TRB received. The Senators from appropriations will also be interested in the outcome of those conversations.

4. Approval of the 2022 COLA Increase:

- 5.9% for members who retired on or after September 1, 1992 and joined the system prior to July 1, 2007 (January and July COLA).
- 5% for members who retired on or after September 1, 1992 and joined the system on or after July 1, 2007 (January and July COLA).
- 5% for members who retired prior to September 1, 1992 (January COLA) pending information received from the National Consumer Price Index (CPI).

A motion was moved by Lisa Mosey and seconded by Charles Higgins to approve the January 2022 COLA increase. All members voted unanimously in favor and the motion was passed.

5. Approval of the 2022 Board Meeting Schedule:

A motion was moved by Lisa Mosey and seconded by Keith Norton to approve the 2022 board meeting schedule. All members voted unanimously in favor and the motion was passed.

6. Approval of the Administrator's actions regarding:

- a. Granting of service retirement benefits for the months of September and October 2021.
- b. Survivor benefits for the months of September and October 2021.
- c. Reports & recommendations of the Medical Review Committee regarding applications for Disability Payments as presented to the Medical Review Committee at the September and October 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 September and October 2021. All members voted unanimously in favor and the motion was passed.

MATTERS FOR BOARD INFORMATION:

Retirement Statistics for the months of September and October 2021.

Clare advised on the advice of the TRB attorney, any comments regarding pending litigation will be muted as they are not allowed to be entered into record.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Rita McDougald-Campbell thanked the Board for providing a screen saver advising attendees when the Board is in executive session. She advised that the bags given out at the open enrollment meetings contained Medicare advantage information but not Medicare supplement information. She also advised that many people including herself has not receive the open enrollment mailing yet.

Bill Myers thanked the Board, Helen, and the agency for their hard work. He also welcomed the new IT Analyst Naomi Calvi and congratulated Charlene Hill on her new position.

Clare Barnett also welcomed Naomi Calvi and congratulated Charlene Hill.

ADJOURNMENT:

With no other comments or announcements, the meeting adjourned at 4:11 p.m.