



## **CT TEACHERS' RETIREMENT BOARD**

165 CAPITOL AVENUE HARTFORD CT 06106  
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# **MINUTES**

## **September 7, 2022**

A regular meeting of the Teachers' Retirement Board was held virtually on September 7, 2022. The meeting convened at 3:06 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  
Kathleen Holt, Public Member  
Jonathan Johnson, Public Member  
Gregory Messner, Office of Policy and Management  
Lisa Mosey, Active Teacher Member

### **ABSENT:**

Thomas Nicholas, Active Teacher Member  
Charles Higgins, Public Member  
Stephen McKeever, Active Teacher Member, AFT  
Keith Norton, State Department of Education

### **STAFF PRESENT:**

Helen Sullivan, Administrator  
Charlene Hill, Assistant Administrator  
Bob Ribera, Fiscal Administrative Manager  
Amanda Harley, Retirement Benefits Officer  
Elise Chase, Retirement Examiner  
Naomi Calvi, IT Analyst

### **ALSO PRESENT:**

Bruce Barth, Robinson &  
Cole  
Karen Nolen, OPM  
Christina Gellman, OFA

Terry DeMattie, Segal  
Consulting  
Robyn Kaplan-Cho, CEA  
Tammy Gowash

Darlene Angelucci,  
Marcum LLP  
Bill Myers  
Walt Ciplinski

Paula Bacolini  
Kathleen Hennessey  
Barbara Oppedisano  
Noreen and Jack Scafuri  
Mary Hendrickson  
Susan Schmidek  
Fonda Green  
Bonnie Lieberman  
Janet Jakoboski  
Steve Radin  
Susan Curzi  
Deena Begin  
Nancy Eastlake  
Bob Bonato  
James Farrell  
Linda Stark  
Lili Walker  
Lynne Allen  
Mary Ellen Larson  
Molly Mcdonald  
John Sieller  
Margaret Rick  
Pat Tomchik  
Debby Szajnberg  
Gerri Frankel  
Christine Bruemmer  
Michael Fass  
Michael Kaprove  
Hollis Hartford  
Jackie Norcel  
Kathryn Belmont  
Agnes Riera  
Mary Jane Peterson  
Harry Kropp  
Donna Coble  
M. Yalanis  
Mimi Hostetter  
Kathleen Rasket  
Pat M  
Aggie Fleming  
Fern Cohen  
Susan Furmanski  
Jackie Dunn  
Gretchen Davis  
Peter Mars  
Mary Connolly

Howard Levy  
Brenda Friedler  
Theresa Govert  
Ken Black  
Maureen Shea  
Donna DuBaldo  
Rita McDougald-Campbell  
Nancy Moskowitz  
K Sschmidt  
Ann Jones  
Gloria Lebetkin  
Linda Fein  
Patty Linardos  
Meryl Sloate  
Don Mitchell  
Laurie Boske  
Connie Houde  
Linda S.  
June Pinkin  
Lois Wallman  
Bonnie Barnes  
Joyce and Tom Flynn  
Margaret Kundahl  
Rhea Klein  
Sandra Fiersteun  
Cynthia McLane  
Christine Viala  
Melvin Aden  
Robin River  
Andrea Aron  
Dona Hansen  
Don H.  
Rose Marie D'Aquila  
Diane Forbes  
Mary Freeman  
Deb Kovachi  
Rochelle Holder  
Miriam Lappen  
David Downes  
Beth Bren  
Sara Kemmer  
Kathy Coyle  
Christine Wilmes  
Audrey  
Sue Cohen  
Bob Knight

Lucy Petrella  
Rosemary Powers  
Charlotte Cooper  
Jeannette Saunders  
Joyce Krasner  
Maureen Campbell  
Janis Isenberg  
Barbara Kmetz  
Jerry Stevens  
Carol Noble  
Donna Hayford  
Joan B.  
Nancy Charest  
Rosemary Seaman  
Lorry Given  
Jennifer Lee  
Judy S.  
Virginia Millington  
Chris  
Judy  
Kenso  
Kathy  
Dawn  
Dorothy  
Ellen  
Sandy  
Barb  
Belloka  
Vanessa  
Don H.  
Jim B  
Patricia  
PMC  
Linda  
Jane  
KHD  
AJF  
Joyce  
Pat  
Leta  
Merrie  
Sheri  
Paula  
A Deloge  
Judie  
P R

## **Call to Order**

Chairperson, Clare Barnett called the regular meeting of the Teachers' Retirement Board to order at 3:00 p.m.

### **1. Approval of the June 22, 2022 Board Meeting Minutes:**

A motion was moved by Bill Murray and seconded by Lisa Mosey to approve the meeting minutes for June 22, 2022. All members voted in favor and the motion was passed.

### **2. Approval of the GASB No. 68 and GASB No. 75 Independent Audit reports:**

Darlene Angelucci, Marcum LLP presented the independent audit report and advised, it is the opinion of Marcum LLP, that the schedule of employer allocations and schedule of pension and OPEB amounts by employer in the reports present fairly, in all material respects, the expected employer contribution effort for allocation purposes, the State of Connecticut's proportionate share of the net pension and OPEB liability associated with the employer, and the employer pension and OPEB expense and revenue of all participating entities for the Connecticut Teachers' Retirement System as of and for the year ended June 30, 2021. There were no issues or areas of concern to report from either of the audits.

A motion was moved by Lisa Mosey and seconded by Bill Murray to approve the independent audits of the June 30, 2021 GASB No. 68 and GASB No. 75 reports. All members voted in favor and the motion was passed.

### **3. Approval of Health Insurance Premium Effective January 1, 2023:**

Administrator Helen Sullivan and Terry DeMattie, Segal Consulting provided the health insurance premiums effective January 1, 2023. The premiums are as follows:

Cigna Dental: \$50.00 per retiree per month

UnitedHealthcare MAPD - \$33.00 per retiree per month

UnitedHealthcare Senior Supplement - \$276.00 per retiree per month

A motion was moved by Bill Murray and seconded by Lisa Mosey to approve the health insurance premiums effective January 1, 2021. All members voted in favor and the motion was passed.

### **4. Approval of Proposed Legislation for the 2023 Session:**

Attorney Bruce Barth, Robinson & Cole, presented legislative changes for the 2023 legislative session. The changes are minor and include technical and language

clarifications regarding TRS eligibility, retirement election, termination of employment, and quarterly reporting and allocation for health subsidy.

A discussion followed.

A motion was moved by Bill Murray and seconded by Lisa Mosey to approve proposed legislation for the 2023 session. All members voted in favor and the motion was passed.

**5. Approval of the Medical Review Committee Compensation Increase:**

Administrator, Helen Sullivan proposed a 10% increase this year and next year for the Medical Review Committee advising that there has not been an increase for the past several years. The Medical Review Committee consists of a panel of doctors who administer the disability benefits.

A motion was moved by Lisa Mosey and seconded by Bill Murray to approve the compensation increase for the Medical Review Committee. All members voted in favor with one abstention by Greg Messner and the motion was passed.

**6. Agency report provided by Helen Sullivan, Administrator**

**Staffing Update:**

Administrator, Helen Sullivan announced Bob Ribera is the TRB Fiscal Administrative Manager. She also advised that the recruitment for another Assistant Accountant in fiscal division is in progress.

**Open Enrollment:**

We will be posting the meeting schedule for the open enrollment meetings which will include in person meetings throughout the state as well as being streamed virtually. It was challenging to find venues because some venues have not reopened due to Covid and it's difficult to find venues to hold the number of people we need. We looked at the statistics to see the areas with the highest number of retiree population so we can try and make it convenient for everyone who wants to attend. We will also be attending the CEA and ARTC fall luncheons.

**CORE-CT Migration:**

Our CORE-CT migration is going as planned. We started the implementation and data gathering which will be intensive over the next couple months. We will be working with Accenture who will have their scope of work. We will also be working with the Comptroller's office. We anticipate an 18–24-month rollout. We will be in the same system as SERS and MERS. The new system will be very self service and allow members to go online and make changes and obtain account information.

A discussion followed.

## **7. Administrator's actions regarding**

- a. Granting of service retirement benefits for the months of June, July and August 2022.
- b. Survivor benefits for the months of June, July and August 2022.
- 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 2022 meetings.

A motion was moved by Bill Murray and seconded by Joslyn DeLancey to approve the granting of service retirement, survivor benefits and applications for a disability allowance for the months of June, July and August 2022. All members voted in favor and the motion was passed.

### **BOARD INFORMATION:**

Retirement Statistics for the months of June, July and August 2022.  
2022 Administrative Report

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Brenda Friedler thanked the board for all they do and asked the board to take into consideration the difficulty some members on the senior supplement plan have had with the increase in premiums and do what they can to make it not be so prohibitive.

Bill Myers welcomed Bob Ribera as the new Fiscal Administrative Manager, and believes the 2.6% and 3% increase in healthcare cost is very minimal, and thinks it's great members will have personal access to their accounts through CORE-CT.

Susan Hart asked for clarification between the difference in premiums for the two plans and believes having two plans makes each plan better and more competitive. Hart also worries about MAPs in general and delays in receiving care when deemed medically necessary by healthcare providers.

Jane Wilson appealed to the six teachers on the board and asked that they do what they can to reduce the cost of the supplement plan as Wilson believes it is priced out of reach for many.

Tammy Gowash commented that Amanda Harley's assistance with many questions and issues is appreciated. Gowash advised there is a lot of confusion with the EOB statements for the UHC supplement plan. Gowash suggested the statements be re-organized and clearer.

Helen Sullivan advised that there are CMS guidelines that must be followed.

Walt Ciplinski commented that the experience he is having with UHC is not the same experience he had with Anthem. Ciplinski commented there needs to be some way for non-digital retirees to have access to the same information.

Mary commented that a friend of hers receives the full COLA each year not a lesser percentage like teachers and is fully reimbursed by the State of CT for the Medicare premiums. She is hopeful that teachers will soon receive these perks too.

Mary Hendrickson commented that someone from Medicare should be represented at the open enrollment sessions. Hendrickson also commented that she feels it's unfair that she pays 4 times more for the same plan as other members on the Medicare Advantage plan and asked for a clear accounting and breakdown for the medical and prescription.

Rita commented that UHC customer service representatives are also confused by the EOBs.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

With no other comments or announcements, a motion was moved by Greg Messner and seconded by Joslyn Delancey to adjourn the meeting. All members voted in favor and the motion was passed.

The meeting adjourned at 3:56 p.m.