



## CT TEACHERS' RETIREMENT BOARD

165 CAPITOL AVENUE HARTFORD CT 06106  
Toll free 1-800-504-1102 (959) 867-6333 Fax (860) 241-9295

# MINUTES

## November 9, 2022

A regular meeting of the Teachers' Retirement Board was held virtually on November 9, 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  
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  
Keith Norton, State Department of Education

### **ABSENT:**

Thomas Nicholas, Active Teacher Member  
Lisa Mosey, Active Teacher Member  
John Flores, Office of the State Treasurer

### **STAFF PRESENT:**

Helen Sullivan, Administrator  
Charlene Hill, Assistant Administrator  
Bob Ribera, Fiscal Administrative Manager  
Amanda Harley, Retirement Benefits Officer  
Javiel Resto, IT Analyst

### **ALSO PRESENT:**

John Garrett, Cavanaugh Macdonald Consulting  
Ben Mobley, Cavanaugh Macdonald Consulting  
Terry DeMattie, Segal Consulting  
DeDe Raybuck, United HealthCare  
Karen Nolen, OPM  
Christina Gellman, OFA

Robyn Kaplan-Cho, CEA  
William Myers  
Walt Ciplinski  
Kathy Hennessey  
Barbara Oppedisano  
Rep. Ed Vargas  
Mary Hendrickson  
Susan Schmidek  
Fonda Green  
Margaret Rick  
Harry Kropp  
Rita McDougald-Campbell  
Gloria Lebetkin  
Bonnie Barnes  
Rhea Klein

Tammy Gowash  
Joseph O'dea  
Kathryn Rodgers  
Beth Melnick  
Arthur DeLucia  
Ernest Lorimer  
Dan Williams  
Marcia Rowe  
Donna Morrison  
Judy S.  
J Clark  
Cathleen  
Sara  
Curt  
Jane

### **Call to Order**

Chairperson, Clare Barnett called the regular meeting of the Teachers' Retirement Board to order at 3:06 p.m.

Clare Barnett started the meeting by announcing the passing of a former board member and Chair of the Teachers' Retirement Board, Rosalyn Schoonmaker. Rosalyn was a very celebrated union activist. She served on the Investment Advisory Council with five Treasurers. She served as an Officer in the retired teacher organizations, CEA-R and ARTC. She also Chaired many committees and commissions.

Clare also announced the sister of one of our current board members Joslyn Delancey passed away young, unfortunately due to cancer which touches us all personally. Joslyn was very close to her sister.

Clare announced another passing, Rona Rothhouse, the President of one of our affiliates, the Norther Fairfield County Association of Retired Teachers passed away.

Clare asked for a moment of silence in honor of their memory.

### **1. Approval of the September 7, 2022 Board Meeting Minutes:**

A motion was moved by Bill Murray and seconded by Greg Messner to approve the meeting minutes for September 7, 2022. All members voted in favor with one abstention, Charles Higgins and the motion was passed.

### **2. Pension and Actuarial presentations and Approval of the June 30, 2022 Actuarial Valuation report:**

John Garrett and Ben Mobley provided pension and actuarial presentations. The actuarial presentation included basic principles, actuarial funding, valuations and methods. The pension valuation presentation included general observations, historical trend information, valuation results and contribution rates, and projection of funded ratio. John and Ben also presented the June 30, 2022 Actuarial Valuation report of the assets and liabilities of the System. Data supplied by the System and limited tests on the data for consistency and reasonableness were used in performing the actuarial valuation. The actuarial valuation was performed to determine the recommended funding amount for the System.

A discussion followed.

A motion was moved by Keith Norton and seconded by Bill Murray to approve the June 30, 2022 Actuarial Valuation report. All members voted in favor and the motion was passed.

### **3. Agency report provided by Helen Sullivan, Administrator:**

#### **Staffing Update:**

Administrator, Helen Sullivan announced a vacant Assistant Accountant position has been filled. A new Assistant Account in the fiscal division will be starting next week. Bob is doing a great job developing his team.

#### **Open Enrollment:**

Open Enrollment has been fairly quiet. There was an issue the first couple days with the phone lines at UHC. They were able to do some modifications and they added another prompt to make it easier for members. This upgrade took a couple of days. There are no plan changes and there was very low turnout at the open enrollment meetings. 108 members moved to the Medicare Advantage (MA) plan and 16 members moved to the Medicare Supplement (MS) plan. We have 27,500 nationally on the MA plan and 4,700 nationally on the MS plan. The call volume last year for October was 1,150 and this year it's 266, averaging approximately 10-20 calls per day. There were 31 prior authorizations for October, 30 were approved. There was an issue with one prior authorization due to documentation from the Provider. All the plans have to follow CMS regulations and guidelines. If people have issues or concerns, they should contact the TRB because we do have the escalation team and we are here to help. The TRB cannot comment on any information that is not sent out by the TRB or by UHC. If anyone has information they would like to send out, we ask that they please run it by the agency so we can make sure the information is correct. There were a few questions about the hearing aid benefit during open enrollment. When we moved to UHC, the hearing aid benefit was improved by providing services that were not provided by the previous carrier. UHC is more than happy to reach out if there's a request for a Provider who is not in network.

## **CORE-CT Migration:**

We are in the process of putting the scope of work together. As mentioned before, it will be a 2 -year plan with CORE and Accenture. We are dedicating staff who are subject matter experts to different parts of the project. We should have the scope and deliverables by the end of November /beginning of December so we can continue to move forward.

### **4. Approval of the Subcommittee's Vendor Recommendation for the Election Services RFP and the Nomination Petition for the Active and Retiree Candidates:**

Charles Higgins provided information on the Election Services RFP. The subcommittee consisted of Charles Higgins, Steve McKeever and Lisa Mosey. The subcommittee met and reviewed the proposal from YesElections, the only vendor who responded to the RFP. The subcommittee reviewed their processes and qualifications, experience and information from references. The organization looks very competent. They have been doing elections since 2007. The vendor agreed to all of the terms that the TRB identified in the RFP. Based on their submission, the subcommittee supports moving forward with YesElections and move that the TRB pursue hiring YesElections for the upcoming election process.

A discussion followed.

A motion was moved by Keith Norton and seconded by Steve McKeever to approve the selection of the vendor YesElections and the nomination petitions for the active and retired candidates. All members voted in favor with one abstention, Lisa Heavner and the motion was passed.

### **5. Approval of the 2023 COLA increase for pre and post September 1, 1992 members:**

- 1.5% for Post September 1, 1992 members who joined the system prior to July 1, 2007.
- 1% for Post September 1, 1992 members who joined the system on or after July 1, 2007.
- 5% for pre-September 1, 1992 members pending information from the Consumer Price Index (CPI-W)

A motion was moved by Greg Messner and seconded by Charles Higgins to approve the 2023 COLA increase for the pre-and post -September 1, 1992 members. All members voted in favor and the motion was passed.

### **6. Approval of the 2022 Board Meeting Schedule:**

A motion was moved by Greg Messner and seconded by Charles Higgins to approve the 2023 board meeting schedule. All members voted in favor and the motion was passed.

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

- a. Granting of service retirement benefits for the months of September and October 2022.
- b. Survivor benefits for the months of September and October 2022.
- 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 2022 meetings.

A motion was moved by Keith Norton and seconded by Bill Murray to approve the granting of service retirement, survivor benefits and applications for a disability allowance for the months of September and October 2022. All members voted in favor and the motion was passed.

## **BOARD INFORMATION:**

Retirement Statistics for the months of September and October 2022.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Mary Hendrickson commented on the upcoming election for two retired teacher seats on the board. She expressed her concerns regarding CEAs candidacy endorsements. She advised she would like the election to be free and fair.

Susan Schmidek thanked Daniele and the UHC escalation team for their assistance but also advised of her dissatisfaction due to issues she has had with UHC and Optum due to mistakes and problems getting prescription medication approved and charged correctly.

Bill Myers commented on the presentations by the Actuaries. He felt the presentations were helpful, clear and provided a good understanding to the board and the public.

Cathleen Potter commented that she wrote and called the TRB in 2021 and 2022 expressing discontent regarding UHC. She hopes that her letters were received by the entire TRB as she has not received a response back. She expressed her concern with issues including the price discrepancy between the MA and MS plan.

Walt Ciplinski commented that it's very important for the names of the retired teacher candidates be released immediately. He encourages the TRB to release the names to the public.

Jane Wilson commented on the price disparity between the MA plan and the MS plan, stating that she learned at a meeting this year that the pricing was predetermined when the contract was negotiated.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

With no other comments or announcements, a motion was moved by Charles Higgins and seconded by Keith Norton to adjourn the meeting. All members voted in favor and the motion was passed.

The meeting adjourned at 4:54 p.m.