



## **CT TEACHERS' RETIREMENT BOARD**

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# **MINUTES**

## **May 14, 2025**

A regular meeting of the Teachers' Retirement Board was held virtually on May 14, 2025. The meeting convened at 3:02 p.m.

### **BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Clare Barnett, Chair, Retired Teacher Member  
William Myers, Vice-Chair, Retired Teacher Member  
Jonathan Johnson, Public Member  
Mary-Beth Lang, Retired Teacher Member  
Stephen McKeever, Active Teacher Member, AFT  
Keith Norton, State Department of Education  
Edwin Vargas, Retired Teacher Member  
Ted Wright, Office of the State Treasurer

### **ABSENT:**

Carrie Cassady, Active Teacher Member  
Joslyn Delancey, Active Teacher Member  
Lisa Heavner, Public Member  
Charles Higgins, Public Member  
Kathleen Holt, Public Member  
Gregory Messner, Office of Policy and Management  
Jon Moss, Active Teacher Member

### **STAFF PRESENT:**

Helen Sullivan, Administrator  
Charlene Hill, Assistant Administrator  
Bob Ribera, Fiscal Administrative Manager  
Naomi Calvi, IT Analyst

### **ALSO PRESENT:**

Terry DeMattie, Segal Consulting  
DeDe Raybuck, UHC

Nicolette Niedzwiecki, OFA  
Tammy Gowash, ARTC  
Robyn Kaplan-Cho, CEA  
Rita McDougald-Campbell  
Rosemary Ahern  
Patty Linardos  
Anne Pacelli  
Thomas Barzee  
Mimi Hostetter  
Emily Newton  
Catherine Audet  
Barbara Oppedisano  
Janice Markey  
Sarah Barzee  
Fonda Green  
Kathy Hennessey  
Anita Denigris

Robert Murphy Jr.  
Nancy Charest  
Miriam Lappen  
Christine Diehl  
Sue Hart  
Janice Smith  
Walt Ciplinski  
Laura Pels  
Mary Moninger-Elia  
Tammy Gowash  
Barbara Schroeter  
Lynn Griswold  
Linnea Stenberg

### **Call to Order**

Chairperson, Clare Barnett called the regular meeting of the Teachers' Retirement Board to order at 3:02 p.m.

#### **1. Approval of the February 19, 2025 Meeting Minutes:**

A motion was moved by Keith Norton and seconded by Bill Myers to approve the meeting minutes for February 19, 2025. All members voted in favor and the motion was passed.

#### **2. Agency Report provided by Administrator Helen Sullivan:**

##### **Retiree Health RFP**

Helen advised that the retiree health RFP closed yesterday, and the committee will be meeting in the next several weeks to review the proposals.

##### **Updates to Regulations**

Helen advised that Bill Myers, Charlie Higgins and she are working with legal counsel to update the outdated regulations. They have had some meetings and will keep meeting as there are several steps they have to go through until it is completed.

Helen also advised the CEA luncheon was yesterday. Helen and Bill Myers attended, and it went very well. The ARTC luncheon is coming up next week. All is well with the United and Cigna teams. Cigna came in today and did their annual review. Everything

looks great. Cigna is going to be sponsoring some lunch-and-learns very similar to what UnitedHealthcare does for our members. There may be some programs that members may not know that they're eligible for, so we appreciate them going the extra mile.

### **CORE-CT Update**

We are still working on the CORE- CT project. We hope to get the payroll and health piece launched this summer. It's very challenging. We're moving into a completely new pension system. We are very different from the Comptroller and MERS so a lot of our fields need to be customized. We're working on getting those customizations correct so that members receive correct paychecks and correct health benefits.

There have been questions in the past from members regarding our website and where to find things on our website. Our website design is mandated by the State of Connecticut. We had to revamp our website 4 or 5 years ago to meet the requirements of the State's formatting rules. So, we don't have the ability to design our own website. We have to follow the state guidelines. Naomi provided an overview of the TRB website and walked through some of the main features of the website and some areas on the website where information is available that some members may not be aware of.

Clare advised that if there is information not on the website or a question a member has, they do not have to wait until a meeting to bring it up at the end of the meeting, they can contact the agency directly and the agency will get back to that person.

Clare commented on the CORE-CT project confirming that the project is not moving at a rapid pace and that the project is very complicated. It isn't simple because TRB doesn't fit into a single payer system, which is the State employee system. There are a number of districts and other separate groups like higher education that pay into TRB and there are retirements and others that we pay out which require customization. We're coming to the realization that the project is harder than everyone thought but we're staying the course. Right now we're still at the Pension Gold end of this and we will stay there until we're sure we're going to launch our teachers into a system that we need it to be.

A discussion followed.

### **3. Approval of the Administrator's Actions Regarding:**

- a. Granting of retirement benefits for the months of February, March and April 2025.
- b. Survivor benefits for the months of February, March and April 2025.
- c. Reports & recommendations of the Medical Review Committee regarding applications for Disability Payments as presented to the Medical Review Committee at the February, March and April 2025 meetings.

A motion was moved by Mary-Beth Lang and seconded by Jonathan Johnson to approve the granting of retirement and survivor benefits and disability applications for the months of February, March and April 2025. A discussion followed. All members voted in favor and the motion was passed.

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

Retirement Statistics for the months of February, march and April 2025.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Sarah Barzee commented that she believes the SERC service she purchased in 2014 prior to PA 23-159 enacted in 2023 should be counted as CT service.

Rita McDougald-Campbell commented that in the Governor's budget, it's ironic that 25 million in excess was able to be found when those in the supplemental plan having been trying to get the state to pay the full one third subsidy for the premium cost for the past 6 years.

Walt Ciplinski commented on the Governor's proposed budget to cut the state subsidy which every teacher organization opposed, but he was puzzled by whose interest the TRB represented by their reply to Senator Osten.

Mary Moninger-Elia commented in the Governor's budget and was concerned if the TRB had given permission more or less for money to be diverted from the health fund.

Janice Markey commented on the Governor's budget and is concerned that teachers will have to pick up a piece of the one third that the State only wants to pay one quarter.

Helen Sullivan clarified that the agency did oppose the reduction in the State share of the health fund. The agency provided information to Senator Osten in response to her question based on data and information the agency received. Members can review the testimony the agency provided. Clare Barnett confirmed that per the Board's direction Helen opposed the reduction and that the reduction in the state share is for one year.

Thomas Barzee continued Sarah Barzee's comment regarding Sarah's SERC service purchase stating that the legislation changed in PA 23-159 was remedial in nature and it was intended to ensure the service at SERC.

### **ADJOURNMENT:**

With no other comments, the meeting was adjourned at: 3:40 p.m.