



CT TEACHERS' RETIREMENT BOARD

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

DRAFT MINUTES September 10, 2025

A regular meeting of the Teachers' Retirement Board was held virtually on September 10, 2025.
The meeting convened at 3:00 p.m.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Clare Barnett, Chair, Retired Teacher Member
William Myers, Vice-Chair, Retired Teacher Member
Carrie Cassady, Active Teacher Member
Joslyn Delancey, Active Teacher Member
Lisa Heavner, Public Member
Mary-Beth Lang, Retired Teacher Member
Jon Moss, Active Teacher Member
Keith Norton, State Department of Education
Edwin Vargas, Retired Teacher Member

ABSENT:

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
Ted Wright, Office of the State Treasurer

STAFF PRESENT:

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

ALSO PRESENT:

Terry DeMattie, Segal Consulting
Virginia McGarrity, Robinson & Cole
DeDe Raybuck, UnitedHealthcare
Liz Sampo, Aetna
Alex Taylor, The Hartford
Karen Nagy
Irene Hilbert
Dave Pierce
Arlyn Bamburger
Debra Schneider
Cathy McGarry
Norma Cherry
Laurie Mara Cabral
Marie Shukie
James Cotter
Althea Liscombe
Kerry King
Bonnie Maur
Jenn Babbie
Mark Fernandes
Mary Moninger-Elia
Peter Mars
Lillie Feierabend
June Gillis
Maira Schiffer
Doree Voychick
Joanne Cardell
Sharon Heyman
Hollis Hartford
Mary Minichiello
Bob Johnson
Janet Racanello
Shelley Schuman
Evan Pitkoff
Jennie Arden
Ronna Van Veghel
Fonda Green
Alison Gittleman
Jane Wakeman
Pat Tomchik
Christina Lepi
Melissa Evans
Patricia Marcinczyk
Kristin Grose

Nicolette Niedzwiecki, OFA
Karen Nolen, OPM
Robyn Kaplan-Cho, CEA
Tammy Gowash, ARTC
Michael Rice
Kathy Hennessey
Susan Schmidek
Barbara-Ann Cavanaugh
Catherine Audet
Iraida Quinones
Patty Linardos
Linda Labbadia
Maira Schiffer
Stanley Heller
Frederick Langhoff
Walt Ciplinski
Lorraine Morlath
Jim Vigue
Paul & Sandy Maidment
Ron Benner
Rose Marie D'Aquila
Nancy Charest
Barbara Oppedisano
Jacqueline Bonner
Christine Diehl
Sandra Avery
Marilyn Schwab
Sandra Bove
Meg Borowski
Debby Szajnberg
Gene Kathy Rose
Barbara Schroeter
Mary Ellen Hoag
Louise Manzi-Gray
Lynn Griswold
Liz Patria
Jacqueline Dunn
Roni Krisavage
Dorothy Meerbach
Mary Hendrickson
Michael Earley
Daniel Diodato
Harry Kropp
Rita McDougald-Campbell

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 Board Meeting Minutes:

A motion was moved by Bill Myers and seconded by Edwin Vargas to approve the regular meeting minutes for June 18, 2025 and the special meeting minutes for July 17, 2025. All members voted in favor and the motion was passed with Keith Norton abstaining due to absence and Joslyn Delancey abstaining from the June 18, 2025 meeting due to absence.

2. Approval of the 2026 Board Meeting Schedule:

A motion was moved by Mary-Beth Lang and seconded by Bill Myers to approve the 2026 Board Meeting Schedule. A discussion followed. All members voted in favor with one opposed, Jon Moss, and the motion was passed.

3. Agency report provided by Administrator Helen Sullivan:

Legislative Update:

Helen advised there are no legislative changes planned for next year's session. Currently, the focus is primarily on updating the regulations. Updates regarding the regulations will be made at future meetings.

Health Update:

Announcement letters went out notifying members of the vendor changes. Aetna is going to manage the Medicare Advantage, Aetna SilverScript will manage the entire prescription drug, and The Hartford will manage the Medicare Supplement. Helen introduced Alex Taylor, with The Hartford and Liz Sampo with Aetna. They will be working with TRB on the implementation. The open enrollment meeting schedule and additional forms and information have been posted on the website. Additional information will be posted as it becomes available. Members will receive open enrollment guides. We are working with our vendors, Terry and her team at Segal. All three parties have been wonderful to work with. They all have done a great job. The open-enrollment guides will be sent out by the end of the month.

We added more meetings to the schedule. We used what's called a heat map to target areas and really zone in on where the meetings should be held. We will also have virtual meetings, and we will be at the CEA and ARTC luncheons. During open enrollment, if

you elect to make a change, the change will be implemented on January 1, 2026. Members who do not elect to make a change will remain in the plan they are currently in. No members will be moved into any other plans unless they elect to make the change. The letters we sent out were tailored to members on the Medicare Supplement plan or the Medicare Advantage plan. Members will receive new cards, but the coverage will be the same and there will be some enhancements for members as well.

CORE-CT Update:

Helen reminded everyone that we are transitioning from a 25-year-old system to another system, CORE with other state agencies. It is a massive undertaking. There are 30-40 years of data that has to be brought over. The first payroll was launched. It was August payroll. Everyone received a paycheck. However, we discovered there were some issues with the advices; members could not open the pdf or it was missing. Our members were notified of the issue through multiple channels including the board, vendor groups, our website and a message on our phone lines. The advices were re-sent to members the following afternoon.

We have 745 members out of our 39,000 retirees still receive a paper check. We were made aware of an issue with some of the paper checks. The issue was with the programming of the print job. The issue was corrected, and checks were re-mailed out to members the same day by close of business.

There was another issue involving the award letters that retirees receive when they retire that describe the monthly benefit they will be receiving. During the testing phase, unfortunately, members received multiple test award letters. It was a programming issue. There was no harm to the members. The members' benefits were correct. We reprocessed the award letters from our old system and sent them out to our members.

Members had some questions when they received their check from the new system because the methodology in the old system, relating to tax tables, is a little bit different than the one in the new system. So, members may have received a small difference in cents or a dollar difference in their pay. There is nothing wrong with the systems, just a difference in how each system's methodology calculates the taxes.

The vendor is doing their best but it's very complicated. We anticipate launching phase 3 of the transition once we really get a handle on payroll and we're completely confident that payroll is up and running smoothly. We have been working diligently, countless hours and weekends on this transition and staff have been available to take phone calls to answer members' questions. We are monitoring everything to make sure all glitches are fixed so we can move forward to the next step.

A discussion followed.

4. Approval of the Administrator's actions regarding:

- a. Granting of service retirement benefits for the months of June, July and August, 2025.
- b. Survivor benefits for the months of June, July and August, 2025.
- 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 meetings.

A motion was moved by Joslyn Delancy and seconded by Mary-Beth Lang to approve the granting of retirement service, survivor benefits and applications for a disability allowance for the months of June, July and August, 2025 . All members voted in favor and the motion was passed.

MATTERS FOR THE BOARD INFORMATION:

Retirement Statistics for the months of June, July and August, 2025.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Mary Moninger -Elia inquired if The Hartford is going to be accepted by as many networks as the previous plan. Mary also commented that it's a little uncomfortable for her that teachers are going to be combined in a system with all the state employees and also questioned if some pension funds was going to be used to buy the Mohegan Sun basketball team.

Walt Ciplinski inquired if someone can review how the reduced state subsidy for 2026 will work.

Stanley Heller made a comment on how pension funds are invested asking the board to make a public statement to the Treasury and legislature to sell off the Treasury's investment in Israel.

Bob Johnson inquired if various Medicare Advantage programs through Aetna are not going to be offered in 26 different states throughout the country and asked that this issue be addressed in the next weeks and information be shared with members.

ADJOURNMENT:

With no other comments, a motion was moved by Joslyn Delancey and seconded by Clare Barnett to adjourn the meeting. All members voted in favor and the motion was passed. The meeting was adjourned at: 3:44 p.m.