



## **CT TEACHERS' RETIREMENT BOARD**

165 CAPITOL AVENUE HARTFORD CT 06106  
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### **DRAFT MINUTES** **March 11, 2026**

A regular meeting of the Teachers' Retirement Board was held virtually on March 11, 2026. The meeting convened at 3:02 p.m.

#### **BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

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

#### **ABSENT:**

Carrie Cassady, Active Teacher Member  
Charles Higgins, Public Member  
Gregory Messner, Office of Policy and Management

#### **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  
Rachel Runkle, OPM  
Tammy Gowash, ARTC  
Toni Criscuolo  
Karen Nagy  
Rita McDougald-Campbell  
Susan Schmidek  
Kathy Miller  
Melissa Evans  
Linda Wegener  
June Bray  
Robert Schmidt  
Katharine Shaskus  
Barbara Oppedisano  
Evan Pitkoff  
Dianne Spense  
Mary Kay Rendock  
Newton Clark Jr.  
Tammy Friedman  
Beth Cannone  
Marilyn Tracy  
Joanne Siniger  
Richard Greco  
Walt Ciplinski  
Laurie Polizzo  
Robin Rockafellow  
Corinne Colman  
Sue Hart  
Lorraine Trinks  
Linda Cimadon

Laurie Boske  
Fonda Green  
Kevin Fenton  
Leslie Abbatiello  
Janice Markey  
Kathy Hennessey  
Danielle S.  
Sandra Bove  
Nicandra Perusi  
Judy S.  
Kathleen Bolt  
Susan Thompson  
Sandra Avery  
Robert Sawczuk  
Patricia Moore  
Mary Hendrickson  
Grace Baril  
Belal Omar  
Roni Krisavage  
Catherine Nystrom  
June DiLella  
Jacqueline Bonner  
Jeanne Katz  
Kathy Mitchell  
Paula Bacolini  
Patricia Marcinczyk  
Linda Pillo  
Jeanne McDonagh  
Christine Diehl  
Patty Linardos

**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 February 11, 2026 Board Meeting Minutes.**

A motion was moved by Keith Norton and seconded by Mary-Beth Lang to approve the regular meeting minutes for the February 11, 2026 meeting. All members voted in favor and the motion was passed.

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

### **Health Insurance Update:**

Helen advised that calls to the carriers are significantly down from thousands to hundreds. About 500 calls came into the agency that were screened and vetted and directed to the appropriate carrier, Aetna, The Hartford, or Cigna. Helen provided information regarding prescriptions and prior authorizations that had to be managed in January and February. There have been questions regarding gym membership since we moved back to Silver Sneakers and Silver&Fit programs. The agency is not responsible for contracts between the carriers and the gyms. A lot of gyms offer both plans. Sometimes gyms don't participate. Gyms are individually owned. We continue to request people reach out if their gyms are no longer participating. The carrier will reach out to them and attempt to have them join the program. There were minor issues affecting a very small population with regard to the hearing aid benefit that have been resolved. Helen thanked everyone involved for assisting in working through the transitional issues that have taken place.

### **CORE-CT Update:**

We are now working on phase 3 of the CORE project. For the next 6 weeks, we are working on designs. The project has been very challenging and is taking longer than expected but all the folks involved at all levels are determined to make sure that this project runs smoothly, and that the agency receives all the functionality needed and are able to administer the pension program, once it's implemented. Helen advised that she was made aware of a tentative SEBAC agreement that may impact the CORE project. In addition, some of the reporting may need to be changed and there may also be some impact on other agencies, not just the TRB. The tentative agreement is being discussed with the legal team to see if some changes can be made to manage the impact it may have on the agency, the CORE project, other agencies, and deliverables. Helen advised that the board will be kept abreast of the situation as it progresses. The next steps for the CORE project are to work on finalizing the employer reporting and healthcare subsidy. Once the testing for the employer reporting and healthcare subsidy is completed, we will then move on to the next steps of training the districts on how to use CORE for their healthcare subsidy reporting for the pre-65 members and most importantly pension reporting.

## **5. Approval of the Administrator's actions regarding:**

- a. Granting of service retirement benefits for the month of February 2026.
- b. Survivor benefits for the month of February 2026.
- c. Reports & recommendations of the Medical Review Committee regarding applications for Disability Payments as presented to the Medical Review Committee at the February 2026 meeting.

A motion was moved by Jonathan Johnson and seconded by Joslyn Delancey to approve the granting of retirement service, survivor benefits and applications for a disability allowance for the month of February 2026. All members voted in favor and the motion was passed.

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

Retirement Statistics for the month of February 2026.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Katharine Shaskus commented regarding the \$1,500 hearing aid allowance through NationsHearing, the third-party administrator with Aetna's Medicare Advantage plan. In her experience, using the allowance results in a higher cost for hearing aids and she believes the allowance appears to be false advertising.

Rita McDougald-Campbell suggested that TRB consider sending out snail mail surveys for people to fill out to update their personal contact information so more people will get the information that is being emailed out.

Susan Thompson requested that the dental plan update their payments or the Teachers' Retirement Board get a different contract for dental. The current plan is way behind other companies' repayment for dental procedures.

A comment was made expressing concern about the in network and out-of-network procedures.

Linda Cimadon expressed her concern about not being able to go to Costco for either hearing or eyes since it is cheaper to pay out of pocket than to go to either NationsHearing or iMed. She would like this to be looked into a little bit further.

## **ADJOURNMENT:**

With no other comments, a motion was moved by Joslyn Delancey and seconded by Ed Vargas to adjourn the meeting. All members voted in favor and the motion was passed. The meeting adjourned at 3:29 p.m.