

CONNECTICUT TEACHERS' RETIREMENT BOARD
TRB BOARD MEETING
MAY 14, 2025

Clare B.: All right. We'd like to call the, uh, May 14, uh, Teacher Retirement Board meeting to order. Um, the first order of business is the Approval of the February 19, 2025, Board Meeting Minutes. Uh, you have those before you. Board would en-, entertain a motion to accept.

Clare B.: Okay. And a second?

Bill M.: Second.

Clare B.: Discussion? All those in favor, signify by saying aye.

Attendees: Aye.

Clare B.: Opposed? Abstentions? Okay. The, um, Agency Report – Helen, you're up for the first one, uh, Retiree Healthcare.

Helen S.: Sure. Thanks. Uh, the, uh Retiree Health RFP closed yesterday, um, and the committee will be meeting in the next several weeks to, uh, review that situation in greater detail. Uh, Bill, Charlie Higgins, and myself are working on updating those regulations that are outdated, and we've had a draft. We've had some meetings. We're gonna be working with Virginia to get something together, 'cause there are several steps that we're – we have to go through, um, to get...

Bill M.: And Virginia's our lawyer, right?

Helen S.: ...yep. Virginia McGarrity.

Bill M.: Thank you.

Helen S.: Mm-hm. Uh, as far as – we had, um, the CEA luncheon yesterday. That went very well, uh, thanks to Bill. He was, uh, at the table with me, so that was very nice of you. Uh, we have the ARTC luncheon comin' up next week, so that's – um, we do our spring luncheons for, um, the retiree groups. All is well with our United team and Cigna team. The Cigna team just came in today, and we did our annual review. Everything looks great. Uh, they're gonna be sponsoring some Lunch and Learns as well, very similar to what United Healthcare does for our members, so we're looking forward to that, cause there are some programs that, uh, members may not know that they're eligible for, so we appreciate them going the extra mile. All our prior authorizations, all of our performance guarantees, everything is running very smooth. Call volume is way down, uh, so from the healthcare side of the house, we're lookin' good. As far as the CORE

project goes, we are still working on that project. We hope to get the payroll and health piece launched this summer. Uh, it's very challenging. We're moving into a completely new pension system, and as you know, we are very different from the comptroller and, and MERS, so a lot of our fields and programs need to be customized, so we're working on getting those customizations correct so that members receive the correct paycheck and correct – and the correct health benefits, so stay tuned on that home front.

Um, Bill had mentioned to me in passing that, um, our members have often questions about where to find things on our website. Um, I know it's a little side note. I just wanted to bring it up. Um, our website design is mandated by the State of Connecticut. This has come up several times. Uh, we had to revamp our website probably 4 or 5 years ago to meet certain criteria that the State formatting, uh, rules and how they applied, uh, so if we had the ability to design our own website, we would, but we have to follow what the State, um, guidelines are. And Naomi, did you wanna just flip to the website just to just show some members the landing page and...

Bill M.: That'd be great if you can share...

Naomi C.: Sure.

Bill M.: ...your screen, Naomi.

Naomi C.: So just for those who haven't gone there before, to get there, you can always go to CT.gov/TRB and hit enter. This is our main landing page of our site. You'll see we have our main sidebar where you can jump to our major sections of Self Service, Active and Inactive Teachers, Retired Teachers, Post Retirement Reemployment, Health Insurance, and For Employers, in addition to our most popular pages that are featured here in the center right. And if we scroll down a little bit further, we have our biggest 3 sections, our Active and Inactive Teachers, Retired Teachers, and Health Insurance sections of our website, where you can go into these and drill down to find the more specific thing that you're looking for. And then down here is where we find our Latest News, where we post updates, like for example the RFP, Agency Resources, where you can find links to the board meetings, and other online helpful resources like links to the IRS or Social Security Administration.

Helen S.: And at the very bottom, I'm gonna add, Naomi, is a very specific contact sheet for members, uh, where you can email or contact the appropriate, uh, department here at the Agency for any questions that you may have, whether it's regarding a pension payment, purchasing service, um, health insurance, um, to try and streamline getting our members to the right people if they have a question. So I, I hope that helps. Uh...

Bill M.: Right there on that page that's facing us, would you click on the Mission – uh, sorry. Would you click on, uh, Board Members for a moment?

Helen S.: Oh, sure

Bill M.: There's all, all the board members that are currently on, on the Board, and you can, you know, see them all right there. They're listed for you, and if we go back a page and up farther where it says, uh, Retiree Healthcare – a little farther – um...

Naomi C.: Sorry.

Bill M.: ...I think it's under – yes – under Retired Teachers. Thank you. Right here, you have all kinds of information that people are looking for. Your income tax re-, uh, exemptions, your cost of living, and on the bottom of that is Health Insurance Menu. If you click that please – perfect. The very first thing you see on the top of that page is the enrollment information. If you click that, I think, uh, you'll see information that people do ask for, and you get a graph. On that graph, you see the cost – the member's cost for insurance on the, uh, RFP – sorry – on the MA plan and on the Med Sup plan, and this graph compares the 2024 costs to the 2025 costs, and as you know, a new RFP has been posted for 2026, which we're working on as, as fast as information comes available to us. All right. That's pretty much all I wanted to share, except for if you could go to the page, uh, where it has the minutes from the various meetings.

Naomi C.: Sure, and to get there, on our main page, you scroll down to the Board Information and Meeting Schedules section, and from there click on the first link for Board Meetings, and then you select the current year, or to look at, you know, prior years, you can look at those, but each year shows each meeting, the agenda, minutes, and the transcript.

Bill M.: That's great.

Bill M.: Thank you so much.

Helen S.: ...[inaudible 9:08].

Bill M.: Sorry. Go ahead, Helen.

Helen S.: That's okay. Anyway, if you wanna back out, um, for the Health Insurance, you don't – you don't have to go under Retired Teachers. There's a – there – right under that main link, if you just click on health in-, there's a little more information under there.

Bill M.: Perfect.

Helen S.: And you can also go to the – um, you can get all the benefit and plan designs. You can go to the UHC website in there too, Bill. I'm not sure if that link was on the other one, but there's oodles of information out there for folks. Um, again, uh, we follow the, the State structure of, uh, required website design, but thanks for bringin' that up, and we're hoping that it helped with the question.

Bill M.: Right. I just wanted to do that really high-level overview, uh, and encourage you to spend time. Like any website, there's far more information here than you might ever be interested in, but you really just have to click some buttons and, and search around for what you're looking for, 'cause it's probably there, and most of it is highlighted on that front page, um, so you might not have to go far to find the answer to your questions. Thank you. Thank you..

Clare B.: Yeah. Thank you, Bill. Um, yeah. We've had a lot – I mean, we get a lotta questions, and we get a lotta questions at the end of the meeting as well, but often, um, some of these really can be ones that are already readily available on our website, but, but people don't know. I mean, they haven't searched it enough, they haven't scrolled down, they haven't found their categories – the right categories they're looking for, um, but I always say, and I think I had this conversation with Edwin recently, if there's a real issue, um, and you call inaudible, just call right – you just call us. Don't, don't wait for this meeting to happen and then wait for the end of this meeting in which you can, you know, um, you know, lodge a, a question or whatever else. That's – you don't have to do that. If it's anything that's urgent, you really should be getting to us right away, not, uh, you know, not, not trying to just, uh, you know, look up information online. However, for the vast majority of questions that we get, there – the answers are right on there. Um, people, I think, a-, are always very patient, and they help our members when they call and they put them right back online to try to find that, and then to have them make a copy of whatever they need so that they will, uh, you know, be able to be more knowledgeable about an issue that they have.

Now remember, when people do call in at the end of the meeting, uh, we do ask Helen's staff to go over every one a those. Most a those, uh, are probably questions that we've already had, and even from the same people maybe questions that we've already had; however, uh, we wanna make sure that we don't miss anything, and so we follow up with every one a those, uh, that, that we've not heard before, uh, or that we've not actually had contact with that individual back and forth on that issue before, uh, just to make sure that, uh, they're getting to the right place and getting the right information that they need so that they didn't waste the time listening to this meeting and then waste the time at the end waiting to ask a question or, or, uh, bring up an issue that they, they want us to look at, and then feel that that's, that's all that happens. That isn't all that happens. Every one a those is followed up on by Helen and her staff so that – um, so that we – that we know that the members are being served, and it's sometimes something that we may have already mentioned, but, but we will c-,

that person will be contacted, so just so you will know that Now, Helen, question for you – the CORE, uh, update – we're not really ready to launch that yet, are we?

Helen S.: Well, that is gonna take place probably over the ne-, over, over the summer months.

Clare B.: Okay. So... sometime in the fall, you're gonna give us another update on this.

Helen S.: Absolutely.

Clare B.: But the idea that we were, uh, moving at a more rapid pace – that's not the case. This is very complicated...

Helen S.: Yep. Mm-hm.

Clare B.: ...and we're finding that's the ca-, we're finding that with the vendor, we're finding that – um, you know, Bill serves on the committee. Uh, we've had a lotta people. We've had Helen, Kathy Holt, a lotta people looking this over and saying well, you know, h-, how do we get this done? Um, it, it isn't so simple, because, um, we're – we don't fit into a single-payer system, which is the – the State employee system. We have 169 towns, uh, regional districts, and then a whole bunch of other separate groups too, whether they're at the higher ed level or, um, you know, in separate groups that just belong, like Gilbert School just belong to the – you know, the Retirement Board. Um, and that brings us, I think, over 200. That's very different than a single-payer system where just one person is paying everything – just the State of Connecticut, and ours are all being, you know, paid by all of these other entities into us, so, so getting, uh, the right software that's going to be customized for us is not quite so simple.

Um, I think we thought that when we got into the program and we thought oh it wouldn't be that hard, but, um, but it's harder than we thought, and it's harder than they thought, uh, and they're coming to that realization, but, but we're gonna s-, we're gonna stay the course. Um, w-, this will be better at some point in time, but we're right now still at the PensionGold end of this, and, uh, we'll stay there until we're, we're sure that what we're gonna launch our teachers out onto is going to be exactly what Helen needs and what Helen wants. So Helen, did I capture most of your thinking on that?

Helen S.: Oh yeah Absolutely. There's just a lot of nuances. There's MERS, there's SERS, and so we're just working through them. You know, again, there's a lot of customization. There's a lot of idiosyncrasies, and, you know, credit to all parties involved. Everybody wants to make sure this works and it's 100 percent, so all the – all of the, the players that are involved in this project are very positive about making sure that it works 100 percent, so it may take us a little bit longer and it may take a little more testing, but we wanna make sure that it

serves the purpose and everybody is very, very invested into it, so we just wanna make sure it's right, so there's a lot of support, um, behind the project.

Clare B.: All right. Any questions for Helen? Okay. Uh, the, uh, Administrator's Action – Approval of Administrator's Action. A, the granting of service, uh, retirement benefits for the months of March – February, March, and April 2025, B, the survivor benefits for the months of February, March, and April 2025, and C, the reports and recommendations of the Medical Review Committee regarding applications for disability payments as presented to the Medical Committee on – or as of February, March, and April, at their February, March, and April 2025 meetings. The Board would take one motion on those.

Mary-Beth L.: So moved.

Clare B.: Would accept a mo-, okay.

Edwin V.: [Inaudible 16:20].

Clare B.: Move to approve. Second?

Jonathan J.: Second.

Clare B.: Thank you. Uh, questions?

Helen S.: [Inaudible 16:26]...

Clare B.: All those in favor...

Helen S.: ...[inaudible 16:27]...

Clare B.: ...yes?

Helen S.: I think Edwin had a question. I didn't mean to interrupt.

Clare B.: I'm sorry. Edwin, go 'head.

Edwin V.: Well, actually it was about the – uh, what, uh, Bill Myers was talking about. The, uh – well, first I wanna thank, uh, Clare, because, uh, as the new member, you know, I had some question in terms of frequency of meetings and, you know, she reached out to me, and we had a good conversation on that, and I'm glad that we have that interactive, uh, webpage where people can find information about the plan and – there's one – but I'm not sure if one a the – one a the questions people have been asking me is if they can get an actual breakdown of, you know, the premiums in terms of, uh, itemization. I wasn't sure what the answer is. Does this website – or, uh, people can search on their own. Will that help them with that issue?

Helen S.: Um, this – Edwin, this seems to be a, an issue that's been coming up for several years. All of our plans are bundled. The rates, and they're on the website. All the, the information about the plan rates is posted on the website, and I – and the public comment, Clare – I think maybe we just need to, um, address maybe what public comment is. I know that Bruce mentioned it several times, um, and we did post some information on the website about public comment. Um, it's, it's just a – it's that 2 minutes for public comment. If members have comments or concerns about – you know, again, Bill and I were out yesterday at the – at the, uh, CEA retiree luncheon, and folks came up to us with questions, and we took some notes and we brought those right to our experts. So the public comment I don't think is the right place for people to be asking questions about, we hope that they would just come and email and reach out to the – to the Board so that we can answer those questions for them, like you were saying.

Clare B.: Right, but they do. I mean, people do a-, ask questions when they come to those, so I just wanted to let them know that, that there is – um, there will be a response to that. Bill, anything you wanted to add?

Bill M.: I, I just wanna go back to, um, Ed's question, uh, 'cause members do – uh, I won't say confuse past history with current practice. In the past, people could sign up separately for vision, hearing, and their medical, and so you had a separate breakdown of costs. If you wanted straight medical, if you wanted to add vision or dental or hearing, you had separate prices for those, and you could opt in to buy one a those or not, but that has all – uh, that's all changed. Right now, everything is part of one plan. Dental is separate, but vision and hearing are part of the MA or the Sup – Med Sup plans. So there, there aren't separate prices, and we put – when we put out an RFP, it is for the bundle, and we get answers, bids, back on that bundle. So the insurance companies won't tell us the breakdown. That's their own proprietary information – how they set their rates, what – you know, how they do their risk/rewards. Um, so we don't have those numbers to give them, um, and that's the nature of the business at the – at this moment. It could change again. Who knows? Medical insurance changes all the time, but right now, there isn't a breakdown to hand out. We don't have a breakdown, where in the past, we did.

Helen S.: That was changed in 2015.

Clare B.: Okay.

Edwin V.: Thank you, Bill.

Bill M.: You bet.

Clare B.: Anybody else? Uh, we have a motion on the floor, moved and seconded to approve the action, uh, Administrator's Action. Uh, discussion? All those in favor, signify by saying aye.

Attendees: Aye.

Clare B.: Opposed? Abstentions? Thank you. Uh, your Retirement Statistics you have with you for March and April, and we will move to public comments. Uh, are you all set? Public comments?

Naomi C.: It's Naomi, and s-...

Helen S.: Yeah, Naomi's workin' today.

Clare B.: Oh. Naomi. Thank you.

Naomi C.: Yes. And yes. Just give me one second to open up the clock.

Helen S.: And, and Bill, just to segue in, members, members don't pay for vision and hearing anymore. It's all, as you said, bundled into one. Part of the program. So that's very nice for our members.

Bill M.: Uh, and Ed – oh, sorry. Y-, go ahead.

Naomi C.: Oh. You can keep going.

Bill M.: Oh. I was just gonna say it's bundled into one, and the Med Sup program also includes those, uh, benefits that aren't normally part of the Med Sup plan, program. This is bundled into their program also. So when you, uh, elect for a Med Sup, you're getting a richer program because you are getting the vision and the hearing that aren't part of Med, uh, Med Sup. So the quality of both programs is the same, but that does increase the cost of a Med Sup plan because we give it everything that a MA plan has.

Clare B.: All right. Thank you, Bill. Um, are we all set for, uh, comments?

Helen S.: Naomi. Gotcha, Naomi.

Clare B.: Naomi. I'm sorry.

Naomi C.: All right. Yes. So just a reminder, public comments – everyone has a 2-minute limit. Once we start hearing you talk, we will start the timer, and if you go over the limit, we will unfortunately have to pause you and move on to the next person, to be fair to everyone. So with that, we will start with our first raised hand, and other people who would like to make a comment can also click the raise hand to get in line, and also a note that only – you can only make one

comment per meeting. We'll start with Sarah. Sarah, you have permission to unmute.

Sarah B.: Thank you. Good afternoon, and thank you for the opportunity to address you today. My name is Dr. Sarah Barzee, and I'm a lifelong resident of Connecticut as well as an educator, aside from a 7-year period when I accompanied my spouse on military assignments in Connecticut, in California, Florida, and Puerto Rico. Over the course of my 41-year career, including 34 years in Connecticut, I have served in a variety of roles – teacher, principal, consultant, Associate Director at SERC, Assistant Executive Director at CREC, and the Chief Talent Officer at the Connecticut State Department of Education. I share this not as a resume, but to demonstrate my longstanding commitment to the students, educators, and families of this state. As I approached retirement age, I reviewed my official TRB statement, which indicated 25.9 years of total credited service; however, when I consulted with TRB, I was informed that only 15.9 of those years counted as current Connecticut vested service, leaving me 4.1 years short of the critical 20-year threshold for full benefits. I was stunned, especially since I paid over \$131,000 to purchase both out-of-state and SERC service. If my SERC service were to be considered Connecticut service, as it should be, my base percentage would be 51.8 percent as opposed to 39.10. This difference is significant. While I understand that out-of-state service does not count toward Connecticut vested service, I fully expected that my SERC time would count.

I later learned from TRB staff member be-, that because I purchased my SERC service in 2014, before Public Act 23-159 was enacted in 2023, my service still does not count; however, I would ask you to refer to the language in Public Act 23-159, which states, and I quote, credited service described in subdivisions 3, 8, 10, and 17 – 17 being SERC – shall be deemed to be service in the public schools of Connecticut. Nowhere in this Public Act is it stated that such service had to be purchased after the passage of this law. It simply states that credited service in subsection 17, [which is SERC, shall be deemed to be...

Naomi C.: Next, we have Rita. Rita, you have permission to unmute.

Rita M.: Good afternoon, everyone. I just wanted to say that I found it ironic that in the governor's budget this year, um, he had been able to find \$25,000,000 in excess that he wanted to take from the health insurance account when, for the last 6 years, those of us who are in the supplement plan had been begging to get the full one-third subsidy for our premium cost and had been repeatedly told that it was too expensive and that there was no money in the account to do so. Please revisit that. Thank you.

Naomi C.: Okay. Next, we have Walt. Walt, you have permission to unmute.

Walt C.: Okay. Can everyone hear me?

Naomi C.: Yes.

Walt C.: Okay. Thank you so much. Um, appreciate the comment, uh, opportunity. Um, the 26/27 governor's proposed budget, uh, cut the state subsidy from – to cut the subsidy from one-third to one-fourth was presented, and, um, every teacher organization opposed this cut. Um, I noticed bef-, that the TRB appeared before the Appropriations Committee and, um, assured, uh, Senator Osten, a co-chair, uh, that this, uh, \$25,000,000, uh, give-back from teacher money to the State, uh, was affordable, and the Senator seemed puzzled by that reply, and she further asked, uh, for assurance that retired teachers would not be harmed by this loss of funds from the TRB health insurance account. TRB gave that insurance, uh, saying there was enough money in the fund, so a number of retired teachers, like myself, remain puzzled and wonder whose interest TRB represented by that reply to Senator Osten. Uh, that is giving back \$25,000,000 of teacher money back to the State, and so, uh, to have the questions like was this stance voted on by the Board? Where did it come from? Because most certainly, this stance did not come from retired teachers, and so we're looking for an answer to that question, and I think we deserve one. So, uh, I'd appreciate hearing back, um, as soon as you can on that. So thank you very much for your time today. Appreciate listening to me, and, um, that's all that I have to say. Thank you.

Naomi C.: Okay. Any additional public comments? Please click the raise hand button. Okay. Mary, you have permission to unmute.

Mary M.: Yes. Um, good afternoon. I'm Mary Moninger-Elia, and I was a president of a – of a teachers' union for 24 years, now retired, and I have – I can almost just say ditto to the previous 2, uh, speakers, because my concern was that, um, the TRB 28:24] had given permission, more or less, for money to be diverted from our health insurance account, or maybe not diverted, but at least the, the amount of money that was be-, coming to – from the State wasn't needed, which means that money at some point will be ta-, will have to come from someone if they're not putting in their, their share. That means it's either gonna come out of the, the, um, um, insurance fund that the TRB has for retired teachers, which is money teachers have put in – I believe that – I kind of think of that as our money – um, or insurance costs will go up for teachers at sometimes[inaudible 29:06] – for retirees at some time in the future. I think that happened in the past when the – when the State has, um, been delinquent or has diminished the amount of money they're putting into the fund. All of a sudden, the fund's in trouble, and so someone has to pay, and we had to change our plan, and I think the benefits went down considerably. Um, so again, I ditto what, uh, the 2 previous speak-, speakers said more eloquently than me, but, um, it's a concern of a lot of teachers that I speak with. Thank you for the time.

Naomi C.: Next, we have Janice. Janice, you have permission to unmute.

Janice M.: Good afternoon. Thank you for letting us attend the meeting. It was very informative. I didn't know much about the website, and I will look into it. I have a concern, as the last 3 people that spoke, that the State has gone and said that we teachers – now all of a sudden, instead of paying a third, we're going to have to pick up a piece of the third, that the State wants to only pay a quarter? That is very unfair. We worked with the s-, the public and families and children. We teachers in this state are not revered for being retired teachers, and we should be. I have friends that worked for the State of Connecticut that have insurance policies retired that are so much better than mine. It's ridiculous, and I know this is really going to hurt some people who do not have any extra funds other than their pension, and it will make it very difficult for them, and I do not understand how it happened to us that now we are. We didn't vote on it. You voted on it. Where – like Mary said, where is this money coming from? I'm gonna have to pay it, and so is everyone else? That's very unfair. I ask you on behalf of all of our retired teachers in this state, please look at this again and see if you can't help us. Thank you for your time.

Helen S.: Naomi? It's Helen. Clare, I'm just gonna, uh, clarify, um, that Greg Messner explained all this at the last meeting. Um, the Board – uh, the Agency did oppose this and presented, presented it opposed. Uh, we just provided information that when the analysis was done by the actuary, and Greg Messner will probably confirm this, that what could the fund sustain, and we provided that information to Senator Osten, and Senator Osten's question was in fact will the retirees be harmed and, and have to pay additional premium, and we assured her that, based on what we read and our interpretation of what OPM presented, not the Agency, was that retirees would not be harmed, and there was data provided, and the members can feel free to go look at the testimony we provided, because all the numbers are laid out there, um, for everyone. So I just didn't want this to get, you know, sidetracked, so I just wanted to provide clarification, even though we usually don't during public comment.

Clare B.: Mm-hm.

Helen S.: I just didn't want this misinformation to go unaddressed, cause there is no harm coming to the member. There is no c-, there is no effect on the member's cost share. This was proposed by the governor's budget. We presented the facts as requested, and we did voice our concerns about previous history about what happened in the past and about the fund being bankrupt for o-, you know, almost 10 years, um, and that we worked very hard to get this – to get this plan up and funded, so a big shoutout to Terry DeMattie and everyone on the Healthcare Committee who has worked so hard to, to bring these plans where they are today. So I just wanted to clarify that.

Clare B.: Uh, just a final note on that, uh, is that, um, the Board really appreciates the work that was done by both retired teachers, active teachers, unions, um, in

moving this issue to a point where, uh, at least as I understand it, one of the years – just one of the years we [inaudible 33:42]...

Helen S.: Yes, [inaudible 33:43].

Clare B.: ...uh, some financial, uh, money that we're going to have to transfer from the healthcare fund, not both, and that – and a lot of that is due to very, uh, very serious efforts on the part of our teachers, and, and going there and talking to legislators and – um, you know, we d-, didn't get everything. We didn't get both years I think, but it's not over yet, as you tell us. It's not over yet. We have until I think the 6th of June, so there's, there's still some more days on the clock. Um, we have [inaudible 34:16] – any other people in the queue?

Naomi C.: Uh, we have a few more. Let me just...

Clare B.: Okay.

Naomi C.: ...start...

Naomi C.: ...the screenshare again. Okay. Next, we have Robert. Robert, you have permission to unmute. Robert, are you there? Okay. We will move on to Thomas. Thomas, you have permission to unmute.

Thomas B.: Hello. I'm, I'm callin' on behalf of, um, Sarah Barzee, who, um, ran out of time on her – um, her point, which I work with her. Um, this fundament-, th-, I, I will pick up where she left off with her retirement, and the biggest point was this fundamental issue of fairness, as emphasized by the Connecticut Appellate Court and the, uh, versus [inaudible 35:48] Company. Remedial legislation laws designed to correct unfair situations can and should be applied retroactively when it aligns with legislation intent and does not infringe on anyone's substantive rights. In that case, the Court applied a new law to past circumstances because...

Female: [Inaudible 36:10].

Thomas B.: ... was to rectify a known inequity, and doing so did not unfairly burden others. This is a – precisely such a case. The legislation changed in PA 23-159 was clearly remedial in nature. It was intended to ensure the service at cr-, SERC, an educational agency serving Connecticut schools, is test-, is treated as fairly and inequitable under TRB regulations. There is no legitimate basis to differentiate between those purchased SERC service before or after 2023. Retroactively applying this legislative remedy would not harm anyone's right but would simply fulfill the law's core purpose, fairness and consistency, without anyone being harmed. I res-, Sarah respectfully, and she said – she says this numerous times – what is the rationale for allowing the same service to count for some but not others, based solely on the purchase date, and as such distinction cannot be

justified on legal or policy grounds, why not apply the same fairness retroactively to those...

Naomi C.: Any other public comments? Please click the raise hand button. Looks like there are no more raised hands.

Clare B.: Thank you very much. Helen, thank you very much.

Helen S.: Thanks.

Clare B.: Helen, board members, um, our next meeting will be, um, on June 18, and by that time, the legislation will have, uh, I think, uh, ended it's session, 'cause I think it ends on June 6, so...

Clare B.: ...and at that meeting, we should be able to – we'll have the healthcare, I think, before us at that time, I hope. Right?

Bill M.: I think that's doubtful, Clare.

Clare B.: No? Okay. So that'll be something we'll handle in September?

Bill M.: I'm pretty sure the – there'll be a report like last summer, we came out with information in August. As soon as we have information, we'll share...

Clare B.: Okay.

Bill M.: ...but it was – the RFP was just due yesterday, and there's...

Clare B.: And...

Bill M.: ...it's unlikely...

Clare B.: ...it's just arrived.

Bill M.: ...everything would be gone through by, uh, June 18.

Clare B.: Okay. Okay. Any other, uh, comments from our, uh, board members? Okay. All right. Uh, we thank all of you, and we will see you on June 18. I would make a note, we lost our mascot, Ranger.

Clare B.: He, he made every meeting, but, uh, he didn't make – he didn't last long enough to make this one, so, uh, I thank all of you. Okay? Helen, are we all set?

Helen S.: Yeah. Thank you. Thanks.

Clare B: Thank you.

Bill M.: Thank you, everyone.

Mary-Beth L: Thank you.

Jonathan J.: Bye now.

/tw