



CT TEACHERS' RETIREMENT BOARD

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MINUTES

October 30, 2019 at 3:00 pm

The meeting of the Teachers' Retirement Board was called to order at 3:06 p.m. by Chairperson, Clare Barnett on Wednesday, October 30, 2019.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Clare Barnett, Chair, Retired Teacher Member
William Myers, Vice-Chair, Active Teacher Member
Steven Muench, Active Teacher Member
William Murray, Retired Teacher Member
Charles Higgins, Public Member
Jonathan Johnson, Public Member
Laurie Martin, Office of the State Treasurer
Gregory Messner, Office of Policy and Management

BOARD MEMBERS NOT IN ATTENDANCE:

Keith Norton, State Department of Education
Lisa Mosey, Active Teacher Member
Stephen McKeever, Active Teacher Member, AFT

STAFF PRESENT:

Helen Sullivan, Administrator
Charlene Hill, Assistant to the Administrator

OTHERS PRESENT:

Karen Nolen, OPM
Livia DeJesus, Anthem
Rob Janes, Anthem
Scott Reed, Reed Financial
Robyn Kaplan-Cho, CEA
Walt Ciplinski, Retired Teacher
Mary Hendrickson, Retired Teacher
Jackie Fastaia, ARTC
Anthony Fastaia, Retired Teacher
Paula Schwartz, ARTC
Ken Poppe, ARTC
June Pinkin, HFT-R
Kathy Hennessey, CEA-R/ARTC
Jack Rua, Active Teacher Member

Elayne Futernick, HFT-R
Noreen Scafuri, Retired Teacher
John Scafuri, Spouse of Retired Teacher
Rhea Klein, Retired Teacher
Peyton Rutledge, Retired Teacher
Jane Wilson, Retired Teacher
Dan Diodato, Retired Teacher
Bradley Hayward, Retired Teacher
Len Prygoda, ARTC/AFT-R
Melanie Yalanis, Retired Teacher
Richard Pagani, ARTC
Judith Bona, Retired Teacher
Emilia Chrzanowski, Retired, Teacher
Frank Chrzanowski, Retired Teacher
Robert J. Conroy, ARTC
Margaret Rick, HFT-R
Linda Alexander
C. Murawski, ARTC-Retired
Irene Montalvo-Rodriguez, Retired Teacher

Call to Order – Chairperson, Clare Barnett

The Board entertained a motion to go into Executive Session. All members voted in favor and the motion was passed to go into Executive Session at 3:06 pm.

The Board came out of Executive Session at 3:25 pm.

1. Consideration and Approval of the September 11, 2019 Board Meeting Minutes.

A motion was made by Bill Murray and seconded by Charles Higgins to approve the meeting minutes for September 11, 2019. All members voted in favor, with one abstention, Jonathan Johnson for reasons of absence and the motion was passed.

2. Consideration and Approval of Proposed Legislation for this year's session.

Chairperson Barnett discussed the updates for this year's legislative proposal which is primarily the legislative package that was presented in last year's session as some updates were not able to be voted on by the General Assembly. Barnett spoke of a couple items that may be of great concern to members that may be proposed by other groups which we may need to take an active role in on behalf of our members if the board determines it's necessary.

A motion was made by Bill Murray and seconded by Bill Myers to approve the legislative proposal for this year's session. All members voted in favor with one abstention (Laurie Martin for reasons of more time to review) and the motion was passed.

3. Agency Report provided by Helen Sullivan, Administrator:

Health Insurance OE Update:

Despite some initial issues with errors in the mailing and some technical adjustments that were needed with some of the webinars, overall the process and meetings for the open enrollment have been going well. The feedback that has been provided is appreciated and will be beneficial for next year's open enrollment.

TRB Relocation Update:

The TRB is moving to 165 Capital Avenue in Hartford. The expected date is on or before May 29, 2020. We have been working with several groups including the DAS relocation team, State Library, Surplus, the Digitizing, FileNet software and Pension Gold Vendors and CORE to become completely electronic and hopefully upgrade our outdated Pension Gold system.

4. Consideration and Approval of the 2020 Board Meeting Schedule.

A motion was made by Steve Muench and seconded by Bill Murray to approve the 2020 Board Meeting Schedule. All members voted in favor and the motion was passed.

5. Consideration and Approval of the 2020 COLA increase.

A motion was made by Charles Higgins and seconded by Jonathan Johnson to approve the 2020 COLA increase for those who retired on or after September 1, 1992. 1.5 % increase for those who joined the system prior to July 1, 2007 and a 1% increase for those who joined the system on or after July 1, 2007. All members voted in favor and the motion was passed.

6. Consideration and Approval of the Administrator's actions regarding:

- a. Granting of service retirement benefits for the month of September 2019.
- b. Survivor benefits for the months of September 2019.
- c. Reports & recommendations of the Medical Review Committee regarding applications for Disability Payments as presented to the Medical Review Committee at the September 2019 meeting.

A motion was made by Bill Myers and seconded by Jonathan Johnson to approve the granting of service retirement, survivor benefits and applications for a disability allowance for the month of September 2019. All members voted in favor and the motion was passed.

Chairperson Barnett advised that the TRB will no longer be honoring individual requests for emails or mailings of the agenda. The agenda can be viewed and downloaded from the TRB website or the State Agency Public Meeting Calendar.

Administrator Helen Sullivan provided additional information and background regarding the health insurance open enrollment and the errors that occurred in the initial mailing. Any errors have been updated and the corrected information has been sent out. All information on the TRB website is correct. She also emphasized that there is incorrect information that is being provided to members by segregated groups of retirees. Members should be reviewing the information provided in the mailings from Anthem or by accessing the TRB website.

MATTERS FOR THE BOARD INFORMATION:

Retirement Statistics for the month of September 2019.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Walt Ciplinski provided a comment regarding the meeting he attended at the TRB on October 9, 2019. He also commented regarding including the names of commentators in the minutes as well as including letters in the minutes.

June Pinkin commented regarding the health insurance plans and the second mailing that some members have not received and provided a suggestion regarding how the plan comparisons could be shown for easier viewing.

Elayne Futernick commented regarding the second mailing that she has not received and about the errors in the mailings.

Paula Schwartz read a letter speaking out regarding TRB's role in the new health insurance plan.

Ken Poppe commented on the assistance he received by the TRB with Express Scripts and made a suggestion to the TRB regarding the Center for Medicare Advocacy in Willimantic.

Mary Hendrickson provided comments regarding the time allowed for speaking at meetings and including remarks and the speaker's name in the minutes.

ADJOURNMENT:

With no other comments or announcements, a motion was made by Bill Myers and seconded by Bill Murray to adjourn the meeting. All members voted in favor and the motion was passed.

The meeting adjourned at 4:02 p.m.