



CT TEACHERS' RETIREMENT BOARD

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MINUTES

April 25, 2018 at 3:00 pm

The meeting of the Teachers' Retirement Board was called to order at 3:09 p.m. by Chairperson, Clare Barnett on Wednesday, April 25, 2018.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Clare Barnett, Teacher Member
Bill Myers, Teacher Member
Steven Muench, Teacher Member
Jonathan Johnson, Public Member
Charles Higgins, Public Member
William Murray, Teacher Member
Stephen McKeever, Teacher Member, AFT
Laurie Martin, Office of the State Treasurer
Gregory Messner, Office of Policy and Management
Elaine Lowengard, Public Member

BOARD MEMBERS NOT IN ATTENDANCE:

Lisa Mosey, Teacher Member
Kathy Demsey, State Department of Education

STAFF PRESENT:

Darlene Perez, Administrator
Charlene Hill, Assistant to the Administrator
Loc Pho, Associate Accountant

OTHERS PRESENT:

Robyn Kaplan-Cho, CEA
James Stirling, Stirling Benefits
Karen Nolen, OPM
Edward Messina, President, ARTC
Tom Singleton, ARTC
Walt Ciplinski, Retired Teacher
Pat McDonnell, ARTC

Sandra Bove, ARTC
Cathy D'Agostino, ARTC
Barbara Kmetz, ARTC
Livia DeJesus, Anthem
Noreen Scafuri, Retired Teacher
Cathy Potter, Retired Teacher
Kathy Ladd, Retired Teacher
Rita McDougald-Campbell
Ken Pope, Retired Teacher
Mary Hendrickson, Retired Teacher

Open meeting – Chairperson

1. Agency Report provided by Darlene Perez, Administrator:

Regulation Review Update:

The TRB Attorney and Darlene are getting close to completing the review of the regulations and are on target to submit the regulations for the next legislative cycle in the fall.

New CT tax form update:

The new CT tax form passed by the Legislators mandated every retiree in the State of CT who gets a pension or annuity to complete these new tax forms. If the new form was not completed, Plan Sponsors were required to withhold 6.99% of the retiree's salary. The new form is now very similar to the Federal tax form. The issues we were experiencing associated with this change is now slowing down and phasing out. Over 35,000 tax change forms were processed since February, 2018.

Greg Messener entered meeting at 3:15 p.m.

Medicare Advantage Implementation Update:

At the November 1, 2017 board meeting, the Board approved to offer a Medicare Advantage plan to retired teachers effective July 1, 2018. Announcements and information were sent out to retirees. TRB Health Plan Consultant, Dr. Joe Fields has been going out to different towns conducting joint meetings with Stirling Benefits and Anthem, covering all areas of the State. Video presentations of these meetings are posted to the TRB website for out of state members and anyone else who could not attend the meetings. Summary Plan Descriptions (SPD) for both plans are prominently displayed on the TRB website homepage. A Q&A for the Medicare Advantage plan is also posted on the TRB website.

2. Consideration and Approval of the Board Meeting Minutes for February 7, 2018 and February 21, 2018.

A motion was made by Bill Myers and seconded by Stephen McKeever to approve the meeting minutes for February 7, 2018 and February 21, 2018. All members voted in favor and the motion was passed with one revision for the February 21, 2018 minutes.

3. Consideration and Approval of the Active Teachers' Handbook.

The Active Teachers' Handbook will be posted to the TRB website.

A motion was made by Greg Messner and seconded by Steven Muench to approve the Active Teachers' Handbook. All members voted in favor and the motion was passed.

4. Update on the status of a new TRB Administrator.

Chairperson, Clare Barnett advised that the hiring of a new TRB Administrator is pending. The personnel matter was discussed in Executive session.

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

- a. Granting of service retirement benefits for the months of February and March, 2018.
- b. Survivor benefits for the months of February and March, 2018.
- c. Reports & recommendations of the Medical Review Committee regarding applications for Disability Payments as presented to the Medical Review Committee at the February and March, 2018 meetings.

A motion was made by Bill Myers and seconded by Bill Murray to approve the granting of service retirement, survivor benefits and applications for a disability allowance for the months of February and March, 2018. All members voted in favor and the motion was passed.

6. Executive Session:

A motion was made by Bill Murray and seconded by Stephen McKeever for the board to go into Executive session to discuss personnel and vendor contract matters. All members voted in favor and the motion was passed.

At 3:46 p.m. a motion was made by Bill Murray and seconded by Stephen McKeever for the board to come out of executive session. All members voted in favor and the motion was passed.

MATTERS FOR THE BOARD INFORMATION:

Retirement Statistics for the months of February and March, 2018.

COMMENTS FROM OBSERVERS:

Comments were made in support of Stirling Benefits and funding the retired teachers' health fund by the following observers:

Rita McDougald-Campbell, Mary Hendrickson, Kathy Ladd, Cathy D'Agostino, Walt Ciplinski, Cathy Potter, and Sandra Bove.

The following written statements were submitted:

Rita McDougald-Campbell – [Open Statement](#)

Mary Hendrickson – [Open Statement](#)

Kathy Ladd – [Open Statement](#)

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 4:25 p.m.