

MINUTES FOR THE 1235th BOARD MEETING
STATE BOARD OF RETIREMENT

DATE: December 22, 2020

TIME: 10:05 A.M.

PLACE: One Winter Street – 8th Floor, Boston, MA

There being a quorum present, the meeting was called to order at 10:05 A.M. by Treasurer Goldberg who first acknowledged the efforts of the Board and MSRB staff during 2020 in maintaining continuity of operations and responding to the needs of the MSERS members.

Treasurer Goldberg then noted that pursuant to the Commonwealth's Open Meeting Law Massachusetts General Law chapter 30A, §20, and subject to the Executive Order issued by Governor Baker on March 12, 2020, *Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law*, the meeting of the State Board of Retirement held via the internet was called to order with the following Members participating remotely for all or part of the meeting and who were identified: Treasurer Deborah Goldberg, Treasurer & Receiver General, Chair; Patricia Deal, Appointed Member; Theresa McGoldrick, Elected Member; Francis Valeri, Elected Member; Archie Gormley, Chosen Member; Sarah G. Kim., Treasury General Counsel / Designee. All votes taken at the meeting were taken by roll call vote.

Board staff present or participating remotely for all or part of the meeting were: Nicola Favorito, Deputy Treasurer/Executive Director; Melinda Troy, Senior Board Counsel; Lori Krusell, Associate Board Counsel; Brendan McGough, Associate Board Counsel; Kathryn Kougias, Finance Director; Kimberly Griffin, Manager of Information Systems; Paula Daddona, Communications & Outreach Manager; Zachary Pierce, Communications Coordinator; Chanese Brown, Manager, Disability Unit; Joisei Horton, Disability Case Counselor; Lisa Zale, Disability Case Counselor; Diana Reyes, Disbursement Manager; Zhuoxin Tan, Internal Auditor; Yande Lombe, Paralegal; Diane Scott, Group Classification Coordinator; and Pamela Diggs, Paralegal.

Treasury staff participating remotely for all or part of the meeting were: James MacDonald, First Deputy Treasurer; Chandra Bork, Chief of Staff; Liz Gomes, Deputy Chief of Staff; Steve Moore, Treasury Legislative Affairs; Elizabeth Morrocco, Associate General Counsel; and Andrew Napolitano, Treasury Communications.

Members of the public were provided access to the meeting via a call-in number. Participants participating remotely for all or part of the meeting were: Attorney Gerald McDonough; Robert Sylvia, Bristol County Sheriff's Office.

Treasurer Goldberg announced in accordance with the Commonwealth's Open Meeting Law that any person may make a video or audio recording of an open session of a meeting of a public body, and she was obligated to inform participants of any recording at the beginning of the meeting. She then asked that anyone who is making any recording identify themselves as doing so to Treasury staff monitoring the public access platform. No person indicated that he/she was making a recording.

Treasurer Goldberg also announced that for those members of the public accessing the open portion of the Board meeting, that access will conclude when the Board enters Executive Session and that the Board would adjourn today's meeting from Executive Session.

OPEN SESSION

MINUTES OF THE 1234th BOARD MEETING

On a motion by Ms. McGoldrick and seconded by Ms. Deal the Board voted unanimously to approve the Regular and Executive Session Minutes of the 1,234th Board Meeting, held on November 23, 2020.

ON THE ROLL CALL THE VOTE WAS AS FOLLOWS:

| | |
|--------------------|-----|
| Ms. Deal | Yes |
| Ms. McGoldrick | Yes |
| Mr. Valeri | Yes |
| Mr. Gormley | Yes |
| Treasurer Goldberg | Yes |

(Treasurer Goldberg departed the meeting; Treasury General Counsel Sarah Kim assumed the Chair.)

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

1. MSRB Operations

Mr. Favorito updated the Board on the status of various MSRB business operations.

The MSRB & Treasury will be operating under the current further modified work plan in Boston & Springfield into March 2021. In light of the ongoing public health concerns a reduced number of staff are working between the 7th & 8th floors in Boston, and the Springfield office has one or two staff 3-4 days per week. All other staff are working remotely. General member telephone access remains between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. There is no public access to either office.

A 3% retiree COLA retro-active to July 1, 2020 was authorized by the final FY'21 budget approved by the Governor. (Section 83). The implementation is being tested so the COLA and the retro-active amounts may be included with the December benefit payment. Mr. Favorito noted that information on the COLA was included in the most recent edition of the monthly eNewsletter and posted to the web site last week.

As occurs each December, all retirees & beneficiaries will receive a paper statement at the end of the month that reflects their benefit payments for 2020 and which they may use for informational purposes.

The budget (Section 24) confirmed the transfers to be made to the Commonwealth's Pension Liability Fund in fiscal years 2021 to 2023, in accordance with the following funding schedule:

- \$3,115,163,424 in fiscal year 2021;
- \$3,415,153,662 in fiscal year 2022; and
- \$3,744,032,959 in fiscal year 2023.

The budget also included an extension of the earnings limit suspension through 2021 (Section 68) so long as the State of Emergency remains in effect.

Weekly (disbursement) and monthly (pension) warrants continue to be executed regularly as scheduled. The December warrant will be closing later on in the day and it was expected that some 375- 400 new retirees would be added to the pension payroll.

For the calendar year through November, the MSRB's Benefit Calculation Unit had added approximately 2,790 new retirees to the pension payroll and more than 400 survivors and beneficiaries last month.

For the period since the MSRB's office closed in March through the past week, the Disbursement Unit has processed almost 2,150 refunds / rollovers / transfers totaling approximately \$34m in net funds.

The Business Support Unit supported by Treasury's Administration & Finance Department executed the tenth successful round of accelerated benefit payments. Fifty-one (51) new retirees had their benefits approved for payment on December 15th. Over \$650k was issued in total.

These members received their retro-active benefit payments (from their retirement date through November 30th) rather than have them wait until the end of December and receive the retro benefits together with their first month's benefit payment. These members are receiving their regular December benefit payment at the end of the month. Thus far more than 265 retirees have received accelerated payments in this fashion.

Mr. Favorito indicated that just under 5,000 Benefit Verification Forms will be included in a third mailing in January. Staff have processed over 59,000 BVF's to date.

Working along with Treasury HR the MSRB is in the process of filling several vacant positions including, Budget & Finance Manager, Data Quality Manager, Office Manager / Executive Assistant, Benefits Analyst (service Purchases), Benefit Calculation Analyst (2).

Weekly member and employer outreach continue through the Communications Team. Since the MSRB went remote, they have conducted 94 webinars with 5,103 attendees.

As of earlier this month, they have recorded 31,144 views on their videos (which includes our pre-recorded webinars on YouTube, operations updates, etc.) and they have completed 42 weekly *Coffee or Tea with MSRB* live stream shows.

2. YTD Fiscal 2020 Operating & Capital Spending Plans

Mr. Favorito noted to the Board the YTD Fiscal 2020 Operating and Capital Spending Plans vs. actual expenditure reports (through November 30, 2020) included as part of the Agenda materials.

3. PRIM Update

Mr. Favorito reviewed the PRIT Fund performance data provided through November 30, 2020 which arrived after the issuance of the Board meeting materials. Total PRIM assets stood at over \$83.3b, of which \$31.6 represented assets of the MSERS and \$166.3m represented assets of the former MTAERS. Calendar year to date returns stood at 7.84% and 10.06% for the one-year trailing period.

4. Legal Update

The Board was directed to the case summaries provided by the Legal Unit of recent Court and DALA /CRAB decisions provided by the MSRB Legal Unit.

5. Board / Staff Communications

Mr. Favorito highlighted some member and external communications received and issued over the past month, including the most PERAC Memo on Board member education for the upcoming first quarter.

(The Board then moved on to individual agenda items)

All votes, unless otherwise noted, are unanimous

AGENDA ITEMS

VETERAN'S PREMIUM (Chapter 161 of the Acts of 2006)

1. Alfred Rego

Attorney Gerald McDonough participated in the meeting on behalf of Mr. Rego.

After review of the materials submitted, on a motion by Mr. Valeri seconded by Mr. Gormley the Board voted to reconsider its prior denial of Mr. Rego's request to include the veteran's premium as part of his disability benefits.

ON ROLL CALL THE VOTE WAS AS FOLLOWS:

| | |
|----------------|-----|
| Mr. Valeri | Yes |
| Ms. Deal | Yes |
| Ms. McGoldrick | Yes |
| Mr. Gormley | Yes |
| Ms. Kim | Yes |

After further discussion, on a motion by Ms. Deal seconded by Mr. Gormley the Board voted to approve the request to include the veteran's premium in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 157 of the Acts of 2005, as amended by Chapter 161 of the Acts of 2006 based on the facts and circumstances presented.

ON ROLL CALL THE VOTE WAS AS FOLLOWS:

| | |
|----------------|-----|
| Mr. Valeri | Yes |
| Ms. Deal | Yes |
| Ms. McGoldrick | Yes |
| Mr. Gormley | Yes |
| Ms. Kim | Yes |

SERVICE PURCHASE REQUESTS

1. James Camacho

After review and discussion, on a motion by Ms. Deal seconded by Mr. Valeri the Board voted to deny the request to purchase contract service based on the facts and circumstances presented.

ON ROLL CALL THE VOTE WAS AS FOLLOWS:

| | |
|----------------|-----|
| Mr. Valeri | Yes |
| Ms. Deal | Yes |
| Ms. McGoldrick | Yes |
| Mr. Gormley | Yes |
| Ms. Kim | Yes |

2. Paul Saint Amand

After discussion, on a motion by Ms. McGoldrick seconded by Mr. Gormley the Board voted to approve the request to purchase veteran service based on the facts and circumstances presented.

ON ROLL CALL THE VOTE WAS AS FOLLOWS:

| | |
|----------------|-----|
| Mr. Valeri | Yes |
| Ms. Deal | Yes |
| Ms. McGoldrick | Yes |
| Mr. Gormley | Yes |
| Ms. Kim | Yes |

RETIREMENT DATE CHANGE

1. Darryl McCauley

After discussion, on a motion by Ms. Deal seconded by Ms. McGoldrick the Board voted to approve the requested retirement date of April 5, 2020 based on the facts and circumstances presented.

ON ROLL CALL THE VOTE WAS AS FOLLOWS:

| | |
|----------------|-----|
| Mr. Valeri | Yes |
| Ms. Deal | Yes |
| Ms. McGoldrick | Yes |
| Mr. Gormley | Yes |
| Ms. Kim | Yes |

GROUP CLASSIFICATIONS

GROUP 2

Pursuant to the Board's Classification Policy the following are reported as approved for Group 2 Classification:

1. **J. Carlos Bessa** – Social Worker 2, DCF
2. **Janine Brummer** – Social Worker 2, DCF
3. **Kathleen Cournoyer** -Clinical Social Worker C, Wrentham Developmental Center, DDS
4. **Monica Coven** – Assistant Chief Probation Officer
5. **Rajive Dogra** – MHW 3, Tewksbury Hospital, DMH
6. **Maureen Dolan-Coyle** –Probation Officer, MA Trial Court (posthumously)

7. **Debra Fenton** - Physical Therapy Assistant, Central Residential Svcs. West Region, DDS-ok
8. **Tyrone Foster** – Court Officer 3, MA Trial Court
9. **Cyndy Gillen** – RN 2, Commonwealth Community Svcs. Group Home, DDS-A
10. **Myra Hart** – Van Monitor, North River Collaborative
11. **Cynthia Heine** – Vocational Instructor C, Regional Employment Svcs. Central West, DDS
12. **Wayne Lacouture** - Habilitation Coordinator I, Wrentham Developmental Center, DDS
13. **Rebecca Lema** - Social Worker 2, DCF
14. **Robert Leung** – Assistant Chief Court Officer, MA Trial Court
15. **Paul McBrien** – Court Officer 3, MA Trial Court (POSTHUMOUSLY)
16. **Rosemary Oliveira** – Social Worker 3, DCF
17. **Richard Sargent** - MHW 4, S.E. Area, Cape Cod & Islands, DMH-A
18. **Linda Shaktman** – Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor I, Merrimack Valley Area Office, DDS-A
19. **Brian Sullivan** – Probation Officer, MA Trial Court
20. **Christopher Tamborra** – Youth Service Group Worker, DYS

(Unless otherwise noted, all votes taken by the Board were by roll call and were unanimous)

GROUP 2

1. **Timothy Allen** – Youth Service Caseworker, DYS
Approved; Motion by Ms. Deal, seconded by Mr. Gormley.
2. **Michael Bebirian** –Laboratory Supervisor 2, Dept. of Environmental Protection
Denied; Motion by Ms. McGoldrick, seconded by Ms. Deal
3. **Lawrence Bethune** – Maintenance Officer I, Essex Sheriff’s Department
Approved; Motion by Ms. McGoldrick, seconded by Mr. Valeri
4. **Annie Dennis** – MHW 4, Worcester Recovery Center & Hospital, DMH
Approved; Motion by Ms. Deal, seconded by Mr. Valeri
5. **Maria Franca** – Nursing Assistant I, Tewksbury Hospital, DPH
Denied; Motion by Ms. McGoldrick, second by Mr. Valeri
6. **Sokhonny Gnem** - Nursing Assistant I, Tewksbury Hospital, DPH
Denied; Motion by Ms. Deal, seconded by Mr. Valeri
7. **James Kelly** – RN 2, Pocasset Mental Health Center, Cape Cod & Islands Area, DMH
Tabled; Motion by Ms. McGoldrick, seconded by Mr. Gormley
8. **Christopher Koperniak** – Recreation Director, Berkshire House of Correction, Berkshire County Sheriff’s Office
Approved; Motion by Mr. Gormley, seconded by Mr. Valeri

9. **John Lobudek** –Electrician, Western MA Hospital, DPH
Denied; Motion by Ms. McGoldrick, seconded by Mr. Gormley
10. **James Needham** – Campus Police Officer I, Lemuel Shattuck Hospital, DPH
Denied; Motion by Ms. McGoldrick, seconded by Ms. Deal
11. **Ofelia Solem** - RN 5/Infection Preventionist/Case Mgr., Lemuel Shattuck Hospital, DPH
Denied; Motion by Ms. Deal, seconded by Ms. McGoldrick

HSC A/B

1. **Joseph Nevares** – HSC A/B, N.E. Area, DMH
2. **Carol O’Neil** – HSC A/B, Milford South Valley Area Office, DDS
3. **Marlene Prescott** – HSC A/B, Greater Boston Area Office, DDS
4. **Susan Tracy** -HSC A/B, South Valley Area Office, DDS

Approved; Motion by Ms. McGoldrick, seconded by Mr. Gormley.

GROUP 2 (Previously Tabled)

1. **Darrell Bress** –Administrative Officer 4, DYS
Denied; Motion Ms. Deal seconded by Ms. Deal.
2. **James Poblocki** – Residential Program Director, DYS
Denied; Motion by Mr. Gormley, seconded by Mr. Valeri.

GROUP 2 HSC A/B PRO RATED

1. **Gary Mach** **Department of Mental Health**
HSC A/B – 3/21/93 – Present
Approved; Motion by Ms. Deal seconded by Mr. Valeri

GROUP 4

Pursuant to the Board’s Classification Policy the following are reported as approved for Group 4 Classification:

1. **David Day** - Correction Officer I, DOC
2. **Shaun Dewey** - Captain, DOC
3. **Lawrence Feeney** - Lieutenant, Norfolk County Sheriff’s Office
4. **Joao Fortes** - Correction Officer III, DOC
5. **Lisa Gadbois** - Correction Officer, Bristol County Sheriff’s Office
6. **Robert Hayes** -Captain, DOC

7. **Joseph Hulme** - Correction Officer III, DOC
8. **Joanne Macedo** - Correction Officer, Bristol County Sheriff's Office
9. **Kevin Minns** -Field Parole Officer, Massachusetts Parole Board
10. **Martin Raynor** - Correction Officer III, DOC
11. **Willie Steele** - Correction Officer II, DOC
12. **Annette Tucker** - Correction Officer V, Essex County Sheriff's Department

GROUP 4

1. **Robert Sylvia, Jr.** - Assistant Superintendent/Security K9, Bristol County Sheriff's Office –
Approved; Motion by Ms. McGoldrick, seconded by Mr. Gormley.

GROUP 4 PRO RATED

1. **Gary Mach** **Department of Mental Health**
Escort Counselor – 12/22/85 - 9/26/92
Supervising Case Mgr. of Escort Counselors - 9/27/92 -3/20/93

Denied; Motion by Ms. McGoldrick, seconded by Ms. Deal

GROUP 4 CORRECTIONAL PROGRAM OFFICER PRO RATED

1. **Kelle Charpentier** **Department of Correction**
Correction Program Officer 10/26/80 – 7/18/92

Approved; Motion by Ms. McGoldrick, seconded by Mr. Valeri

20/50

Pursuant to the Board's Classification Policy the following are reported as approved for 20/50 Classification:

1. **Karie Bossa** -Correction Officer II, DOC
2. **Kenneth Brady** - Correction Officer, Plymouth County Sheriff's Department
3. **Richard Byrnes** - Correction Officer, Worcester County Sheriff's Office [deferred]
4. **Michael Chisholm** - Sergeant, Suffolk County Sheriff's Department
5. **Dion Coughlin** - Senior Correction Officer, Berkshire County Sheriff's Office
6. **Thomas Conlin** - Correction Officer I, DOC
7. **Christopher Donahue** - Sergeant, DOC
8. **Jason McGrane** - Captain, Suffolk County Sheriff's Department
9. **Richard Millis, Jr.** - Captain III, Berkshire County Sheriff's Office
10. **Shamus Peck** - Correction Officer III, DOC
11. **Kevin Sandberg** - Correction Officer, Worcester County Sheriff's Office
12. **Daniel Tessier** - Recreation Officer II, DOC

- 13. **Brendan Walsh** - Lieutenant, Suffolk County Sheriff's Department
- 14. **Shelby Williamson** - Primary Captain, Berkshire County Sheriff's Office

20/50 Correction Program Officer

Rebecca Stratford - Correction Program Officer A/B, DOC
Approved; Motion by Mr. Valeri; seconded Mr. Gormley

THE BOARD ENTERS INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 11:05 a.m. the Board entered into Executive Session to review applications for disability retirement, associated benefits, and to also consider the reputation, character, physical condition or mental health of individuals with business before the Board. Ms. Kim indicated the Board would not reconvene in Open Session after the Executive Session and will adjourn the meeting at the conclusion of the Executive Session.

Each Board member confirmed that no other person was present with them and/or able to hear the discussion at the remote location.

Mr. Gormley made a motion to enter Executive Session, Mr. Valeri seconded the motion.

ON ROLL CALL THE VOTE WAS AS FOLLOWS:

| | |
|----------------|-----|
| Ms. Deal | Yes |
| Mr. Valeri | Yes |
| Ms. McGoldrick | Yes |
| Mr. Gormley | Yes |
| Ms. Kim | Yes |

EXECUTIVE SESSION CONCLUDES AND ADJOURNMENT

**ON A MOTION BY MR. VALERI AND SECONDED BY MS. DEAL THE BOARD VOTED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING.
THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 11:56 AM.**

ON ROLL CALL THE VOTE WAS AS FOLLOWS:

| | |
|----------------|-----|
| Mr. Valeri | Yes |
| Ms. Deal | Yes |
| Ms. McGoldrick | Yes |
| Mr. Gormley | Yes |
| Ms. Kim | Yes |

THE NEXT REGULAR BOARD MEETING OF THE STATE RETIREMENT BOARD IS SCHEDULED TO BE HELD ON Thursday, January 28, 2021 starting at 10:00 AM.

Documents Used at the State Board of Retirement Meeting of December 22, 2020

- Agenda for the December 22, 2020 Board Meeting. Supporting documentation for Agenda items as referenced therein.
- Open Session and Executive Session Minutes of November 23, 2020 Board Meeting