

MINUTES FOR THE 1,248th BOARD MEETING
STATE BOARD OF RETIREMENT

DATE: January 27, 2022

TIME: 10:03 A.M.

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

There being a quorum present, the January 2022 meeting of the State Retirement Board (“Board”) was called to order at 10:03 a.m. by the Chair, Deputy Treasurer / General Counsel Sarah Kim (Treasurer Goldberg’s Designee).

Ms. Kim announced pursuant to the Commonwealth’s Open Meeting Law Massachusetts General Law chapter 30A, §20, as amended, that the meeting of the Board was being held via the internet and was being called to order with the following Members who would be participating remotely for all or part of the meeting and who were identified at this time: Ms. Kim, Patricia Deal, Appointed Member, Theresa McGoldrick, Elected Member; Francis Valeri, Elected Member; Archie Gormley, Chosen Member. Unless otherwise noted, 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; Kathryn Kougias, Finance Director; Melinda Troy, Director of Legal Services; Paula Daddona, Assistant Director of Communications & Outreach; Kimberly Griffin, Assistant Director of Information Systems; Diana Reyes, Assistant Director of Member Services; Scott Curtis, Budget & Finance Manager; Pamela Holloman, Office Manager / Executive Assistant; Chanese Pearson, Manager, Disability Unit; Zhuoxin Tan, MSRB Internal Auditor; Pamela Diggs, Paralegal; Joisei Horton, Disability Case Counselor; Lori Krusell, Associate Board Counsel; Yande Lombe, Paralegal; Brendan McGough, Associate Board Counsel; Stephanie Medina, Disability Case Counselor; Diane Scott, Group Classification Coordinator II; Zachary Pierce, Communications Coordinator.

Treasury staff participating remotely for all or part of the meeting were Emily Kowtoniuk, Treasury Legislative Affairs; James MacDonald, First Deputy Treasurer; Rachel Healey, MSRB Hearing Officer; Andrew Napolitano, Treasury Communications; Elizabeth Zelnick, Senior Policy Analyst; Lizandra Gomes, Deputy Chief of Staff.

Members of the public were provided access to the meeting via a call-in number. Participants participating remotely for parts of the meeting were Bethany DeMoura, Personnel Officer, DOC Francine Couture; Juan Gonzalez; Attorney Christine Narcisse.

Ms. Kim 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.

Ms. Kim 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 1247th BOARD MEETING

On a motion by Ms. McGoldrick and seconded by Mr. Gormley the Board voted unanimously to approve the Regular and Executive Session Minutes of the 1,247th Board Meeting, held on December 30, 2021.

ON THE ROLL CALL THE VOTE WAS AS FOLLOWS:

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

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

1. MSRB Operations

Mr. Favorito updated the Board that staff has reverted to increased remote work along with reduced in-office presence as directed by the Treasury. This will continue through at least February 25, 2022 when the work arrangement will be reviewed further. (The Treasury had modified the Pilot Hybrid Workplace Program (PHWP) implemented as of November 1, 2021 where MSRB staff had been working a minimum of two days per week in office and other days remotely.) Mr. Favorito provided that as was being seen generally a few staff members had reported infections, although none were due to office-based exposure.

Mr. Favorito noted that December's pension warrant closed on Wednesday, December 22nd. MSRB staff added 363 new payees, of which 307 are new retirees and 56 other payees (survivors, ex-spouses and dependents).

For January 320 total new payees, including 256 new retirees and 64 survivors, ex-spouses and dependent payees were added to the pension payroll. The total amount of benefits issued for the month was \$225.99m.

(Mr. Gormley joined the meeting)

The Business Support Unit supported by Treasury's Administration & Finance Department executed accelerated benefit payments this month. The team provided accelerated

payments to 121 retirees totaling \$1.435m in gross retro-benefits approved for payment on January 18th.

As had been requested by the Board Mr. Favorito passed along information regarding the use of the expedited / estimated benefit payment guidelines since the October 2021 benefit cycle through January 2022. Of the approximately 1,100 new superannuation retirements initiated, Mr. Favorito noted that 92 or 8.4% had been processed using the guidelines.

Mr. Valeri expressed his thanks for the information. He asked if there were factors that contributed to the number of cases approved thus far using of the guidelines. Mr. Favorito indicated he would take a closer look with the Benefits Calculation team but surmised the usage may have been impacted by factors including the number of pending cases being approved for which the MSRB may have already received / confirmed salary and service information, staff also working on retirement adjustments for existing retirees with retro-active pay adjustments that have been received, and by staff turnover where during this period the MSRB lost an Assistant Director for Benefits to retirement and a Benefit Calculation Manager to other employment.

Final review and submission of data to the MSRB's vendor took place last week related to the retiree 2021 Form 1099's. Mailing remains on schedule and has started this week and will be completed before the end of January.

Mr. Favorito reported December data available reflected over 7,700 telephone calls fielded by MSRB staff that were made to the main department extensions during the 23 business days. Over 4,800 calls were taken by the Call Center, 930 by our Member Administration Unit and 868 by our Benefit Calculation Unit. (This data does not take into consideration those calls made directly to staff extensions)

The Communications & Outreach Team over January hosted 3 webinars, with a total of 294 attendees. They also presented virtually to Framingham State University staff as part of their Professional Development Day, and at the Treasury's New Hire Orientation.

As of 12/21/21, there are 48,591 subscribers to the monthly MSRB Retiree *eNews Bulletin*. This represents approximately 73% of our total retiree/beneficiaries.

2. YTD Fiscal 2022 Operating & Capital Spending Plans

Mr. Favorito directed the Board to the information in the meeting materials summarizing the YTD Fiscal 2022 Operating and Capital Spending Plans vs. actual expenditure reports (through December 31, 2021).

3. House Bill 4345 / Senate Bill 2622

Mr. Favorito reviewed the status of the retirement provisions included in the COVID related supplemental budget filed in the Legislature. While the House had included a continued

retiree earnings waiver for 2022, the Senate had not included similar language. Both versions contained an extension of the Open Meeting Law exceptions for remote meetings until July 15, 2022. Both bills were engrossed individually and a conference committee is expected to be convened.

Mr. Favorito summarized the retirement related provisions of HB2 (proposed FY 2023 State Budget) filed by the Governor on January 26, 2022 which included a 3% COLA for state and teacher retirees, the funding schedule appropriation amount of \$3.7b, and a supplemental transfer of up to \$250 million to the Commonwealth's Pension Liability Fund from any consolidated net surplus in fiscal year 2023, before the remaining funds are deposited into the Stabilization Fund.

4. PRIM Performance Update

The Board reviewed PRIM performance materials as of December 31, 2021. PRIM total assets stood at \$104.267b up from \$100.563b at the end of November. The calendar year to date performance was reported as an increase of 20.61%. MSERS assets were reported at \$38.08b up from November 30, 2021 of \$37.031b.

5. Legal Update

The Board reviewed the case summary of a recent DALA & CRAB decision submitted by the Legal Unit.

Director of Legal Services Melinda Troy also presented the Board with data reflecting the activity of the Legal Unit for calendar years 2020 and 2021, including the number of appeals opened, DALA/CRAB/Court decisions issued and other activities of the Unit. The Board found the information helpful particularly where it showed the higher number of decisions on Group Classification and Disability appeals compared to other benefit requests. Ms. Troy and the Board thanked the Legal Unit for all their efforts over the period given the many additional activities they are responsible for in addition to litigation.

6. Out of State Travel Request

Mr. Favorito requested authorization from the Board to participate in the upcoming annual National Association of State Retirement Administrators (NASRA), Joint NASRA / NCTR Legislative Conference to be held February 26-28, 2022 in Washington, D.C. Mr. Favorito added his attendance would be contingent on improving public health considerations between now and the conference dates.

The Board on a motion made by Mr. Valeri and seconded by Ms. Deal voted to approve the request.

ON THE ROLL CALL THE VOTE WAS AS FOLLOWS:

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

7. Board / Staff Communications

Mr. Favorito referenced the communications in the meeting materials which included 1st Quarter 2022 Board Member Education opportunities, annual information of the summary of the Conflict of Interest Law, which Mr. Favorito asked individual Board Members to confirm the receipt of via email; and correspondence filed on behalf of the Board with the U.S. Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services seeking a review of Medicare Part B premium increases.

8. MSRB 110th Anniversary

Mr. Favorito informed the Board that February 19, 2022 would mark the 110th anniversary of the first meeting of the State Retirement Board. He referred the Board to copies of meeting minutes from that meeting included in the meeting materials.

AGENDA ITEMS

GROUP CLASSIFICATIONS

GROUP 2

Pursuant to the Board’s Classification Policy the following were reported as approved for Group 2 Classification:

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|-------------------------------------|---|
| 1. <u>Thomas Heath</u> | Elevator Inspector/Supervisor, Division of Professional Licensure/Office of Public Safety and Inspections |
| 2. <u>Michael Kenneally</u> | Court Officer 2, MA Trial Court |
| 3. <u>Vannak Kong</u> | Social Worker 2, DCF |
| 4. <u>Lisa Lamb</u> | Court Officer 3, MA Trial Court |
| 5. <u>Vittoria McDonough</u> | LPN 2, Residential Svcs, Roslindale, DDS |
| 6. <u>Kimberly Morrow</u> | Probation Officer 2, MA Trial Court |
| 7. <u>Patricia Musgrove</u> | RN 2, Central Residential Svcs., DDS |
| 8. <u>Sharon Nolan</u> | Probation Officer, MA Trial Court |
| 9. <u>Tina Pond</u> | LPN I, Commonwealth Community Svcs., DDS |
| 10. <u>Anne Reynolds</u> | RN 2, Central Residential Svcs., DDS |
| 11. <u>Oscar Rodriguez</u> | Vocational Instructor I, Hogan Regional, DDS |

- | | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| 12. <u>Jane Rosenbeck</u> | Social Worker 2, DCF |
| 13. <u>Marynel Sanchez</u> | Assistant Chief Probation Officer, MA Trial Court |
| 14. <u>Marilza Tolomeo</u> | Nurse Manager, UMASS Medical School |
| 15. <u>Brenda Torres</u> | Court Officer 2, MA Trial Court |
| 16. <u>Lisa Marie Walsh</u> | Residential Supervisor I, N.E. Residential Services, DDS |

GROUP 2 (Board Review)

1. **Myriam Adrien-Carius** RN 2, Lemuel Shattuck, DPH

After discussion of the available information, the Board on a motion made by Mr. Gormley and seconded by Ms. Deal the Board voted to deny the request for Group 2 Classification.

ON THE ROLL CALL THE VOTE WAS AS FOLLOWS:

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

2. **Dorrette Bogle-Stephenson** Case Reviewer A/B, Unit Foster Care Review Unit, DCF

After discussion of the available information, the Board on a motion made by Ms. Deal and seconded by Mr. Gormley the Board voted to deny the request for Group 2 Classification.

ON THE ROLL CALL THE VOTE WAS AS FOLLOWS:

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

3. **Clarke Caissie** Group Worker 3, DYS

After discussion of the available information, the Board on a motion made by Mr. Gormley and seconded by Ms. McGoldrick the Board voted to approve the request for Group 2 Classification.

ON THE ROLL CALL THE VOTE WAS AS FOLLOWS:

Ms. Deal	Yes
Ms. McGoldrick	Yes

Mr. Valeri	Yes
Mr. Gormley	Yes
Ms. Kim	Yes

4. **Gerard Couture** Mechanic 3, State Police

After discussion of the available information, the Board on a motion made by Ms. McGoldrick and seconded by Ms. Deal the Board voted to deny the request for Group 2 Classification.

ON THE ROLL CALL THE VOTE WAS AS FOLLOWS:

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

5. **Sherryl DeBlois** MHW 3/Asst. Program Director, Essex North High Street Apts., DMH

After discussion of the available information, the Board on a motion made by Mr. Gormley and seconded by Ms. Deal the Board voted to approve the request for Group 2 Classification.

ON THE ROLL CALL THE VOTE WAS AS FOLLOWS:

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

6. **Dawnmarie Greenwood** RN 2, Tewksbury Hospital, DPH

After discussion of the available information, the Board on a motion made by Mr. Gormley and seconded by Mr. Valeri the Board voted to deny the request for Group 2 Classification.

ON THE ROLL CALL THE VOTE WAS AS FOLLOWS:

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

7. **Mark McNulty** Lab Technician, Worcester County Sheriff's Dept.

After discussion of the available information, the Board on a motion made by Ms. Deal and seconded by Mr. Valeri the Board voted to deny the request for Group 2 Classification.

ON THE ROLL CALL THE VOTE WAS AS FOLLOWS:

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

8. **Angel Nazario** Qualified Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor, MA Rehab. Commission

After discussion of the available information, the Board on a motion made by Mr. Gormley and seconded by Ms. Deal the Board voted to deny the request for Group 2 Classification.

ON THE ROLL CALL THE VOTE WAS AS FOLLOWS:

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

HSC A/B (Board Review)

1. **Sally Hartigan** HSC A/B, Cape Cod & Islands, DMH

After discussion of the available information, the Board on a motion made by Mr. Gormley and seconded by Mr. Valeri the Board voted to approve the request for Group 2 Classification.

ON THE ROLL CALL THE VOTE WAS AS FOLLOWS:

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

GROUP 2 TABLED (Board Review)

1. **Terese Terrell** Recreational Therapist I, TBI Unit, Tewksbury Hospital, DPH

After discussion of the available information, the Board on a motion made by Ms. Deal and seconded by Mr. Gormley the Board voted to deny the request for Group 2 Classification.

ON THE ROLL CALL THE VOTE WAS AS FOLLOWS:

Ms. Deal	Yes
Mr. Valeri	Yes
Mr. Gormley	Yes
Ms. Kim	Yes

GROUP 2 TABLED (Correction)

1. **Michael O’Connell** Job Developer, Worcester County Sheriff’s Dept.

Diane Scott noted for the record that as part of the December Board meeting agenda, Michael O’Connell was incorrectly listed as Michael O’Connor.

GROUP 2 RECONSIDERATION

1. **Robert Long** Program Coordinator 3/Facility Director, Brewster Campus, DYS (Denied November 2021 meeting)

After discussion of the available information, the Board on a motion made by Ms. Deal and seconded by Mr. Valeri the Board voted to deny the request for Group 2 Classification.

ON THE ROLL CALL THE VOTE WAS AS FOLLOWS:

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

GROUP 2 (PRO-RATED SERVICE)

Pursuant to the Board’s Classification Policy the following are reported as approved for Group 2 Pro-Rated Classification:

1. **Jamie Campinha-Horner** **Department of Mental Health** (HSC C)
MHW 1 – 9/8/85 – 7/19/86
MHW 2 – 7/20/86 – 7/4/92

2. **Kevin Guiney** **Department of Youth Services** (Prog. Coordinator)
Youth Service Caseworker – 11/22/99 – 6/24/17

GROUP 2 PRO-RATED SERVICE (Board Review)

1. **Jamie Campinha-Horner** **Department of Mental Health** (HSC C)
MHW 3 – 7/5/92 – 12/24/94
MHW 4 – 12/25/94 – 6/2/01
MH Coordinator 2 – 6/3/01-12/15/01
HSC A/B – 12/16/01 – 10/6/07

After discussion of the available information, the Board on a motion made by Mr. Valeri and seconded by Mr. Gormley the Board voted to table the request for Group 2 Pro-Rated Service.

ON THE ROLL CALL THE VOTE WAS AS FOLLOWS:

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

2. **Thomas Cunningham** **Worcester County Sheriff's Department**
(Storekeeper)
Cook – 2/1/97 – 9/6/14
(Current position denied in Dec.)

After discussion of the available information, the Board on a motion made by Mr. Valeri and seconded by Mr. Gormley the Board voted to deny the request for Group 2 Pro-Rated Service.

ON THE ROLL CALL THE VOTE WAS AS FOLLOWS:

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

GROUP 4

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

1. **Richard Barklow** Correctional Officer/Corporal, Hampden County Sheriff Department
2. **Richard Bryan** Senior Correction Officer, Middlesex Sheriff's Office
3. **Joseph Calabrese** Correction Officer/Corporal, Hampden County Sheriff's Department
4. **John Steven Campbell, Jr.** Correction Officer, Department of Correction
5. **Sean Carney** Correction Officer I, Department of Correction
6. **Mark Crawford** Correction Officer I, Department of Correction
7. **Robert Donovan** Correction Officer/Corporal, Hampden County Sheriff's Department
8. **Paul Oliveira Gonsalves** Correction Officer, Department of Correction [deferred]
9. **Brian Kenney** Industrial Instructor III, Department of Correction
10. **James Lawless** Correction Officer II, Department of Correction
11. **Jonathan Lee** Correction Officer I, Department of Correction [posthumous]
12. **James Maloney** Industrial Instructor, Department of Correction
13. **Mark Micalizzi** Correction Officer, Department of Correction
14. **Alan Miner** Correction Officer I, Department of Correction
15. **Thomas M. O'Connor** Correctional Officer/Corporal, Hampden County Sheriff's Department
16. **Stephen O'Dell** Correction Officer, Berkshire County Sheriff's Office
17. **Anthony Parks** Correction Officer III, Department of Correction
18. **Kenneth Piazza** Correction Officer/Corporal, Hampden County Sheriff's Department
19. **Raymond Pike III** Correction Officer I, Department of Correction
20. **Michael Primeau** Correction Officer II, Department of Correction
21. **Timothy Ryan** Assistant Deputy Superintendent, Middlesex Sheriff's Office
22. **Thomas Stockbridge** Correction Officer, Suffolk County Sheriff's Department
23. **Robert Tenaglia** Field Parole Officer, MA Parole Board
24. **John Turowsky** Correction Officer/Industrial Instructor III, Hampden County Sheriff's Department
25. **Jeannie Veenstra** Assistant District Attorney, Bristol County District Attorney's Office
26. **Kevin Whippen** Captain, Department of Correction

CORRECTION PROGRAM OFFICER (Board Review)

1. **James Morrison** CPO A/B, Department of Correction

After discussion of the available information, the Board on a motion made by Ms. Deal and seconded by Mr. Gormley the Board voted to approve the request for Correction Program Officer service.

ON THE ROLL CALL THE VOTE WAS AS FOLLOWS:

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

2. **Kenneth T. Sheehan** CPO A/B, Department of Correction

After discussion of the available information, the Board on a motion made by Mr. Gormley and seconded by Ms. McGoldrick the Board voted to approve the request for Correction Program Officer service.

ON THE ROLL CALL THE VOTE WAS AS FOLLOWS:

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

3. **Michael Zinnack** CPO A/B, Department of Correction

After discussion of the available information, the Board on a motion made by Ms. McGoldrick and seconded by Mr. Gormley the Board voted to approve the request for Correction Program Officer service.

ON THE ROLL CALL THE VOTE WAS AS FOLLOWS:

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

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

- | | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| 1. <u>Seann Daly</u> | Correction Officer I, Department of Correction |
| 2. <u>Kevin Parker</u> | Correction Officer II, Department of Correction |
| 3. <u>Thomas Sheridan</u> | Correction Officer I, Department of Correction |
| 4. <u>Kurt Singer</u> | Associate Senior Correction Officer, Berkshire County Sheriff’s Office |
| 5. <u>Scott Sologaistoa</u> | Correction Officer I, Department of Correction |

THE BOARD ENTERS INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 11:04 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 THE ROLL CALL THE VOTE WAS AS FOLLOWS:

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION CONCLUDES AND ADJOURNMENT

ON A MOTION BY MS. MCGOLDRICK AND SECONDED BY MR. GORMLEY THE BOARD VOTED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING.

THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 11:47 A.M.

ON THE ROLL CALL THE VOTE WAS AS FOLLOWS:

Ms. Deal	Yes
Ms. McGoldrick	Yes

Mr. Valeri	Yes
Mr. Gormley	Yes
Ms. Kim	Yes

THE NEXT REGULAR BOARD MEETING OF THE STATE RETIREMENT BOARD IS SCHEDULED TO BE HELD ON Thursday February 24, 2022 starting at 10:00 AM.

Documents Used at the State Board of Retirement Meeting of January 27, 2022

- Agenda for the January 27, 2022 Board Meeting. Supporting documentation for Agenda items as referenced therein.
- Open Session and Executive Session Minutes of December 30, 2021 Board Meeting