

**MINUTES FOR THE 1,257<sup>th</sup> BOARD MEETING**  
**STATE BOARD OF RETIREMENT**

**DATE:** October 27, 2022

**TIME:** 10:02 A.M.

**PLACE:** One Winter Street – 8<sup>th</sup> Floor, Boston, MA

There being a quorum, the October 27, 2022, meeting of the State Retirement Board (“Board”) was called to order at 10:02 a.m. by Treasurer & Receiver General Deborah B. Goldberg, Chair.

Treasurer Goldberg announced pursuant to the Commonwealth’s Open Meeting Law Massachusetts General Law chapter 30A, §20, as amended recently by Chapter 107 of the Acts of 2022, 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: Deborah B. Goldberg, Treasurer & Receiver General, Chair; Maureen Valente, Appointed Member; Theresa McGoldrick, Elected Member; Francis Valeri, Elected Member. Unless otherwise noted, all votes taken at the meeting were taken by roll call vote.

Board staff that were present or participated remotely for all or part of the meeting were: Nicola Favorito, Deputy Treasurer/Executive Director; Melinda Troy, Director of Legal Services; Paula Daddona, Assistant Director of Communications & Outreach; Kimberly Griffin, Director of Information Systems & Technology; Micalie Baptiste-Merisier, Office Manager / Executive Assistant; Lisa Leary, Disability Benefits Support Analyst; Lisa Zale, Disability Case Counselor; Joisei Horton, Disability Case Counselor; Kathryn Kougias, Director of Finance; Zhuoxin Tan, Internal Auditor; Rachel Grimaldi, Director of Benefits; Yande Lombe, Associate Board Counsel; Brendan McGough, Associate Board Counsel; Pamela Diggs, Paralegal; Athila Soares-Nunes, Paralegal; Andrew Dickey, Paralegal; Zachary Pierce, Communications Coordinator, II; Ebenezer Shim, Communications Coordinator; Amanda Lavalley, Benefits Calculation Analyst, Justin Hunt, Benefits Calculation Analyst, Seth Emerson, Benefits Calculation Support Analyst, Venkata Yalangi, Benefits Calculation Support Analyst, Nicholas Leon Jr., Benefits Calculation Analyst.

Treasury staff that participated remotely for all or part of the meeting were: John Durgin, Associate General Counsel; Andrew Napolitano, Treasury Communications; Lizandra Gomes, Deputy Chief of Staff; Emily Kowtoniuk, Legislative & Policy Director; Al Anzola, Legislative & Policy Analyst; Alexa Michon, Legislative & Policy Analyst; Rachel Healey, Hearing Officer.

Members of the public were provided access to the meeting via a call-in number. Those registered as attending were Kristyn Camilleri, Director of Personnel, DOC; SaraKate Matthews, Personnel Officer I, DOC; Madhavan Chandrasekaran, Sagitec; Sriram Ramanujam, Sagitec; Christopher Eordekian, Assistant Superintendent, Barnstable County Sheriff’s Office; Rachel Goguen, Assistant Superintendent, Essex County Sheriff’s Department.

*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.*

*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 resume when the Board returns from Executive Session.*

### **MINUTES OF THE 1256<sup>th</sup> BOARD MEETING**

On a motion by Ms. Valente and seconded by Mr. Valeri the Board voted unanimously to approve the Regular and Executive Session Minutes of the 1,256<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting, held on September 29, 2022.

#### **ON THE ROLL CALL THE VOTE WAS AS FOLLOWS:**

Ms. Valente	Yes
Ms. McGoldrick	Yes
Mr. Valeri	Yes
Treasurer Goldberg	Yes

### **THE BOARD ENTERS INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION**

*At 10:05 a.m. the Board entered into Executive Session to review applications for disability retirement, associated benefits, litigation strategy, and to also consider the reputation, character, physical condition, or mental health of individuals with business before the Board. Treasurer Goldberg indicated the Board would reconvene in Open Session after the Executive Session.*

**Ms. McGoldrick made a motion to enter Executive Session, Mr. Valeri seconded the motion.**

#### **ON THE ROLL CALL THE VOTE WAS AS FOLLOWS:**

Ms. Valente	Yes
Ms. McGoldrick	Yes
Mr. Valeri	Yes
Treasurer Goldberg	Yes

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

*At 10:37 a.m. the Board concluded Executive Session and voted to reconvene in Open Session.*

**Ms. McGoldrick made a motion to conclude the Executive Session and reconvene in Open Session, Ms. Valente seconded the motion.**

**ON THE ROLL CALL THE VOTE WAS AS FOLLOWS:**

Ms. Valente	Yes
Ms. McGoldrick	Yes
Mr. Valeri	Yes
Treasurer Goldberg	Yes

**EXECUTIVE SESSION CONCLUDES AND THE BOARD RETURNS TO OPEN SESSION**

**AGENDA ITEMS**

**GROUP CLASSIFICATIONS**

**GROUP 2**

**Pursuant to the Board's Classification Policy the following were reported as approved for Group 2 Classification**

- |                                    |   |
|------------------------------------|---|
| 1. <b><u>Charles Anderson</u></b>  | Teacher C, Department of Correction           |
| 2. <b><u>Patricia Boughner</u></b> | LPN I, Southeastern Res. Serv., DDS           |
| 3. <b><u>Kenneth Cabral</u></b>    | Police Officer, UMASS Dartmouth               |
| 4. <b><u>Rodrigo Corazon</u></b>   | Clinical Social Worker A/B, WRCH, DMH         |
| 5. <b><u>Theresa Hoy</u></b>       | Occup. Therapist II, Hogan Reg Ctr, DDS       |
| 6. <b><u>Gerald O'Neill</u></b>    | Assistant Chief Court Officer, MA Trial Court |
| 7. <b><u>William Orr</u></b>       | Rehab Counselor A/B, DDS                      |
| 8. <b><u>Sally Pardoe</u></b>      | RS II, Southeastern Res. Serv., DDS           |
| 9. <b><u>Cheryl Santiago</u></b>   | Social Worker III, DCF                        |
| 10. <b><u>Rajmonda Sekniqi</u></b> | RN III, DMH                                   |

**GROUP 2 (Board Review)**

1. **Cathy Lynch** Paralegal/Inmate Legal Services, Plymouth County Sheriff's Department

After discussion of the available information, the Board on a motion made by Ms. McGoldrick and seconded by Ms. Valente the Board voted to deny this matter.

**ON THE ROLL CALL THE VOTE WAS AS FOLLOWS:**

Ms. Valente	Yes
Ms. McGoldrick	Yes
Mr. Valeri	Yes
Treasurer Goldberg	Yes

2. **Mark Morse** Director of Facilities, Plymouth County Sheriff's Department

After discussion of the available information, the Board on a motion made by Ms. Valente and seconded by Mr. Valeri the Board voted to deny this matter.

**ON THE ROLL CALL THE VOTE WAS AS FOLLOWS:**

Ms. Valente	Yes
Ms. McGoldrick	Yes
Mr. Valeri	Yes
Treasurer Goldberg	Yes

3. **Tina Platt** Booking & Intake Assistant, Bristol County Sheriff's Office

After discussion of the available information, the Board on a motion made by Ms. Valente and seconded by Ms. McGoldrick the Board voted to deny this matter.

**ON THE ROLL CALL THE VOTE WAS AS FOLLOWS:**

Ms. Valente	Yes
Ms. McGoldrick	Yes
Mr. Valeri	Yes
Treasurer Goldberg	Yes

4. **Timothy Trybus** Heavy Equipment Specialist, Berkshire County Sheriff's Office

After discussion of the available information, the Board on a motion made by Mr. Valeri and seconded by Ms. Valente the Board voted to deny this matter.

**ON THE ROLL CALL THE VOTE WAS AS FOLLOWS:**

Ms. Valente	Yes
Ms. McGoldrick	Yes
Mr. Valeri	Yes
Treasurer Goldberg	Yes

5. **Mary Zelten** Occupational Therapist II, Tewksbury Hospital, DPH

After discussion of the available information, the Board on a motion made by Ms. Valente and seconded by Ms. McGoldrick the Board voted to deny this matter.

**ON THE ROLL CALL THE VOTE WAS AS FOLLOWS:**

Ms. Valente	Yes
Ms. McGoldrick	Yes
Mr. Valeri	Yes
Treasurer Goldberg	Yes

**GROUP 2 RECONSIDERATION (Board Review)**

1. **Thomas Hicks** Physician Specialist, WRCH, DMH

After discussion of the available information, the Board on a motion made by Mr. Valeri and seconded by Ms. McGoldrick the Board voted to table this matter.

**ON THE ROLL CALL THE VOTE WAS AS FOLLOWS:**

Ms. Valente	Yes
Ms. McGoldrick	Yes
Mr. Valeri	Yes
Treasurer Goldberg	Yes

**GROUP 2 PRO-RATE**

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

- 1. **Sheila McDonough**                      **Massachusetts Port Authority**  
Supervisor/ Security Services – 07/03/95 -  
06/21/98  
Manager/ Security Services – 06/22/98 - 01/21/01

**GROUP 2 PRO-RATE (Board Review)**

- 1. **Allison Byron**                              **Department of Public Health – Tewksbury**  
LPN – 07/08/84 – 12/14/91  
RN – 12/15/91 – 6/17/01

After discussion of the available information, the Board on a motion made by Ms. Valente and seconded by Ms. McGoldrick the Board voted to table this matter.

**ON THE ROLL CALL THE VOTE WAS AS FOLLOWS:**

Ms. Valente	Yes
Ms. McGoldrick	Yes
Mr. Valeri	Yes
Treasurer Goldberg	Yes

**GROUP 2 PRO-RATE TABLED (Board Review)**

- 1. **Gretchen Carleton**                              **Department of Children and Families**  
Program Coordinator III – 12/01/96 – 2/3/99  
Program Coordinator III – 8/31/08 – 12/27/14

After discussion of the available information, the Board on a motion made by Ms. Valente and seconded by Mr. Valeri the Board voted to review Program Coordinator time for Group II.

**GROUP 2 PRO-RATE TABLED (Board Review)**

- 1. **Gretchen Carleton**                              **Department of Children and Families**  
Social Worker I – 10/28/90 – 11/12/94  
Social Worker III – 11/13/94 – 11/31/96

After discussion of the available information, the Board on a motion made by Ms. Valente and seconded by Mr. Valeri the Board voted to deny the request.

**ON THE ROLL CALL THE VOTE WAS AS FOLLOWS:**

Ms. Valente	Yes
Ms. McGoldrick	Yes
Mr. Valeri	Yes
Treasurer Goldberg	Yes

**GROUP 4**

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

1. **Robert Ahonen** Superintendent, Barnstable County Sheriff's Office
2. **Ross Alper** Superintendent/Special Sheriff, Barnstable County Sheriff's Office
3. **Rocco Cardaci** Captain, Worcester County Sheriff's Department
4. **Kelly-Anne Doherty** Assistant District Attorney, Plymouth County District Attorney's Office
5. **Christopher Eordekian** Assistant Superintendent, Barnstable County Sheriff's Office
6. **Wendy Eordekian** Captain, Barnstable County Sheriff's Office
7. **Rachel Goguen** Assistant Superintendent IV, Essex County Sheriff's Department
8. **Jedd Hall** Assistant District Attorney, Berkshire District Attorney's Office
9. **Carter Holmes** Assistant Deputy Superintendent, Norfolk County Sheriff's Office
10. **Beth Lind** Field Parole Officer C, MA Parole Board
11. **Barbara Marean** Assistant Deputy Superintendent, Hampshire County Sheriff's Department
12. **Timothy Mullen** State Quartermaster, Military Division (Mass. National Guard)
13. **Dawn Rosa** Correction Officer I, DOC
14. **Jennifer Rowe** Assistant District Attorney, Norfolk District Attorney's Office
15. **Matthew Silva** Correction Officer, Bristol County Sheriff's Department
16. **Daniel Swanfeldt** Correction Officer I, DOC

17. Ronald Tabb

Correction Officer II, DOC

**GROUP 4 CORRECTION PROGRAM OFFICER (Board Review)**

1. Jennifer Gaffney

Correction Program Officer C, DOC

After discussion of the available information, the Board on a motion made by Mr. Valeri and seconded by Ms. McGoldrick the Board voted to table this matter.

**ON THE ROLL CALL THE VOTE WAS AS FOLLOWS:**

Ms. Valente	Yes
Ms. McGoldrick	Yes
Mr. Valeri	Yes
Treasurer Goldberg	Yes

**GROUP 4 PRO-RATE**

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

1. Mark Morse

Plymouth County Sheriff's Department

Correction Officer – 06/11/90 - 08/06/95

Correction Officer/ Lieutenant – 08/07/95 - 08/05/08

Correction Officer/ Captain – 08/06/08 - 03/28/15

**20/50**

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

1. Joseph Bue

Correction Officer II, DOC

2. Luc Eyma

Correction Officer II, DOC

3. Peter K. Merrill II

Correction Officer, Plymouth County Sheriff's Department

4. David Murphy

Captain, Hampshire County Sheriff's Department

## **REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

### **1. MSRB Operations**

Mr. Favorito reported on activities related to MSRB operations for the Board.

He acknowledged the efforts of the MSRB Benefit Calculation and related units for initiating 339 benefit payments in October, of which 289 were Superannuation and Disability retirees. Also, 50 survivors, beneficiaries and dependents were added. Through October 2022 approximately 3,033 new payees have been added in this calendar year of which 2,493 are retirees.

The MSRB staff member working exclusively on the retiree adjustments reported at the end of September that she has completed all the adjustments (absent approximately 100 cases with outstanding data issues) represented by the Nov 2018 retro-active pay increases across Commonwealth agencies. There are more than 1,900 cases being processed for existing retirees who received post-retirement, retro-active pay adjustments in 2021/2022.

The Business Support Unit executed accelerated benefit payments for October to 122 new retirees totaling \$ 1,996,453.12 in gross retro-benefits approved for payment on October 14, 2022. Thus far for calendar year 2022, 1,119 accelerated payments have been issued totaling over \$20m in retro payments.

These members received their retro-active benefit payments (from their retirement date through September 30th). These members are receiving their regular October benefit payment at the end of the month.

Mr. Favorito noted through the payroll periods running September 23, 2022 through October 21, 2022, the MSRB Disbursement Unit processed 432 refunds / rollovers / transfers totaling approximately \$8.28m in net funds issued. Through the October 21, 2022, warrant the Disbursement Unit has processed 2,545 refunds / rollovers / transfers for the calendar year totaling over \$52.7m in net funds issued.

Mr. Favorito updated the Board on staffing. A new Paralegal has joined the MSRB. Finalists have been identified for three positions and Treasury HR is working to finalize those efforts. The MSRB currently has ten vacancies we are working to fill including manager positions in both the Disability Unit and Finance Unit.

Some 82 members accessed drop off hours for the period September 23 – October 19, 2022. More than 740 members have visited to drop off materials and speak MSRB staff since the beginning of March.

Mr. Favorito reported September data reflected almost 8,700 telephone calls received by MSRB staff that were made to the main department extensions. More than 6,400 calls were taken by the Call Center. Over 1,050 calls were taken by our Member Account Management and Benefit Account Management Units. (This data does not take into consideration those calls made directly to staff extensions).

Since the last Board meeting Communications staff have hosted 6 webinars covering a range of topics. For 2022 they have hosted 65 webinars with 4,729 attendees. Earlier this month Mr. Favorito presented information for employees of the Governor's Executive Office at the State House.

Communications & Outreach staff report for the calendar year so far approximately 13,513 total views of videos across our various platforms, which include Facebook, Twitter and YouTube. As of mid-October there are 51,311 retirees/survivors who subscribe to the monthly MSRB Retiree eNews Bulletin.

## **2. YTD Fiscal 2023 Operating & Capital Spending Plans**

Mr. Favorito referenced information summarizing the YTD Fiscal 2023 Operating and Capital Spending Plans vs. actual expenditure reports (through September 30, 2022).

## **3. Uncollectible Accounts Receivable**

Kathryn Kougias, the MSRB Finance Director presented information related to the Board's annual review of accounts receivable that c.32 permits the Board to deem uncollectible. Additional information was contained in the Board's meeting materials.

Ms. Kougias summarized accounts deemed uncollectible based on a member's date of death as of June 30, 2019, and the balance remains outstanding as of June 30, 2022. The account values range from \$.75 up to \$31,346.17. There were 187 accounts totaling \$216,295.71, with the average dollar value of \$1,157.00.

In response to Board questions, Ms. Kougias reviewed the process by which the account balances were created and the recovery efforts and resources available to the Board. She also provided information from prior years for comparison.

After discussion, on a motion made by Ms. Valente and seconded by Ms. McGoldrick the Board voted to authorize to deem the referenced accounts as uncollectible.

### **ON THE ROLL CALL THE VOTE WAS AS FOLLOWS:**

Ms. Valente	Yes
Ms. McGoldrick	Yes
Mr. Valeri	Yes
Treasurer Goldberg	Yes

#### **4. Section 91 Update**

Mr. Favorito updated the Board on the number of outstanding members who had failed to comply with their reporting requirements under Section 91A for 2021. As of this morning the MSRB Disability Unit reported 69 members on PERAC's termination list who had failed to comply. Sixteen members on the list were already terminated for prior year non-compliance. Under the Board's Section 91A policy, staff suspended these members' retirement allowance for the month of October 2022.

Mr. Favorito requested Board approval to terminate benefits if a member does not come into compliance by the next pension warrant cut-off date, November 22, 2022.

Mr. Valeri asked if any additional communication or outreach would occur. Mr. Favorito indicated a final termination letter will be sent to the member by regular and certified mail notifying them of their termination of benefits and appeal rights.

After discussion, on a motion by Ms. Valente and seconded by Ms. McGoldrick the Board voted to authorize action by Board staff as described and terminate the benefits for any member who had not come into compliance by November 22, 2022.

#### **ON THE ROLL CALL THE VOTE WAS AS FOLLOWS:**

Ms. Valente	Yes
Ms. McGoldrick	Yes
Mr. Valeri	Yes
Treasurer Goldberg	Yes

#### **5. Estimated Benefit Payment Functionality Update**

Mr. Favorito turned to Rachel Grimaldi, Director of Benefits, and Kimberly Griffin, Director of Information Systems & Technology who provided the Board an update on development work taking place to allow Board staff to issue estimated benefit payments for new retirees.

They indicated that members of the MSRB Benefit Calculation and MARIS Support teams have initiated analysis and planning to implement the estimated benefit payment functionality. Business and technical teams are meeting weekly with the MARIS support vendor Sagitec to design the solution, document requirements, and prepare a schedule for a multi-phase implementation.

The first phase will focus on “straight” calculations (i.e., one calculation type), this includes applications received for new retirees identified as Group 1 members with either a three or five-year salary averages, who do not receive differentials. This population represents 40-50% of monthly applications received.

They explained that Phase 1 will automate the current expedited benefit payments process allowing Benefit Calculation Analysts to focus their efforts on more complex retirement applications. Dependent on solution design and requirements completion and testing, phase 1 is tentatively scheduled to be delivered in the first quarter of 2023.

The Board thanked Ms. Grimaldi and Ms. Griffin for the information and looked forward to further updated after the start of the new calendar year.

## **6. Benefit Verification Update**

Mr. Favorito updated the Board that the second mailing of the 2022 BVF’s was issued at the start of October with a return date of October 28, 2022. Approximately 7,000 BVF’s were issued. He reported that more than 59,000 BVF’s had been successfully reviewed and processed.

## **7. PRIM Update**

The Board reviewed PRIM performance materials related to the MSERS and the former Turnpike Retirement System as of September 30, 2022.

PRIM reported its total assets at \$88,590b down from \$93.392b at the end of August 2022. The calendar year to date performance was reported as -14.38% gross of fees, one year performance stood at -9.65%. MSERS assets were reported at \$31.987b down from \$33.761b as of August 31, 2022. Mass Turnpike assets were stated at \$150.615m from \$159.884m.

Treasurer Goldberg indicated that PRIM’s results were better than most of the other large public pension systems on a relative basis. She added the next cycle of PRIM committee meetings would be occurring in mid-November with the PRIM Board meeting scheduled for December 2, 2022.

Mr. Favorito informed the Board that PRIM would be initiating its election process for the two statutorily elected seats on the PRIM Board. One is from the MSERS membership and the other from the MTRS membership. The current MSERS representative is Paul Shanley. Nomination papers would be available beginning November 17, 2022 and submitted by January 24, 2023.

**8. MSRB Legal Update**

Mr. Favorito turned the Board’s attention to the summaries of recently issued Court and DALA decisions including a state District Court upholding a pension forfeiture matter previously considered by the Board.

**9. Board Member Communications**

Mr. Favorito confirmed with the Board that the November 2022 Board meeting was scheduled for Tuesday November 22<sup>nd</sup> and asked whether the December meeting date of December 29<sup>th</sup> would be workable for the Board given their schedules. Some of the Board asked about possibly moving the December meeting to Wednesday the 28<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Favorito indicated he would review it with staff and the Treasurer’s Office. Mr. Favorito also referenced the proposed 2023 Board meeting schedule in the meeting materials.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**ON A MOTION BY MS. VALENTE AND SECONDED BY MS. MCGOLDRICK THE BOARD VOTED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING.**

**THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 12:04 P.M.**

**ON THE ROLL CALL THE VOTE WAS AS FOLLOWS:**

Ms. Valente	Yes
Ms. McGoldrick	Yes
Mr. Valeri	Yes
Treasurer Goldberg	Yes

**THE NEXT REGULAR BOARD MEETING OF THE STATE RETIREMENT BOARD IS SCHEDULED TO BE HELD ON Tuesday November 22, 2022 starting at 10:00 AM.**