

MINUTES FOR THE 1,260th BOARD MEETING
STATE BOARD OF RETIREMENT

DATE: January 26, 2023

TIME: 10:05 A.M.

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

There being a quorum, the January 26, 2023, meeting of the State Retirement Board (“Board”) was called to order at 10:05 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; Archie Gormley, Chosen 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: Kathryn Kougias, Interim Executive Director /Director of Finance; 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 Unit Manager; Joisei Horton, Disability Benefits Support Analyst; Zhuoxin Tan, MSRB Internal Auditor; Yande Lombe, Associate Board Counsel; Pamela Diggs, Paralegal; Athila Soares-Nunes, Paralegal; Andrew Dickey, Paralegal; Zachary Pierce, Communications Coordinator, II; Ebenezer Shim, Communications Specialist; Pamela Holloman, Benefit Calculation Disbursement Manager; Venkata Yalangi, Benefits Calculation Support Analyst; Seth Emerson, Benefits Calculation Support Analyst.

Treasury staff that participated remotely for all or part of the meeting were: Sarah Kim, Deputy Treasurer/General Counsel; John Durgin, Associate General Counsel; 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 Esperanca Moniz HSC III, DMH; Jodi Sophinos RN IV, DPH; SarahKate Matthews Personnel Officer I, DOC; Kristyn Camilleri Director of Personnel, DOC.; James Coleman Correction Officer, Middlesex 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 1259th BOARD MEETING

On a motion by Mr. Valeri and seconded by Mr. Gormley the Board voted unanimously to approve the Regular and Executive Session Minutes of the 1,259th Board Meeting, held on December 29, 2022.

ON THE ROLL CALL THE VOTE WAS AS FOLLOWS:

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

THE BOARD ENTERS INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 10:08 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

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

ON THE ROLL CALL THE VOTE WAS AS FOLLOWS:

Ms. Valente	Yes
Mr. Gormley	Yes
Ms. McGoldrick	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 11:20 a.m. the Board concluded Executive Session and voted to reconvene in Open Session.

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

ON THE ROLL CALL THE VOTE WAS AS FOLLOWS:

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION CONCLUDES AND THE BOARD RETURNS TO OPEN SESSION

TAB 2: GROUP CLASSIFICATIONS

GROUP 2

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

1. **Yoleine Bain** Registered Nurse II, Hogan Regional Center, DDS
2. **Nicole Barrett** Social Worker II, DCF
3. **Steven Bradley** RN, Brockton Multi-Service Center, DMH
4. **Steven Broderick** Classification Supervisor, Suffolk County Sheriff's Department
5. **Judith Farrell** Rehab Counselor A/B, WRCH, DMH
6. **Olga Lattarulo** Probation Officer II, MA Trial Court
7. **Marie Leroy** DSW III, Wrentham Dev. Ctr., DDS
8. **Lucy Michelangelo** Van Driver, North River Collaborative
9. **David Pavao** Probation Officer II, MA Trial Court
10. **Anthony Powell** Associate Probation Officer, MA Trial Court
11. **Cynthia Preston** Social Worker II, DCF
12. **Evelyn Santana** Re-Entry Assistant II, Hampden County Sheriff's Department
13. **Gary St. Pierre** DSW III, Wrentham Dev. Ctr., DDS
14. **Rolando Torres** Social Worker II, DCF

Group 2 (Board Review)

1. **Joseph Crosby** Custody Assessment Manager, Suffolk County Sheriff's Department

After discussion of the available information, the Board on a motion made by Ms. McGoldrick to approve this request. After additional discussion, that motion was withdrawn. Ms. Valente made a second motion to deny the request which was seconded by Ms. McGoldrick..

ON THE ROLL CALL THE VOTE WAS AS FOLLOWS:

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

2. **Karen Foley Roman** Developmental Therapist, UMass Medical School

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

ON THE ROLL CALL THE VOTE WAS AS FOLLOWS:

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

3. **John Macedo** Maintenance Groundskeeper, Bristol County Sheriff's Department

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

ON THE ROLL CALL THE VOTE WAS AS FOLLOWS:

Ms. Valente	Yes
Ms. McGoldrick	Yes

Mr. Valeri	Yes
Mr. Gormley	Yes
Treasurer Goldberg	Yes

4. **Robert McCrea** ABE/ASE Teacher/Program Coordinator, Hampshire County Sheriff's Department

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

ON THE ROLL CALL THE VOTE WAS AS FOLLOWS:

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

5. **Jodi Sophinos** RN IV, Western Mass. Hospital, DPH

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

ON THE ROLL CALL THE VOTE WAS AS FOLLOWS:

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

6. **Stephanie Weston** LPN II, Chelsea Soldiers' Home

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

ON THE ROLL CALL THE VOTE WAS AS FOLLOWS:

Ms. Valente	Yes
Ms. McGoldrick	Yes
Mr. Valeri	Yes
Mr. Gormley	Yes

Treasurer Goldberg Yes

7. **JoAnn White** Caseworker Supervisor, Suffolk County Sheriff's
Department

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

ON THE ROLL CALL THE VOTE WAS AS FOLLOWS:

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

HSC A/B (Board Review)

1. **Mark Stockley** HSC A/B, DMH

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

ON THE ROLL CALL THE VOTE WAS AS FOLLOWS:

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

2. **Jennifer Wilson** HSC A/B, DDS

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

ON THE ROLL CALL THE VOTE WAS AS FOLLOWS:

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

3. **Joseph Woodbury** HSC A/B, DDS

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

ON THE ROLL CALL THE VOTE WAS AS FOLLOWS:

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

HSC C (Board Review)

1. **Catherine Beaver** HSC II, DDS

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

ON THE ROLL CALL THE VOTE WAS AS FOLLOWS:

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

2. **Esperanca Moniz** HSC C, DMH

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

ON THE ROLL CALL THE VOTE WAS AS FOLLOWS:

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

3. **Debora Ouimette** HSC C, DMH

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

ON THE ROLL CALL THE VOTE WAS AS FOLLOWS:

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

4. **Jeffrey Schwartz** HSC II, DMH

After discussion of the available information, the Board on a motion made by Ms. McGoldrick and seconded by Mr. Gormley voted to take no action on this request.

ON THE ROLL CALL THE VOTE WAS AS FOLLOWS:

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

HSC D (Board Review)

1. **Lynne Elliot** HSC D, DMH

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

ON THE ROLL CALL THE VOTE WAS AS FOLLOWS:

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

Group 2 Pro-Rate (Board Review)

1. **Jeffrey Schwartz**

Department of Mental Health

HSC A/B – 09/26/05 - 07/28/07

After discussion of the available information, the Board on a motion made by Ms. Valente and seconded by Ms. McGoldrick voted to take no action on this request.

ON THE ROLL CALL THE VOTE WAS AS FOLLOWS:

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

GROUP 4

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

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. <u>Joseph Bruno</u> | Correction Officer I, DOC |
| 2. <u>Thadius Carter</u> | Captain, Hampden County Sheriff's Department |
| 3. <u>James Coleman</u> | Correction Officer, Middlesex County Sheriff's Department |
| 4. <u>Ryan Dunn</u> | Correction Officer I, DOC [posthumous] |
| 5. <u>Jeffrey Gonsalves</u> | Correction Officer I, DOC |
| 6. <u>Robert Hamilton</u> | Correction Officer, Suffolk County Sheriff's Department |
| 7. <u>Brendan Harte</u> | Correction Officer III, DOC |
| 8. <u>Neil Johnson</u> | Correction Officer I, DOC |
| 9. <u>Richard Linehan</u> | ADA, Plymouth County DA's Office |
| 10. <u>Brendan Murphy</u> | ADS II, Barnstable County Sheriff's Office |
| 11. <u>Wolodymyr Newmerzycky</u> | Correction Officer III, DOC |
| 12. <u>James Roberts</u> | Captain, DOC |
| 13. <u>Michael Trudeau</u> | ADA, Cape and Islands DA's Office |
| 14. <u>Robert Walker</u> | Lieutenant, Suffolk County Sheriff's Department |

Group 4 (Tabled) (Board Review)

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| 1. <u>Gregory Centeio</u> | Assistant Superintendent I of Operation |
| Assessment | Development, Bristol County Sheriff's Department |

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

ON THE ROLL CALL THE VOTE WAS AS FOLLOWS:

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

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| 2. <u>Dwayne Fortes</u> | Assistant Deputy Superintendent of Training, |
| Plymouth | County Sheriff's Department |

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

ON THE ROLL CALL THE VOTE WAS AS FOLLOWS:

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

3. **Scott Lennon** Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources,
Middlesex Sheriff's Office

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

ON THE ROLL CALL THE VOTE WAS AS FOLLOWS:

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

20/50

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

1. **John Degiacomo** Correction Officer - Sergeant, Suffolk County Sheriff's Department
2. **Derek Duncan** Correction Officer, Suffolk County Sheriff's Department
3. **Jason Firmin** Correction Officer, Worcester County Sheriff's Department
4. **Thomas Harris** Correction Officer, Suffolk County Sheriff's Department
5. **Thomas Lee** Correction Officer, Suffolk County Sheriff's Department
6. **Janet Vasquez-Pavao** Correction Officer, Bristol County Sheriff's Office

TAB 3: REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

1. MSRB Operations

Ms. Kougias provided information to the Board on several MSRB operational activities.

The January pension warrant closed the afternoon of January 24, 2023. MSRB staff added 300 new payees, of which 269 were superannuation and disability retirees. The January 2023 pension payment totaled over \$238M. A recap of the calendar year 2022 reported the following: approximately 3,746 new payees were added of which 3,129 were retirees.

Since the last Board meeting through mid-January, 2023, approximately 57 benefit adjustments were completed associated with retro-active pay increases previously reported for existing retirees. A recap of the calendar year 2022 shows that 1,412 benefit adjustments were completed.

The Business Support Unit executed **accelerated benefit payments** for January for 110 new retirees that totaled greater than \$1.5m in gross retro-benefits and approved for payment on January 11, 2023. These members received their retro-active benefit payments (from their retirement date through December 31, 2022). They will receive their regular January 2023 benefit at the end of the month.

Ms. Kougias recapped calendar year 2022: there were 1,407 accelerated payments that totaled over \$25m in retro payments.

Through the payroll periods running from the last two weeks in December 2022 to mid-January, the **MSRB Disbursement Unit** processed 319 refunds / rollovers / transfers totaling approximately \$5.9m in net funds issued. Calendar year December 2022 , we reported that 3,216 refunds / rollovers / transfers totaled over \$67.1m in net funds issued.

The workforce activity, since the December Board meeting shows the executive director position transitioned to Kathryn Kougias as Interim Executive Director effective January 9, 2023. Ms. Kougias reports that after nearly 20 years of service with the Board, Nicola "Nick" Favorito resigned. Ms. Kougias thanks Mr. Favorito for his dedication and commitment to its members, colleagues, and employees. His leadership made a significant impact to the success of MSRB. He will be sorely missed. A new Benefit Calculation Analyst joined this month. Three positions became vacant and there are several other vacancies that we are working to fill as follows: the Budget & Finance Manager, Board Accountant, Associate Board Counsel (2), Audit Associate, Members Services Representative and Chief Operating Officer.

Ms. Kougias notes that the Retiree 2022 Form 1099-R issuance is on schedule and will be mailed on or before January 31, 2023.

There were 75 In person visits to MSRB since mid-December through mid-January during the drop off hours in Boston.

December data reflects approximate 7,900 telephone calls received by MSRB staff that were made to the main department extensions. More than 6,000 calls were taken by the Call Center. Approximately 500 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, MSRB Communication staff hosted member 5 webinars with just over 300 attendees.

Communications & Outreach staff report for the calendar year so far approximately 16,209 total views of videos across our various platforms, which include Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube.

As of mid-January, there are over 52,000 retirees/survivors who subscribe to the monthly MSRB Retiree eNews Bulletin.

2. YTD Fiscal 2023 Operating & Capital Spending Plans

Ms. Kougias highlighted spending plan information for the YTD Fiscal 2023 Operating and Capital Spending Plans vs. actual expenditure reports through December 2023. At the close of December 2023, the Board has expended approximately 35% of the operating budget through the first six months of the fiscal year.

3. Proposed Triennial Pension Funding Schedule.

Ms. Kougias outlined Secretary Matthew J. Gorkowicz's letter of January 13, 2023, to the Chairs of the House and Senate Ways and Means Committees. The letter represents the Commonwealth's employee retirement obligation. A complete schedule through FY2036 is included.

4. Section 91 Update

Mr. Kougias updated the Board and noted that 33 retirees have failed to comply with the reporting requirements under Section 91A for 2021 and their benefits have been terminated / suspended. Further, at this time, 12 members who were deemed over earners have requested a meeting.

5. Benefit Verification Update

Ms. Kougias updated the Board and since the December 30 mailing of 2,606 to members who have not returned the benefit verification, we received 858 forms as of the return date of January 20, 2023. The December mailing was the third mailing to the retirees. As of this week, there are 64,490 approved verifications forms.

6. PRIM Update

The Board reviewed PRIM performance materials related to the MSERS and the former Turnpike Retirement System as of December 31, 2022.

PRIM's total assets were reported at \$91.6b down from \$93.3b at the end of November 2022. The calendar year to date was -10.83% gross of fees. The 3-year performance at month end was 6.58%. MSERS assets were reported at \$33.1b from \$33.8b as of November 30, 2022. Mass Turnpike assets were stated at \$153.5m up from \$157.3m.

7. PRIM Board Member Election for MSERS

Ms. Kougias informed the Board that two candidates have qualified for the upcoming election.

8. UMass Membership Memorandum

Ms. Melinda Troy, Counsel for MSRB outlined the matter as presented in the memorandum dated January 2023 to the Board. Ms. Troy and UMass Foundation counsel will continue to evaluate eligibility for MSERS membership so to maintain MSERS status as a retirement plan qualified by the Internal Revenue Service.

9. MSRB Legal Update

Ms. Troy presented the legal update memorandum of recently issued Court and DALA decisions. Ms. Troy noted that the decision of Cesan v. State Board of Retirement was upheld and is now final.

10. Board Member Communications

Mr. Kougias informed the Board of the articles of interest included in the Board materials for their reading.

ADJOURNMENT

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

THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 11:38 P.M.

ON THE ROLL CALL THE VOTE WAS AS FOLLOWS:

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

THE NEXT REGULAR BOARD MEETING OF THE STATE RETIREMENT BOARD IS SCHEDULED TO BE HELD ON Thursday February 23, 2023 starting at 10:00 AM.