

OPEN MINUTES OF THE MEETING
1,290th BOARD MEETING
STATE RETIREMENT BOARD

DATE: July 31, 2025

TIME: 10:00 AM

PLACE: One Winter Street, Boston, MA 02108/Remote

There being a quorum present, the July 31, 2025 meeting of the State Retirement Board ("Board") was called to order at **10:02 a.m.** by the Acting Chair, Emily Kowtoniuk.

Ms. Kowtoniuk announced that pursuant to the Commonwealth's Open Meeting Law Massachusetts General Law Chapter 30A, §20, as amended by Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2025, 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: Emily Kowtoniuk, Legislative Director & Acting Chair; Joanne Goldstein, Appointed Member; Frank Valeri, Elected Member and Theresa McGoldrick, Elected Member. Deborah Goldberg, Chair, Treasurer, & Receiver General was absent. Archibald Gormley, Jr., Chosen Member was absent. 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 July 31, 2025 meeting were: Kathryn Kougias, Executive Director; Sandor Zapolin, Deputy Executive Director/Chief Operating Officer; Yande Lombe, Associate Board Counsel; Jacqueline Sullivan, Associate Board Counsel; Matthew Szafranski, Associate Board Counsel; Kim Griffin, Director of Information Systems & Technology; Diana Reyes, Director of Disbursements & Survivor Benefits; Alison Eggers, Deputy General Counsel; John Durgin, Associate General Counsel; Marko Samardzic, Associate Board Counsel; Brendan McGough, Associate General Counsel; Pamela Diggs, Senior Paralegal; Athila Soares-Nunes, Paralegal; Kanan Gasimov, Paralegal; Elizabeth Finn, Legal Intern; Zachary Sclar, Legal Intern; Marsha Knight, Disbursement Unit Manager; Sharon Sullivan, Director of Budget & Finance; Stephanie Sicard, Assistant Director, Benefit Calculation; Lisa Zale, Assistant Director, Disability Unit; Joisei Horton, Disability Retirement Manager; Jasmine Chasse, Disability Retirement Case Counselor; Robert Liford, Disability Retirement Case Counselor; Paula Daddona, Director of Member Experience, Communications & Operations; Zachary Pierce, Communications Manager; Lauren Lavanchy, Communications Coordinator; and Laura Mercure Executive Assistant & Office Manager.

Treasury staff that participated remotely for all or part of the meeting were: Lizandra Gomes, Deputy Chief of Staff, DE&I Program Manager; Andrew Napolitano, Deputy Communications Director; Elizabeth Morrocco, Associate General Counsel/Procurement Director; Sonia McCallum, Associate General Counsel; Rachel Healey, Hearing Officer; Jim Salvie, Hearing Officer; and Sandra DeSantis Lynch, General Counsel.

Fifteen guests participated remotely for all or part of the meeting. Their names were: Leigh Panettiere, John Analetto, Maria Rodriguez, Jacob Stoico, Thomas Gibson, Thomas Fallon, Shawn Woodward, Dominic Maraglia, William Raven, Alan Haley, Paul Barbadoro, Lindsey Hamilton,

Michael Arkashian, Gina Carter, and Paul Danahy.

Members of the public were provided access to the meeting via a GoToWebinar link. Three members of the public registered. Their names were: Kristyn Camilleri, Erin Colameco, and Dawn Faniel-Hall.

Ms. Kowtoniuk 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 to a public body, and she was obligated to inform participants of any recording at the beginning of the meeting. Ms. Kowtoniuk announced that for any members of the public accessing the open portion of the Board meeting, that access would conclude when the Board entered Executive Session and resume when the Board returned to Open Session.

MINUTES OF THE JUNE 26, 2025 BOARD MEETING

On a motion made by Ms. McGoldrick, and seconded by Mr. Valeri, the Board voted to approve the Open Session Minutes and the Executive Session Minutes of the 1,289th Board Meeting held on June 26, 2025.

ON THE ROLL CALL, THE VOTE WAS AS FOLLOWS:

Mr. Valeri	Yes
Ms. McGoldrick	Yes
Ms. Goldstein	Yes
Mr. Gormley, Jr.	Absent
Ms. Kowtoniuk	Yes

THE BOARD ENTERS INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION

At **10:04 a.m.**, the Board entered into Executive Session for today's meeting on July 31, 2025, to review applications for disability retirement, associated benefits, litigation strategy, and to consider the reputation, character, physical condition, or mental health of individuals with business before the Board. Ms. Kowtoniuk indicated that the Board would reconvene in Open Session after the Executive Session.

On a motion made by Ms. Goldstein, and seconded by Ms. McGoldrick, the Board voted to enter Executive Session.

ON THE ROLL CALL, THE VOTE WAS AS FOLLOWS:

Mr. Valeri	Yes
Ms. McGoldrick	Yes
Ms. Goldstein	Yes
Mr. Gormley, Jr.	Absent
Ms. Kowtoniuk	Yes

EXECUTIVE SESSION CONCLUDES AND THE BOARD RECONVENES IN OPEN SESSION

At **1:58 p.m.** the Board voted to conclude the Executive Session and to reconvene in Open Session.

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

ON THE ROLL CALL, THE VOTE WAS AS FOLLOWS:

Mr. Valeri	Yes
Ms. McGoldrick	Yes
Ms. Goldstein	Yes
Mr. Gormley, Jr.	Absent
Ms. Kowtoniuk	Yes

TAB 2: GROUP CLASSIFICATIONS

Group 2

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

1. **Maureen Chamberlain** - Chief Probation Officer, MA Trial Court
2. **Cidalia Couto-Pierre** - Vocational Instructor A/B, DDS
3. **Kenneth Davis** - Chief Court Officer, MA Trial Court
4. **Kimberly Dewire** - Social Worker III, DCF
5. **Herbert Dixon** - Court Officer III, MA Trial Court
6. **Mary Ellen Fournier** - LPN II, DDS
7. **Susan Giunta** - Paraprofessional, Northshore Education Consortium
8. **Priscilla James** - Social Worker II, DCF
9. **Robert Johnston** - Senior Prison Steward/ CO, Hampden County Sheriff's Department
10. **Lise Kenniston** - RN II, Tewksbury Hospital, DPH
11. **Kelly Krugh** - Social Worker II, DCF
12. **Cynthia Landry** - RN II, Chelsea Soldier's Home
13. **William Mitchell** - Chief Probation Officer, MA Trial Court
14. **Lisa Persichini** - Social Worker III, DCF
15. **Rebecca Rowland** - Social Worker II, DCF
16. **Victoria Salal** - Social Worker III, DCF

Group 2 (Board Review)

1. **Melissa Blackwell** – RN II, Southeastern Residential Services, DDS

On a motion made by Ms. McGoldrick and seconded by Mr. Valeri, the Board voted to approve Ms. Blackwell’s Group 2 classification request.

ON THE ROLL CALL, THE VOTE WAS AS FOLLOWS:

Mr. Valeri	Yes
Ms. McGoldrick	Yes
Ms. Goldstein	Yes
Mr. Gormley, Jr.	Absent

Ms. Kowtoniuk Yes

2. **Kathy Dickinson-Asci** – RN II, Lemuel Shattuck Hospital, DPH

On a motion made by Ms. McGoldrick and seconded by Mr. Valeri, the Board voted to deny Ms. Dickinson-Asci's Group 2 classification request.

ON THE ROLL CALL, THE VOTE WAS AS FOLLOWS:

Mr. Valeri	Yes
Ms. McGoldrick	Yes
Ms. Goldstein	Yes
Mr. Gormley, Jr.	Absent
Ms. Kowtoniuk	Yes

3. **Nancy Fennessy** – Clinical Social Worker D, Tewksbury Hospital, DMH

On a motion made by Mr. Valeri and seconded by Ms. McGoldrick, the Board voted to approve Ms. Fennessy's Group 2 classification request.

ON THE ROLL CALL, THE VOTE WAS AS FOLLOWS:

Mr. Valeri	Yes
Ms. McGoldrick	Yes
Ms. Goldstein	Yes
Mr. Gormley, Jr.	Absent
Ms. Kowtoniuk	Yes

4. **Kathleen Lydon** - Deputy Chief of Investigations, DOC

On a motion made by Ms. McGoldrick and seconded by Ms. Goldstein, the Board voted to deny Ms. Lydon's Group 2 classification request.

ON THE ROLL CALL, THE VOTE WAS AS FOLLOWS:

Mr. Valeri	Yes
Ms. McGoldrick	Yes
Ms. Goldstein	Yes
Mr. Gormley, Jr.	Absent
Ms. Kowtoniuk	Yes

5. **Francisco Ojeda** – Security Team Specialist II, DYS

On a motion made by Ms. McGoldrick, and seconded by Mr. Valeri, the Board voted to approve Mr. Ojeda's Group 2 classification request.

ON THE ROLL CALL, THE VOTE WAS AS FOLLOWS:

GROUP 2 PRO-RATE (Board Review)

1. Madelyn Hicks

UMass Chan Medical School

Staff Psychiatrist – 10/21/2012 – 07/31/2025

On a motion made by Ms. McGoldrick and seconded by Mr. Valeri, the Board voted to approve Ms. Hicks's Group 2 classification request.

ON THE ROLL CALL, THE VOTE WAS AS FOLLOWS:

Mr. Valeri	Yes
Ms. McGoldrick	Yes
Ms. Goldstein	Absent
Mr. Gormley, Jr.	Absent
Ms. Kowtoniuk	Yes

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

1. Cynthia Ferrick

Dept. of Public Health (Tewksbury Hospital)

RN II – 06/06/1993 – 01/06/2001

On a motion made by Mr. Valeri and seconded by Ms. McGoldrick, the Board voted to deny Ms. Ferrick's Group 2 classification request.

ON THE ROLL CALL, THE VOTE WAS AS FOLLOWS:

Mr. Valeri	Yes
Ms. McGoldrick	Yes
Ms. Goldstein	Absent
Mr. Gormley, Jr.	Absent
Ms. Kowtoniuk	Yes

GROUP 4

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

1. **Kara Ballentine** – Correction Officer II, DOC
2. **Jeffrey Barriere** – Correction Officer II, DOC
3. **Thomas Brady** – Assistant Superintendent, Norfolk County Sheriff's Office
4. **William Casteel** – Assistant Deputy Superintendent, Norfolk County Sheriff's Office
5. **Timothy Conlin #355891** – Sergeant, Middlesex Sheriff's Office
6. **Michael Corrigan** – Correction Officer, Norfolk County Sheriff's Office
7. **Joseph Cummings** – Correction Officer I, DOC
8. **Darrin Dellarocco** – Correction Officer II, DOC
9. **John Doherty** – Correction Officer, Barnstable County Sheriff's Office

10. **Anthony Guay** – Industrial Instructor II, DOC
11. **Robert Jacobucci** – Parole Officer A/B, MA Parole Board
12. **Michael Mastrorio** – Correction Officer, Worcester County Sheriff's Office
13. **James Neville** – Superintendent, Dukes County Sheriff's Office
14. **Jay O'Connor** – Field Parole Officer A/B, MA Parole Board - ***Posthumous***
15. **Philip Welsh** – Correction Officer I, DOC
16. **David Winston** – Correction Officer, Norfolk County Sheriff's Office

Group 4 (Board Review)

1. **Jonathan Route** – Correction Officer/ Head Cook, DOC

On a motion made by Ms. McGoldrick and seconded by Mr. Valeri, the Board voted to deny Mr. Route's Group 4 classification request.

ON THE ROLL CALL, THE VOTE WAS AS FOLLOWS:

Mr. Valeri	Yes
Ms. McGoldrick	Yes
Ms. Goldstein	Absent
Mr. Gormley, Jr.	Absent
Ms. Kowtoniuk	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. **Lisa Foley** **Essex County Sheriff's Department**
Assistant Deputy Superintendent
05/01/1999 - 05/17/2007

20/50

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

1. **Alex Basti** – Correction Officer I, DOC
2. **Alexander Blanchard** – Correction Officer I, DOC
3. **Brian Devlin** – Correction Officer II, DOC
4. **Matthew Haggerty** – Jail Officer, Suffolk County Sheriff's Department
5. **John Ingalls** – Correction Officer, Essex County Sheriff's Department
6. **Patrick Kelly** – Correction Officer, Plymouth County Sheriff's Office
7. **Armand Lafleche** – Correction Officer I, DOC
8. **Luke Lupaczyk** – Correction Officer II, DOC

9. **Christopher Pacheco** – Correction Officer II, DOC
10. **Jason Romans** – Correction Officer III, DOC
11. **Robert Schoch** – Correction Officer, Essex County Sheriff's Department

20/50 CPO (Board Review)

1. **Matthew Syring** – CPO D, DOC

On a motion made by Ms. McGoldrick and seconded by Mr. Valeri, the Board voted to approve Mr. Syring's 20/50 classification request.

ON THE ROLL CALL, THE VOTE WAS AS FOLLOWS:

Mr. Valeri	Yes
Ms. McGoldrick	Yes
Ms. Goldstein	Absent
Mr. Gormley, Jr.	Absent
Ms. Kowtoniuk	Yes

TAB 3: REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Business Operations Report

- Ms. Kougias provided an update on the upcoming Board election dates. There was discussion about the nomination period and the impact of changing that date, along with several other dates that are contingent on the initial nomination period. Making amendments to the existing Election Schedule requires a Board vote. Post-discussion, Ms. Kougias noted that the election schedule accommodates certifying the vote and swearing in the member at the December Board meeting.

On a motion made by Ms. McGoldrick and seconded by Mr. Valeri, the Board voted to approve the Revised Election Schedule.

ON THE ROLL CALL, THE VOTE WAS AS FOLLOWS:

Mr. Valeri	Yes
Ms. McGoldrick	Yes
Ms. Goldstein	Absent
Mr. Gormley, Jr.	Absent
Ms. Kowtoniuk	Yes

- In consideration of the extended meeting time for the July 31, 2025 Board meeting, the remaining items in the Executive Director's Report, as well as the Information Systems and Technology Report, and the Legal and Communications Updates were not presented at the meeting. The materials were included for the Board members review.

At **2:24 p.m.**, the Board voted to return to Executive Session, and that they would not be reconvening in Open Session.

On a motion made by Ms. McGoldrick and seconded by Mr. Valeri, the Board voted to re-renter Executive Session. Ms. Kowtoniuk said that the Board would not reconvene in Open Session at the conclusion of the Executive Session and that the meeting would adjourn in the Executive Session.

ON THE ROLL CALL, THE VOTE WAS AS FOLLOWS:

Mr. Valeri	Yes
Ms. McGoldrick	Yes
Ms. Goldstein	Absent
Mr. Gormley, Jr.	Absent
Ms. Kowtoniuk	Yes

The next meeting of the State Board of Retirement will be held on August 28, 2025 at 10:00 a.m.