

MINUTES FOR THE 1231st BOARD MEETING
STATE BOARD OF RETIREMENT

DATE: August 27, 2020

TIME: 10:02 A.M.

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

There being a quorum present, the meeting was called to order at 10:15 A.M.

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 & Receiver General Deborah B. Goldberg; Patricia Deal, Appointed Member; Francis Valeri, Elected Member; Theresa McGoldrick, Elected Member; Archie Gormley, Chosen Member. 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, Assistant Board Counsel; Janice Coen, Executive Assistant; Kathryn Kougias, Finance Director; Mohammed Ali, Assistant Director of Finance; Kimberly Griffin, Manager of Information Systems; Paula Daddona, Communications & Outreach Manager; Zachary Pierce, Communications Coordinator; Chanese Brown, Manager, Disability Unit; Lisa Zale, Disability Case Counselor; Joisei Horton, Disability Case Counselor; Stephanie Medina, Disability Counselor; Diane Scott, Group Classifications Coordinator; Zhuoxin Tan, Internal Auditor; Yande Lombe, Paralegal; and Pamela Diggs, Paralegal.

Treasury staff participating remotely for all or part of the meeting were: James MacDonald, First Deputy Treasurer; Liz Gomes, Deputy Chief of Staff; Elizabeth Zelnick, Treasury Legislative Affairs; Alethea Harney, Treasury Director of Communications; Andrew Napolitano, Deputy Communications Director; Emily Kowtoniuk, Deputy Legislative Director; and Elizabeth Morrocco, Associate General Counsel.

Members of the public were provided access to the meeting via a call-in number; participants included Bethany DeMourra, Kelley Correia, Michael Grant, and Robert Stephanian. Other parties participating remotely for all or part of the meeting were: Manoj Punwani, Sagitec.

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 1230th Board Meeting

On a motion by Mr. Gormley and seconded by Ms. McGoldrick the Board voted unanimously to approve the Regular and Executive Session Minutes of the 1230th Board Meeting, July 30, 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

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

1. MSRB Operations

Mr. Favorito highlighted several areas of the MSRB's business operations.

MSRB staff continue working in Boston & Springfield on a rotational basis both remotely and in-office. 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.

On August 6, the Treasury announced a personnel freeze across its departments due in part to the lack of a full FY 2021 budget appropriation to fund operations. The freeze applies to new requests for hiring, promotions, salary adjustments, etc. The MSRB was able to complete three hiring searches that had already reached the final interview stages by the time of the announcement. These were for a MARIS Developer, a staff attorney and up to two Benefit Calculation positions in Boston.

Benefit Verification Forms from the first-round mailing of July 6, 2020 continue being received. As previously authorized by the Board this year's BVF's require a witnessing of the member's signature and not a notarization. More than 33,000 had been returned and processed based on the most recent data available. Another 18,000 had been received and were awaiting initial processing by the vendor.

Mr. Favorito reported there has been no change or activity by the Legislature on an FY 2021 retiree COLA and staff continue to monitor legislative activity and respond accordingly to retiree inquiries.

Weekly (disbursement) and monthly (pension) warrants continue to be executed regularly without interruption.

- For the period since the MSRB's office closed in March through this past week the Disbursement Unit led by Manager Diana Reyes has processed over 1,100 refunds / rollovers / transfers totaling approximately \$19.5m.
- For the calendar year MSRB's Benefit Calculation Unit have added over 1,800 new retirees to the pension payroll and more than 220 survivors and beneficiaries.

Through the efforts of Darrell Bright, Director of Member Services, and Sagitec resources, the MSRB implemented for the August benefit payment retro-active adjustments for approximately 400 State Police retirees associated with collective bargaining agreements which had been adopted earlier this year for 2018, 2019, 2020. This is the first time we were able to execute multiple adjustments for retirees through one benefit payment cycle rather than have the adjustments implemented separately.

The Business Support Unit (led by Angela Olszewski and Nidhi Garg) in conjunction with Treasury executed the sixth successful pilot of the accelerated payment program for new retirees whose benefits have been approved for payment. These members received in mid-August their retro-active benefit payments (from their retirement date through July 31st) rather than have them wait until the end of August and receive the retro benefits together with their first month's benefit payment. These members are receiving their regular August benefit payment at the end of the month. Internal discussions are ongoing to automate the process and make it a regular operational option for benefit payments.

Weekly member and employer outreach continue through the Communications Team (Paula Daddona and Zachary Pierce). Since initially going remote they have conducted 62 webinars with over 3,100 MSERS members attending. We expect to conduct webinars for the foreseeable future and current webinars are scheduled through the end of September.

2. YTD Fiscal 2020 Operating & Capital Spending Plans

Mr. Favorito reviewed with the Board to the YTD Fiscal 2020 Operating and Capital Spending Plans vs. actual expenditure reports (through July 31, 2020) which were included as part of the Agenda materials.

Separately Mr. Favorito noted that he had asked the MSRB Finance Unit to track expenditures associated with the closing of operations in March and the return to work in July 2020 and thereafter. Preliminarily it was reported that approximately \$140,000 has been expended to return to remote and in-office operations for items including staff laptops, office work-station plexiglass installations, office cleanings, and PPE supplies. Mr. MacDonald suggested the cost information be forward to Treasury A&F for inclusion with its overall reporting data.

3. Furlough Policy Amendment

The Board reviewed the proposed changes to the current MSRB policy governing the impact of furloughs and leaves of absence on members' creditable service that was distributed at the July Board meeting. Ms. Troy indicated Board staff felt the need to update the policy based on the continuing inquiries and variations to traditional furlough practices the MSRB had been receiving from employer and members on the matter.

Mr. Valeri made a motion to adopt the amended policy, Ms. McGoldrick seconded the motion.

ON ROLL CALL THE VOTE WAS AS FOLLOWS:

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

4. Membership Regulation Amendments 941 CMR 2.03

Mr. Favorito noted to the Board that their materials contained a proposed amended MSRB regulation governing membership eligibility, creditable service determination and methods of calculating benefits. The Board was asked to review the changes for purposes of discussion at the September 24, 2020 Board meeting.

5. PRIM Update

The Board reviewed market performance information provided by PRIM through July 31, 2020. Total PRIM assets stood at \$77.3b, of which \$29b represented assets of the MSERS. Calendar year to date rate of return stood at (-.48) and 5.26% for the one-year period. Treasurer Goldberg and Ms. McGoldrick emphasized PRIM's ongoing liquidity to support monthly benefit payments.

6. Legal Update

The Board was directed to the several case summaries of recent decisions provided by the MSRB Legal Unit.

7. Board / Staff Communications

Mr. Favorito highlighted the member and external communications received over the past month.

(The Board then moved on to individual agenda items)

All items considered unanimous

AGENDA ITEMS

RETIREMENT DATE CHANGE

1. Sandra Meskimen
 - **Approved**; Motion to approved by Ms. Deal; seconded by Mr. Gormley.

SECTION 91(b) OVER-EARNINGS MATTER

1. Michael Gralenski
 - **Referred to a Hearing Officer**; Motion to Refer to a Hearing Officer by Mr. Gormley; seconded by Mr. Valeri.

GROUP CLASSIFICATIONS

GROUP 2

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

1. **Patrick Archbald** –Police Officer/Deputy Chief of Police, UMASS Amherst
2. **Teresa Barnette** – Probation Officer 2, MA Trial Court
3. **Roland Buoncuore** –Chief Probation Officer, MA Trial Court
4. **Kevin Center** – Court Officer, MA Trial Court
5. **Brian Chan** – Social Worker 2, DCF
6. **Nancy Danforth** – Probation Officer, MA Trial Court
7. **Christina Gomes** – Court Officer 3, MA Trial Court
8. **Carinda Houston** – Probation Officer, MA Trial Court
9. **Nadine Pitcher-Murkison** – Asst. Chief Probation Officer, MA Trial Court
10. **Donna Quick** – Assistant Chief Probation Officer, MA Trial Court
11. **Robert Sheeran** – Court Officer 3, MA Trial Court
12. **Laura Smith** – LPN I, S.E. Residential Svcs., DDS

GROUP 2

1. **Margaret Feyre** – Recreation Supervisor, Holyoke Soldiers Home
 - **Denied**; Motion to deny by Ms. McGoldrick; seconded by Ms. Deal.
2. **Diane Godin** – Recreational Therapist I, Wrentham Developmental Center, DDS
 - **Approved**; Motion by Mr. Gormley; seconded by Ms. McGoldrick.

3. **Stephen Larose** – Physician Assistant, Worcester Recovery Center & Hospital, DMH
 - **Denied**; Motion to deny by Ms. Deal; seconded by Mr. Valeri.
4. **Paula Marini** – Reintegration Counselor, Plymouth County Sheriff’s
 - **Approved**; Motion to approve by Ms. McGoldrick, seconded by Mr. Gormley
5. **Maria Neris** –Bilingual V.R. Counselor, MA Rehabilitation Commission
 - **Denied**; Motion to deny by Ms. McGoldrick; seconded by Mr. Valeri.
6. **Luis Rodriguez** –CNA I, Holyoke Soldiers Home
 - **Tabled**; Motion to Table by Ms. Deal; seconded by Mr. Gormley.
7. **Sheila Serra** – Dietitian 2, Holyoke Soldiers Home
 - **Denied**; Motion to Deny by Ms. Deal; seconded by Mr. Gormley.
8. **Andrea Stevens** – Offender Discharge Planner, Norfolk County Sheriff’s Department
 - **Denied**; Motion to Deny by Ms. McGoldrick; seconded by Ms. Deal
9. **Patricia Sullivan** – CNA, Holyoke Soldiers Home
 - **Approved**; Motion to Approve by Mr. Valeri; seconded by Mr. Gormley.
10. **Thomas Turco III** - EOPSS Secretary of Public Safety
 - **Denied**; Motion to Deny by Ms. McGoldrick; seconded by Ms. Deal.
11. **David Walkden** – Communications Dispatcher I, Taunton State Hospital, DMH
 - **Denied**; Motion to Deny by Ms. Deal; seconded by Ms. McGoldrick.
12. **Kit-Ling Wang** – Teaching Assistant, LABBB Collaborative
 - **Approved**; Motion to approve by Mr. Gormley; seconded by Mr. Valeri
13. **John Woodward** – Court Services Coordinator, Office of Community Corrections
 - **Denied**; Motion to Deny by Ms. McGoldrick, seconded by Ms. Deal.

ASSOCIATE COURT AND PROBATION OFFICERS

1. **Edith Morrill** – Associate Probation Officer, MA Trial Court
 - **Approved**; Motion to approve by Ms. McGoldrick; Seconded by Mr. Gormley.
2. **John Perkins** –Associate Court Officer, 2, MA Trial Court
 - **Approved**; Motion to approve by Ms. McGoldrick; Seconded by Mr. Gormley.

GROUP 2 RECONSIDERATION

1. **Cathleen Tobyne** – Program Coordinator 2, Kelley Assistive Tech Center, DDS
 - **Reconsideration approved;** Motion to approve reconsideration by Ms. Deal; seconded by Mr. Gormley.
 - **Approved;** Motion to approve by Ms. Deal; seconded by Mr. Gormley.

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

1. **Donna Bernardi-Agnes** **Hampden County Sheriff’s Department**
Unit Supervisor – 3/5/06 – 9/16/06
2. **Sharon Gaffney** **Department of Mental Health**
Occupational Therapist I – 10/26/86 – 10/9/92
Occupational Therapist I – 10/27/96 – 3/3/00
3. **Amy Garver** **Department of Mental Health**
Case Manager – 3/1/92 – 10/22/00
4. **Meredith O’Neil** **Department of Children & Families**
Social Worker I – 5/19/96 – 2/15/97
Social Worker 3 – 2/16/01 – 12/15/01-Incorrect dates
Social Worker C – 12/16/01 – 8/11/12
Social Worker D – 8/12/12 – 7/25/15
Above approved at July Board meeting.
Social Worker 3 – 2/16/97 – 12/15/01-Corrected dates
5. **Sally Rando** **Department of Children & Families**
Social Worker 3 – 7/26/87 – 8/3/96
Social Worker 4 – 8/4/96 – 12/15/01
Social Worker D – 12/16/01 – 5/1/04

GROUP 2 PRO-RATE

1. **Donna Bernardi-Agnes** **Hampden County Sheriff’s Department**
Clinical Manager – 9/17/06 – 1/22/11
Clinical Director – 1/23/11 – 8/31/20
 - **Tabled;** Motion to table by Mr. Gormley; seconded by Mr. Valeri

2. **Leigh Bigger**

Department of Youth Services

Youth Service Caseworker – 3/14/93 – 2/4/17

- **Approved;** Motion to approve by Mr. Valeri; seconded by Mr. Gormley.

3. **James Ferreira**

Department of Correction

Deputy Superintendent – 4/16/01 – 9/10/11

Director of Inmate Transportation – 9/11/11 – 5/5/18

- **Approved;** Motion to approve by Ms. McGoldrick; seconded by Mr. Gormley.

GROUP 2 PRO-RATE HSC/AB

1. **Amy Garver**

Department of Developmental Services

HSC A/B – 7/11/04 – 9/1/18

- **Approved;** Motion to approve by Ms. Deal; seconded by Mr. Valeri

GROUP 4

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

1. **John Apruzzese** –Assistant District Attorney, Eastern D.A.’s Office (deferred)
2. **Norman Babcock** – CO 2, DOC
3. **Jeffrey Cardin** – CO I, DOC
4. **Anthony Chionchio** – Industrial Instructor 3/Plumber, DOC
5. **Emmanuel Costa** – CO, DOC
6. **Timothy Desmarais** – CO I, DOC
7. **Robert DiGiantomaso** – Assistant District Attorney, Bristol County D.A.’s Office
8. **Thomas Dwyer** –Industrial Instructor 3, DOC
9. **Steven Fernandes** – CO I, DOC
10. **Antonio Ferreira** –CO/Vocational Officer, Plymouth County Sheriff’s Department
11. **Richard Garcia** – Correctional Officer/Correctional Counselor, Hampden County Sheriff’s Dept.
12. **Stephen Gonynor** – CO 2, DOC
13. **James Gould** – CO I, DOC
14. **John Haughey** – CO I, DOC
15. **Stephanie Haughey** – CO I, DOC
16. **Steven Hession** –CO, DOC
17. **Carter Holmes** – Assistant Deputy Superintendent of Operations, Norfolk County Sheriff’s Department
18. **Thomas Kelley** – CO I, DOC

19. **Theodore Lariviere** – CO I, DOC
20. **Michael McGinn** –Industrial Instructor 2, DOC
21. **Anthony Nevue** – CO/Captain, Hampshire County Sheriff’s Office
22. **Kevin Paim** – CO I, DOC
23. **Kimberly Rapoza** – CO, Plymouth County Sheriff’s Department
24. **Brendon Tarmey** – CO, Middlesex Sheriff’s Office
25. **Joseph Zeno** – CO/Captain, Hampden County Sheriff’s Department
26. **Edward Zins** – Sergeant, Essex County Sheriff’s Department

GROUP 4 RECONSIDERATION

1. **John Luippold** – Chief of Police, UMASS Medical School-(Denied January 2020)
 - **Reconsideration Approved**; Motion by Mr. Gormley; seconded by Ms. McGoldrick
 - **Approved**; Motion to approve by Mr. Gormley; seconded by Ms. McGoldrick

GROUP 4

1. **James Capen** – Deputy Sheriff, Process Division, Franklin County Sheriff’s Office
 - **Denied**; Motion to Deny by Ms. McGoldrick; seconded by Mr. Gormley
2. **Harry Silvia** – Outreach Corrections Officer, Norfolk County Sheriff’s Office
 - **Approved**; Motion to approve by Ms. McGoldrick; seconded by Mr. Gormley

GROUP 4 (Tabled in October 2019)

1. **James Jepsen** – Criminal Identification Officer, Plymouth County Sheriff’s Office
 Sgt. Robert Stephanian participated in the meeting on behalf of Mr. Jepsen and described the functions of the Criminal Identification Unit. He also noted that their proposed legislation that would address the Unit’s classification remained with the House Committee on Ways & Means. After Board discussion, the Board **took no action**.

Mr. Valeri temporarily left the meeting.

CPO’s

1. **Deborah Coalter** – Correction Program Officer A/B, DOC
 - **Approved**; Motion to approve by Ms. McGoldrick; seconded by Ms. Deal.
2. **Paula Fitzpatrick** – Correction Program Officer, DOC
 - **Approved**; Motion to approve by Ms. McGoldrick; seconded by Ms. Deal.

Pursuant to the Board’s Classification Policy the following were reported as approved for Pro-Rated Group 4 Classification:

1. **Donna Bernardi-Agnes** **Hampden County Sheriff’s Department**
CO/Correctional Counselor – 8/3/98 – 3/4/06
2. **John Kennedy** **Middle District Attorney’s Office**
Assistant District Attorney – 5/18/92 – 8/23/13
3. **Steven Silva** **Department of Correction**
CO 3 – 4/11/04 – 5/7/05

Mr. Valeri rejoined the meeting.

GROUP 4 PRO-RATE

1. **Richard Savignano** **Plymouth County D.A.’s Office**
Assistant District Attorney – 7/30/84 – 8/15/85
2nd Assistant District Attorney – 6/1/93 -12/18/96
First Assistant District Attorney – 7/31/17 – 9/02/20

- **Denied;** Motion to deny by Ms. McGoldrick; seconded by Ms. Deal. Mr. Valeri and M Gormley abstained.

Office of the Attorney General

Assistant Attorney General, 2/23/87 – 7/28/88
Chief of the Public Integrity Division – 7/29/88-2/11/91

- **Denied;** Motion to deny by Ms. McGoldrick; seconded by Ms. Deal. Mr. Valeri and M Gormley abstained.

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

1. **Keith Abare** –CO I, DOC
2. **Keith Barboza** –CO 3, DOC
3. **Michael Harrigan** –CO/Unit Supervisor, Hampden County Sheriff’s Department
4. **Bryan Martins** – CO, Berkshire County Sheriff’s Department
5. **Trudianne Mola** – CO, Suffolk County Sheriff’s Department

6. **Wallace Reumann** – CO 3, DOC
7. **Sheldon Ruffley** –CO I, DOC
8. **Ellen Sheehy** – CO, Plymouth County Sheriff’s Department
9. **David Woodard** – CO I, DOC

THE BOARD ENTERS INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 11:37 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. Treasurer Goldberg 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.

Ms. McGoldrick made a motion to enter Executive Session, Ms. Deal seconded the motion.

ON ROLL CALL THE VOTE WAS AS FOLLOWS:

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION CONCLUDES AND ADJOURNMENT

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

THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 12:12 PM.

ON ROLL CALL THE VOTE WAS AS FOLLOWS:

Ms. Deal	Yes
Mr. Gormley	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 Thursday, September 24, 2020 starting at 10:00AM.

Documents Used at the State Board of Retirement Meeting of August 27, 2020

- Agenda for the August 27, 2020 Board Meeting. Supporting documentation for Agenda items as referenced therein.
- Open Session and Executive Session Minutes of July 30, 2020 Board Meeting