

MINUTES FOR THE 1233rd BOARD MEETING
STATE BOARD OF RETIREMENT

DATE: October 29, 2020

TIME: 10:05 A.M.

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

There being a quorum present, the meeting was called to order at 10:04 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: Sarah Kim, Treasury General Counsel / Designee; 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; Darrell Bright, Director of Member Services; Melinda Troy, Senior Board Counsel; Lori Krusell, Associate Board Counsel; Brendan McGough, Associate Board Counsel; Janice Coen, Executive Assistant; Kathryn Kougias, Finance Director; Kimberly Griffin, Manager of Information Systems; Paula Daddona, Communications & Outreach Manager; Zachary Pierce, Communications Coordinator; Diana Reyes, Refund Manager; Anthony Sarnacchiaro, Manager, Buybacks; Chanese Brown, Manager, Disability Unit; Lisa Zale, Disability Case Counselor; Joisei Horton, Disability Case Counselor; Stephanie Medina, Disability Counselor; 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; Chandra Bork, Chief of Staff; Liz Gomes, Deputy Chief of Staff; Elizabeth Zelnick, Treasury Legislative Affairs; and Elizabeth Morrocco, Associate General Counsel, Susan Anderson, State Retirement Board Hearing Officer and Andrew Napolitano, Deputy Director of Communications.

Members of the public were provided access to the meeting via a call-in number. Participants included Matthew Moniz. Other parties participating remotely for all or part of the meeting were: Manoj Punwani, Sagitec and Bethany DeMoura, Department of Correction.

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 1232nd BOARD MEETING

On a motion by Mr. Gormley and seconded by Mr. Valeri the Board voted unanimously to approve the Regular and Executive Session Minutes of the 1232nd Board Meeting, September 24, 2020.

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 reported to the Board on the status 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. Mr. Favorito noted that updates and preparations were ongoing should the MSRB be required to operate primarily on a remote basis once again.

The second round of Benefit Verification Forms were mailed earlier in the month to approximately 11,000 members who either had not responded to the first mailing or who's initial BVF was rejected. The return date is November 16, 2020.

On October 14, 2020 the Governor introduced a revised FY 2021 state budget (H2) which included a 3% retiree COLA retroactive to July 1, 2020. The MSRB is monitoring legislative activity and will look to implement a COLA if and after approved with the next available monthly benefit cycle.

The bill also formalizes and maintains the pension funding amounts outlined in the most recently proposed triennial funding schedule for the Commonwealth's obligations:

- \$3,115,163,858 in fiscal year 2021
- \$3,415,154,137 in fiscal year 2022
- \$3,744,033,480 in fiscal year 2023

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

For the calendar year through September the MSRB's Benefit Calculation Unit has added over 2,000 new retirees to the pension payroll and more than 280 survivors and beneficiaries. Over 300 new retirees and 35 survivor beneficiaries were added through the October warrant.

For the period since the MSRB's office closed in March through this past week the Disbursement Unit has processed over 1,700 refunds / rollovers / transfers totaling approximately \$28.8m.

A third MSRB Unit is being given telephone software that allows staff to remotely receive and manage telephone calls submitted to their office desk top phones and allow them to remain in their phone groups as if they were in the office. The software is currently being used by the MSRB Call Center and the Administration / Employer & Board Reporting Unit. It should provide for quicker responses to members

The MSRB Business Support Unit supported by Treasury's Administration & Finance Department executed the eighth successful pilot of the accelerated payment program. Due to the number of summer retirements pending thirty-nine (39) new retirees had their benefits approved for payment. \$428,185.64 was issued in total. These members received in mid-October their retro-active benefit payments (from their retirement date through September 30th) rather than have them wait until the end of October and receive the retro benefits together with their first month's benefit payment. These members are receiving their regular October benefit payment at the end of the month. A similar level of effort is anticipated for November.

Weekly member and employer outreach continues through the Communications Team. Since initially going remote they have conducted 84 webinars with over 4,300 MSERS members attending. Current webinars are scheduled through the end of November and December. Since January our various Facebook and Educational videos have been viewed 26,734 times.

2. YTD Fiscal 2020 Operating & Capital Spending Plans

Mr. Favorito noted to the Board the YTD Fiscal 2020 Operating and Capital Spending Plans vs. actual expenditure reports (through September 30, 2020) which were included as part of the Agenda materials.

3. Board Member Election – Draft Schedule / Election Rules

Mr. Favorito reviewed with the Board the proposed rules and schedule for the Board election which would be initiated later this year. He highlighted the suggested modifications to the nomination period, the nomination and voting process given the ongoing public health conditions.

The Board supported expanding the period of time to obtain nomination signatures; the acceptance of scanned actual signatures on nomination papers; having the required number of nomination signatures set at 50; adding additional sources to confirm the identity of a member such as the HRCMS ID# for Commonwealth employees.

Mr. Favorito had sought feedback from PERAC on some of the changes as they were not specifically addressed in current election regulations. PERAC agreed with use of the suggested changes around the proposed nomination process.

After discussion, on a motion by Mr. Valeri seconded by Mr. Gormley the Board voted to adopt the proposed Election Schedule and Rules.

ON ROLL CALL THE VOTE WAS AS FOLLOWS:

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

4. State Audit Update

Mr. Favorito informed the Board that the audit team from the office of the State Auditor and MSRB staff had the exit meeting at the beginning of October to discuss the preliminary findings related of the audit covering July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2019. The primary areas expected to be addressed include the timing of first payments for new retirees and the auditing of Benefit Verification Forms. The audit team noted overall improvements since the previous audit. A draft report will be forthcoming to which the MSRB would provide responses and which will be shared with the Board.

5. MARIS Quarterly Update

The Board reviewed the update memo provided by Kim Griffin who was on the meeting call. Since the last update operationally the MARIS support team:

- Executed the State Police Benefit retroactive salary adjustments for years 2018, 2019 and 2020. All three years were processed in the August pension payroll warrant for approximately 400 retirees.
- Executed Cycle 2 of the biennial Benefit Verification process. Benefit Verification forms were mailed on October 14th to 11,348 benefit recipients who either were unable to return the first form or whose form was rejected.
- Executed the annual dependent Student Verification process resulting in 137 dependent suspensions.

The MARIS team continues working on several infrastructure projects, in parallel with MARIS support and new development projects, and in conjunction with Treasury IT is looking to initiate design and development of the Member Self Service (MSS) portal that will provide enhanced member support through dashboards, tools, and member self-service actions.

6. PRIM Update

Mr. Favorito reviewed the PRIT Fund performance materials through September 30, 2020. Total PRIM assets stood at over \$79.5b, of which \$29.73b represented assets of the MSERS and \$161m represented assets of the former MTAERS. Calendar year to date returns stood at 2.56% and 7.24% for the one-year period.

7. Legal Update

The Board was directed to the case summaries of recent Court and DALA /CRAB decisions provided by the MSRB Legal Unit. Of note was Attorney Troy's SJC decision upholding the Board in the matter of Young v. State Retirement Board. The Court had found a member could not use salaries earned during a contract service period in determining an eventual retirement benefit.

8. Board / Staff Communications

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

(The Board then moved on to individual agenda items)

All votes, unless otherwise noted, are unanimous

AGENDA ITEMS

MILITARY SERVICE PURCHASE

1. William Greenwood – MSRB 609274

After discussion, on a motion by Mr. Valeri seconded by Mr. Gormley the Board voted to authorize the service purchase based on the facts and circumstances presented.

ON ROLL CALL THE VOTE WAS AS FOLLOWS:

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

GROUP CLASSIFICATIONS

GROUP 2

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

1. **Janice Benevento** – Social Worker 2, DCF
2. **Kelle Charpentier** – Probation Officer, MA Trial Court
3. **Eric Cousineau** – Social Worker C, DCF
4. **Rhonda Digilio** – LPN 2, Wrentham Developmental Center, DDS
5. **Susan Fearnley** – Social Worker 2, DCF
6. **Richard George** – Court Officer 3, MA Trial Court
7. **Katherine Glinkin** – Institutional Chef, Suffolk County Sheriff’s Department
8. **Paul Godin** – Rehabilitation Counselor A/B, Worcester Recovery Center, DMH
9. **Valentine MacEachern** - Vocational Instructor C, Mansfield Redemption Center, DDS
10. **Julie Marshall** – LPN I, Central Residential Services, DDS
11. **Kathryn Moy** – Probation Officer 2, MA Trial Court
12. **Christine Peluso** – Social Worker 2, DCF
13. **Jody Picone** – Social Worker C, DCF
14. **Pattie Rawlins** – Social Worker 3, DCF

GROUP 2 DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. **Darrell Bress** – Administrative Officer 4/Program Director, DYS
 - **Tabled**; Motion by Ms. Deal; seconded by Ms. McGoldrick.

2. **William Cyr** – Cook 2, Holyoke Soldiers Home
 - **Denied**; Motion by Ms. McGoldrick; seconded by Ms. Deal.
3. **Janet Durrigan** – Physical Therapy Assistant, Wrentham Developmental Center, EDCO Collaborative
 - **Tabled**; Motion by Ms. McGoldrick, seconded by Mr. Gormley.
4. **Ruth Houtte** – Social Worker 3, DCF
 - **Denied**; Motion by Ms. McGoldrick, seconded by Ms. Deal.
5. **Joan Irvine** – Caseworker, Plymouth County Sheriff’s Department
 - **Approved**; Motion by Ms. McGoldrick, seconded by Ms. Deal
6. **Kim Korovae** – LPN 2, Holyoke Soldiers Home
 - **Denied**; Motion by Ms. Deal, seconded by Mr. Gormley.
7. **Camille McKenney** - Clinical Social Worker C, Tewksbury Hospital, DMH
 - **Approved**; Motion by Mr. Gormley, seconded by Ms. Deal
8. **Crystal Medeiros** - DSW 4, Wrentham Developmental Center, DDS
 - **Denied**; Motion by Ms. McGoldrick, seconded by Ms. Deal
9. **Tammy Penfield** - Laboratory Technician/Scheduling Coordinator, Franklin County Sheriff’s Dept.
 - **Denied**; Motion by Ms. Deal, seconded by Mr. Gormley
10. **James Poblocki** –Residential Program Director, DYS
 - **Tabled**; Motion by Ms. McGoldrick, seconded by Mr. Gormley

GROUP 2-HSC A/B

1. **Ellen Clifford** – HSC A/B, South Valley Area Office, DDS
 - **Approved**, Motion by Ms. Deal, seconded by Mr. Gormley
2. **Jacqueline Leahy** – HSC A/B, Metro Boston, DMH
 - **Approved**, Motion by Ms. Deal, seconded by Mr. Gormley
3. **Sheelagh O’Connor** – HSC A/B, Worcester Area Office, DMH
 - **Approved**; Motion by Ms. Deal, seconded by Mr. Gormley
4. **Wendy Ann Smith** – HSC A/B, North Central Area Office, DDS
 - **Approved**, Motion by Ms. Deal, seconded by Mr. Gormley

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

1. **Susan DiNatale** **Department of Children & Families**
Social Worker I – 11/13/88 – 10/10/92
Social Worker 3 – 10/11/92 – 5/5/01
Social Worker 4 – 5/6/01 – 12/15/01
Social Worker D – 12/16/01 – 6/6/08
Social Worker C – 6/7/08 – 1/23/16
Social Worker 3 – 1/24/16 – 5/13/17

2. **Raphael Ebozue** **Department of Public Health**
RN 2, Lemuel Shattuck – 11/12/95 – 10/16/04

3. **Christine Gagner** **Department of Children & Families**
Social Worker I – 10/6/85 – 1/30/88
Social Worker 3 – 1/31/88 – 12/13/97
Social Worker 4 – 12/14/97 – 12/15/01
Social Worker D – 12/16/01 – 8/4/07

4. **Linda Jacobs** **Department of Public Health**
MRA, Paul A. Dever – 9/11/83 – 6/28/86
MRW I – Paul A. Dever – 6/29/86 – 2/28/87
RN 2 – Paul A. Dever – 11/8/87 – 10/26/94

5. **Francis Pollock** **Department of Developmental Services**
DSW 3 – 4/26/87 – 11/19/11

6. **John Richards** **Department of Developmental Services**
RN 3, Hogan Regional Center – 5/20/01 – 3/7/15

GROUP 2 PRO-RATE

1. **Ricardo Bennett** **Department of Correction**
Director of Ops. & Securities/Community Corrections Facility
3/4/16- 9/18/20
 - **Approved;** Motion by Ms. Deal, seconded by Mr. Gormley

2. **Raphael Ebozue** **Department of Public Health -DENY**
RN 3, PACU, Lemuel Shattuck – 10/4/09 – 10/14/17
 - **Denied;** Motion by Mr. Valeri, seconded by Mr. Gormley

3. **James Fletcher** **Barnstable County Sheriff's Office**
Telecommunicator/Fire Signal Operator – 2/1/86 – 10/23/11
- **Denied;** Motion by Ms. Deal, seconded by Ms. McGoldrick

Mr. Valeri temporarily left the meeting.

4. **Lori Hurwitz** **Department of Mental Health -TABLE**
Mental Health Case Mgr. 2 – 8/9/87 – 12/22/90
Mental Health Case Mgr. 3 – 12/23/90 – 3/19/01
Clinical Social Worker A/B – 10/29/06 – 4/19/14
Clinical Social Worker C – 4/20/14 – 7/9/16
- **Tabled;** Motion by Mr. Gormley, seconded by Ms. McGoldrick
5. **Michelle Mills** **UMASS Medical -DEFERRED-TABLE**
Emergency Clinician – 7/10/88 – 8/25/90
Mental Health Counselor – 8/26/90 – 8/21/93
Social Worker I – 8/22/93 – 10/26/96
Clinical Social Worker C, Worcester Recovery Ctr. – 6/14/99 – 10/17/09
- **Tabled;** Motion by Ms. Deal, seconded by Ms. McGoldrick

GROUP 2 HSC A/B PRO RATE

1. **Judith Enegren** **Department of Developmental Services**
HSC A/B – 10/1/85 – 11/1/15
- **Approved;** Motion by Ms. Deal, seconded by Ms. McGoldrick

GROUP 4

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

1. **Richard Bryan** - Sergeant, Middlesex Sheriff's Office
2. **William Carroll** - CO, Suffolk County Sheriff's Department
3. **Mario Cohenno** - CO, Suffolk County Sheriff's Department
4. **Michael D'Amico** - Industrial Instructor III, DOC
5. **David Darling** - CO/Lieutenant, DOC
6. **Gary Dupre** - CO/Corporal, Hampden County Sheriff's Department

7. **Christopher Jackson** - Captain/CO, DOC
8. **Glen Jennings** - CO III, DOC
9. **David Marshall** – CO, Plymouth County Sheriff’s Department
10. **Richard McCarthy** - Assistant Superintendent, Suffolk County Sheriff’s Department
11. **Gary Meier** - CO/Jail Officer Suffolk County Sheriff’s Department
12. **Kevin Reardon** -Sergeant/CO 5, Essex County Sheriff’s Department
13. **William Roch** - CO III, DOC
14. **Angel Rosado** -Lieutenant, Middlesex Sheriff’s Office
15. **Scott Sinclair** - Correction Officer/Sergeant, Suffolk County Sheriff’s Department
16. **Scott Tatro** - CO I, DOC
17. **Robert Tullos** - Lieutenant/Jail Officer, Suffolk County Sheriff’s Department
18. **Harold Wilkes** -Captain, DOC

GROUP 4 DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. **Jeffrey Perry** - Special Sheriff/Superintendent, Barnstable County Sheriff’s Office
 - **Tabled**; Motion by Ms. McGoldrick, seconded by Mr. Gormley
2. **Fernando Pimentel** - Lieutenant/Community Programs, Bristol County Sheriff’s Office-
 - **Approved**; Motion by Ms. McGoldrick, seconded by Mr. Gormley

GROUP 4 CORRECTIONAL PROGRAM OFFICER

1. **Richard Doyle** - Correction Program Officer C, DOC
 - **Approved**; Motion by Ms. Deal; seconded by Ms. McGoldrick
2. **Ronald St. Cyr** - Correctional Program Officer D, DOC
 - **Approved**; Motion by Mr. Gormley; seconded by Ms. McGoldrick

GROUP 4 TABLED

1. **Erin Gaffney** - Correctional Program Officer D, DOC
 - **Approved; Motion by Ms. Deal; seconded by Mr. Gormley**
2. **Peter Nadeau** Correctional Program Officer, DOC
 - **Approved**, Motion by Ms. Deal; seconded by Mr. Gormley

GROUP 4 / PRO RATED

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

1. **Ricardo Bennett** **Department of Correction**
Correction Officer I – 1/13/85-6/10/89
Correction Officer II – 6/11/89-10/1/16

GROUP 4 CORRECTIONAL PROGRAM OFFICER PRO-RATE

1. **Elzy Tubbs** **Department of Correction**
Correctional Program Officer A/B – 5/28/89-6/29/93
 - **Approved**, Motion by Ms. McGoldrick; seconded by Mr. Gormley

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

1. **Craig Butler** - CO, Hampden County Sheriff's Department
2. **Janine Dunn** - CO/Jail Officer, Suffolk County Sheriff's Department
3. **Elizabeth Handrahan** - Correction Officer Corporal, Suffolk County Sheriff's Department
4. **Joseph Harrison** - Sergeant, Worcester Sheriff's Department
5. **John Hollenbach** – CO 1, DOC
6. **Michael McGinn** - Industrial Instructor 2, DOC
7. **Robert Murphy** - Correction Officer, Suffolk County Sheriff's Department (posthumous)
8. **Patricia Rose** - Correction Officer I, DOC
9. **Mark Sandagon** - Correction Officer I, DOC

20/50 CORRECTIONAL PROGRAM OFFICER

1. **Matthew Moniz** - Correction Program Officer A/B, DOC
 - **Approved**; Motion by Ms. Deal; seconded by Mr. Gormley

THE BOARD ENTERS INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 11:10 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.

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

ON ROLL CALL THE VOTE WAS AS FOLLOWS:

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

Mr. Valeri missed the roll call vote due to a technical issue.

Mr. Valeri rejoined the meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION CONCLUDES AND ADJOURNMENT

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

THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 12:14 PM.

ON ROLL CALL THE VOTE WAS AS FOLLOWS:

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

THE NEXT REGULAR BOARD MEETING OF THE STATE RETIREMENT BOARD IS SCHEDULED TO BE HELD ON Monday, November 23, 2020 starting at 10:00AM.

Documents Used at the State Board of Retirement Meeting of October 29, 2020

- Agenda for the October 29, 2020 Board Meeting. Supporting documentation for Agenda items as referenced therein.
- Open Session and Executive Session Minutes of September 24, 2020 Board Meeting