

September 19, 2024

The meeting of the Middlesex County Retirement Board convened at 10:00 A.M. Present at the Board's offices were Chairman Thomas Gibson and Board members John Brown, Brian Curtin, Robert Healy, and Joseph Kearns. Lisa Maloney, Chief Administrative Officer, and Nancy O'Neil, Board Secretary, were also present.

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, the Board reviewed the Consent Agenda. There being no requests to remove items from the Consent Agenda,

On motion duly made by Mr. Brown, seconded by Mr. Healy, it was moved to approve Consent Agenda items #3(a) through #3(p).

The motion passed.

At 10:04 A.M.,

On motion duly made by Mr. Brown, seconded by Mr. Kearns, it was moved to enter into Executive Session under Purpose 7 of the Open Meeting Law: "To comply with, or act under the authority of, any general ... law", that law being Exemption (c) of the Public Records Law (G.L. c. 4, s. 7(26)(c)) exempting personnel and medical files or information and other materials or data relating to a specifically named individual, the disclosure of which may constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy, following which the Board will reconvene in open session.

John Brown	YES
Brian P. Curtin	YES
Thomas F. Gibson	YES
Robert W. Healy	YES
Joseph W. Kearns	YES

The motion passed.

At 11:51 A.M.,

On motion duly made by Mr. Healy, seconded by Mr. Kearns, it was moved to come out of Executive Session.

John Brown	YES
Brian P. Curtin	YES
Thomas F. Gibson	YES
Robert W. Healy	YES
Joseph W. Kearns	YES

The motion passed.

Chief Administrative Officer's Report

Ms. Maloney reported on member operations, noting the number of superannuation retirement applications to be processed over the next few months, as well as the continued cross training of staff positions.

Ms. Maloney reported that student enrollment certifications were requested of 22 dependents over the age of eighteen. Responses are due September 20, 2024. Three dependent allowances will be terminated this month due to reaching the statutory legal age limit.

In accordance with PERAC Memo # 23: *Veterans' Buyback Changes*, a letter notifying all active members will be mailed on or around September 24th to members at their last known address. A copy of the letter was distributed to the Board in advance of today's meeting.

Ms. Maloney noted that at its last meeting, the Board voted to terminate the retirement benefits of six disability retirees effective September 1, 2024, for their failure to file their 2023 Annual Statement of Earned Income. Ms. Maloney reported that another retiree, Leon Smith, had requested an extension until September 13, 2024, to comply with his Section 91A filing. It remains outstanding.

After review,

On motion duly made by Mr. Healy, seconded by Mr. Brown, it was moved to terminate Leon Smith's retirement allowance effective October 1, 2024 for failure to file his 2023 Annual Statement of Earned Income with PERAC.

The motion passed.

Ms. Maloney reported that PERAC has identified six disability retirees with excess earnings for CY 2023. Two had their excess earnings eliminated after additional information was provided to PERAC by the employer. The Board discussed the status of the upcoming show cause hearings which have been scheduled for September 30, 2024, and October 15, 2024.

Next, Ms. Maloney reported on upcoming meetings and the most recent Pension Education Series which was held in Hudson on September 17th. Over seventy-five members participated. The feedback was extremely positive.

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Ms. Maloney is scheduled to meet next week with Melissa Hurley to finalize the production timeline for the Fall Newsletter. The Board and Ms. Maloney then discussed several topics for consideration.

Ms. Maloney next reported on the outstanding FY 2025 appropriation payments. Invoices were mailed on May 24, 2024, in the amount of \$177,336,277. To date \$172,458,085 has been received. Hudson Housing has an outstanding payment due of \$78,704. Payment is expected this week.

With respect to the 2024 System Valuation, Segal is currently addressing questions raised by the member units. In advance of today's meeting, Ms. Maloney provided the Board with Segal's smoothing results for units with FY 26 increases greater than 10%. She will share the results with the twenty units that are impacted.

Ms. Maloney next reported on Section 3(8)(c) outstanding account receivables. To date, only one System's payment remains outstanding.

Ms. Maloney reported that payments for CY 2022 deployments have been collected and paid in full in the amount of \$13,526.15. With respect to CY 2023 deployments, invoices totaling \$13,204.30 will be issued this week and are due FY 2026.

Ms. Maloney next reported that the Co-op Program with Shawsheen Valley Technical High School is resuming. She is currently in the process of interviewing candidates for the 2024-2025 school year.

After review,

On motion duly made by Mr. Healy, seconded by Mr. Curtin, it was moved to increase the compensation for interns to \$18.00 per hour.

The motion passed.

At this time, Ms. Maloney delivered an update on the implementation of the insurance portal and the ongoing issues with the pension application software. She has also consulted Jeff Ziplow of CLA, the System's IT consultant. She will continue to monitor the situation and report back to the Board.

At 12:45 P.M. the Board recessed for lunch and reconvened in regular session at 1:26 P.M.

Chairman's Report

The Chairman provided a legislative update and reported on Chapter 149 of the Acts of 2024: *An Act Relative to Disability Pensions and Critical Incident Stress*

Management for Violent Crimes, and Chapter 141 of the Acts of 2024, *An Act Relative to Salary Range Transparency*. Further guidance from PERAC will be forthcoming.

For the 2025-2026 Legislative Session, PERAC has re-filed seven bills addressing regular compensation, creditable service, pension forfeiture, , and post-retirement earnings, and one new bill removing barriers on filing requirements for emotional disabilities.

At this time, the Chairman asked Ms. Maloney to report on PRIM's recent Advisory Board meeting. Topics discussed included performance, national recognition, the future of AI and no turnover of PRIM staff.

The Chairman reviewed the Litigation Report and provided status updates on new, pending and disposed appeals before the Division of Administrative Law Appeals and the Contributory Retirement Appeal Board. In the matter of *WRRS vs. MCRS and PERAC*, CRAB has dismissed the WRRS appeal regarding liability for call firefighter service. With respect to *Raymond Turcotte vs. MCRS*, DALA has dismissed the case for failure to prosecute.

The Chairman noted that the term of the Second Member will expire on December 31, 2024. Mr. Curtin has expressed interest in serving another term. The election will take place at the December 19th Advisory Council Meeting.

The Chairman reported that PERAC has approved the Board's Supplementary Travel Regulation Policy and Credit Card Policy.

Finally, the Chairman will follow up on the overpayment of pension payments to the estate of Carl Heller.

The Board announced the following votes which were taken in Executive Session:

4(c) The Board voted to waive investigation and to conduct an application review on October 23, 2024, in the matter of Andrew Kularski's application for accidental disability retirement.

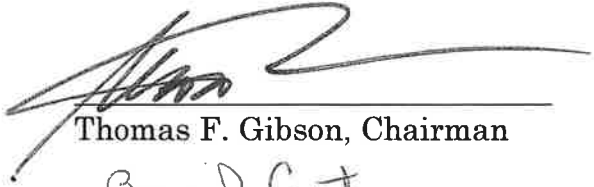
4(e) The Board voted to seek clarification from the medical panel regarding Marlene O'Neill's application for accidental disability retirement.

4(b) The Board voted to accept the medical panel certifications and approve Walter Jop III's application for accidental disability retirement.


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4(a) The Board voted to accept the medical panel certifications and deny Jennifer Ordway's application for accidental disability as a matter of law, and to advise her of the right to appeal the decision of the Board.

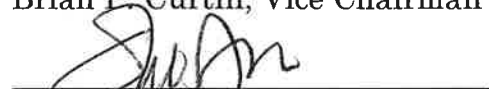
There being no further business to come before the Board, on motion duly made by Mr. Brown, seconded by Mr. Healy, it was moved to adjourn at 1:35 P.M.



Thomas F. Gibson, Chairman



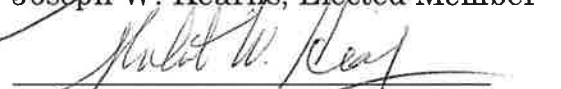
Brian P. Curtin, Vice Chairman



John Brown, Elected Member



Joseph W. Kearns, Elected Member



Robert W. Healy, Appointed Member

Regular Session Documents

1. Consent Agenda – Items #3(a) - #3(p)
2. Chief Administrative Officer's Report
3. PRIM Performance Report
4. PRIM Q2 2024 Performance Summary
5. Letter to Active Members on Veterans' Buyback Changes
6. Unit Smoothing Results of January 1, 2024, Actuarial Valuation
7. Litigation Report
8. DALA Decision *WRRS vs. MCRS and PERAC*
9. DALA Decision *Raymond Turcotte vs. MCRS*
10. Chapter 149 Acts of 2024 Disability Pensions for Violent Crimes
11. Approved Supplemental Travel Regulations