

**SONOMA COUNTY EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION
RETIREMENT BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

Thursday, February 17, 2022

9:02 a.m.

In accordance with Retirement Board Resolution #156, adopted on September 23, 2021 and readopted January 20, 2022, the Sonoma County Employees' Retirement Association Retirement Board meeting was held virtually and in compliance with California Government Code section 54953(e) through WebEx Meetings.

Individuals interested in participating in the meeting were invited to join using one of the following methods:

1. WebEx meeting application via computer, tablet or smartphone:

<https://sonomacounty.webex.com/sonomacounty/j.php?MTID=mabe2aefd63e275e2669fef277c9bde3d>

2. Call-in:

1 (408) 418-9388

Meeting ID: 2491 598 4762

Password: 02172022

Presiding via

WebEx: Brian Williams, Chair

Present

via WebEx: Trustees Neil Baker (Alternate Retiree), Travis Balzarini, Amos Eaton, and Joe Tambe;
Finance and Retiree Services Manager Cheryl Enold

Present in the

SCERA Boardroom: Trustees Chris Coursey, Greg Jahn, and Tim Tuscany; Chief Executive Officer Julie Wyne, ACEO/Chief Legal Counsel Cristina Hess, Member Services Manager Jackie Purter, Retirement Analyst Rebecca Gay, and Administrative Aide Julia Smith

Also present

via WebEx: Joe Ebisa (Journalist)

Absent: Trustees Erick Roeser and Bob Williamson

Public comments were solicited prior to the meeting by emailing Rebecca.Gay@sonoma-county.org. Members of the public that joined the WebEx meeting via the app or dial in were provided opportunity to submit live public comment for each agenda item after the Board and staff provided their comments.

Brian Williams, Chair

Bob Williamson, Vice Chair

I. CONSENT CALENDAR

A. Meeting Minutes – January 20, 2022 Retirement Board Meeting Minutes

Recommendation: Approve Minutes.

A motion was made by Trustee Balzarini, seconded by Trustee Eaton to approve the January 20, 2022 Retirement Board Meeting Minutes. The motion carried 6-0-1-2 with voting as follows:

<u>AYES</u>	<u>NAYS</u>	<u>ABSTAIN</u>	<u>ABSENT</u>
Mr. Balzarini		Mr. Coursey	Mr. Roeser
Mr. Eaton			Mr. Williamson
Mr. Jahn			
Mr. Tambe			
Mr. Tuscany			
Mr. Williams			

II. REGULAR CALENDAR

A. Retirement Board Resolution #156 – COVID State of Emergency and imminent threat of risk

Recommendation: Affirm that the conditions set forth in Retirement Board Resolution #156 still exist and warrant continued application of Government Code section 54953(e) to SCERA Retirement Board and Committee meetings for the next thirty days through March 19, 2022.

Trustees discussed continued concern for in person meetings in light of the mask mandate only recently being lifted, lack of ability to maintain distance in the board room and concern for family members.

A motion was made by Trustee Jahn, seconded by Trustee Balzarini to affirm that the conditions set forth in Retirement Board Resolution #156 still exist and warrant continued application of Government Code section 54953(e) to SCERA Retirement Board and Committee meetings for the next thirty days through March 19, 2022. The motion carried 7-0-0-2 with voting as follows:

<u>AYES</u>	<u>NAYS</u>	<u>ABSTAIN</u>	<u>ABSENT</u>
Mr. Balzarini			Mr. Roeser
Mr. Coursey			Mr. Williamson
Mr. Eaton			
Mr. Jahn			
Mr. Tambe			
Mr. Tuscany			
Mr. Williams			

B. COLA Discussion

Pursuant to the COLA Policy, CEO Julie Wyne provides the status of the contingency reserve, annual changes in CPI, and estimated cost of a Cost of Living Adjustment for 2022. Discussion ensued regarding the calculation of the negative contingency reserve and Ms. Wyne indicated she would ask the actuary to address it in the annual actuarial valuation presentation. Ms. Wyne then indicated she would communicate the COLA information to the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors and Sonoma County Association of Retired Employees (SCARE) representatives.

C. Felony Forfeiture Policy review

Recommendation: Approve amendments to the Felony Forfeiture Policy.

Ms. Wyne explained the changes to the policy to conform to the Benefits Appeals Policy and provide for redeposited contributions in the event of a conviction reversal.

A motion was made by Trustee Tambe, seconded by Trustee Balzarini to approve amendments to the Felony Forfeiture Policy. The motion carried 7-0-0-2 with voting as follows:

<u>AYES</u>	<u>NAYS</u>	<u>ABSTAIN</u>	<u>ABSENT</u>
Mr. Balzarini			Mr. Roeser
Mr. Coursey			Mr. Williamson
Mr. Eaton			
Mr. Jahn			
Mr. Tambe			
Mr. Tuscany			
Mr. Williams			

D. Retirement Board Charter Review

Recommendation: Approve amendments to the Retirement Board Charter.

Ms. Wyne addressed the proposed amendment allowing service retirement eligibility to be determined by staff. Trustees asked about the fiduciary duties of providing benefits to participants and their beneficiaries and minimizing employer contributions and how those two duties coexisted. Discussion ensued about how best to represent that the duty to participants is the primary duty and reference was made to other pension system Retirement Board Charters as examples. Ms. Wyne indicated she would bring the Charter back to a subsequent meeting and Trustees Eaton and Tuscany offered to assist in vetting the language prior to the Board's consideration.

E. Retirement CEO Charter Review

Recommendation: Approve amendments to the Retirement CEO Charter.

Ms. Wyne explained the proposed amendments to allow delegation to the CEO or designee to approve service retirement applications, pay service providers and manage benefit operations.

A motion was made by Trustee Jahn, seconded by Trustee Tambe to approve amendments to the Retirement CEO Charter. The motion carried 7-0-0-2 with voting as follows:

<u>AYES</u>	<u>NAYS</u>	<u>ABSTAIN</u>	<u>ABSENT</u>
Mr. Balzarini			Mr. Roeser
Mr. Coursey			Mr. Williamson
Mr. Eaton			
Mr. Jahn			
Mr. Tambe			
Mr. Tuscany			
Mr. Williams			

F. Compensation Earnable and Final Comp Policy review

Recommendation: Approve amendments to the Compensation Earnable and Final Comp Policy.

Ms. Wyne indicated a review period was added.

A motion was made by Trustee Tambe, seconded by Trustee Jahn to approve amendments to the Compensation Earnable and Final Comp Policy. The motion carried 7-0-0-2 with voting as follows:

<u>AYES</u>	<u>NAYS</u>	<u>ABSTAIN</u>	<u>ABSENT</u>
Mr. Balzarini			Mr. Roeser
Mr. Coursey			Mr. Williamson
Mr. Eaton			
Mr. Jahn			
Mr. Tambe			
Mr. Tuscany			
Mr. Williams			

G. Use of SCERA Member Addresses Policy review

Recommendation: Approve amendments to the Use of SCERA Member Addresses Policy.

Ms. Wyne indicated that the amendments clarified what type of mailing can be sent by authorized agencies using SCERA's confidential mailing addresses and added a review period.

A motion was made by Trustee Jahn, seconded by Trustee Tambe to approve amendments to the Use of SCERA Member Addresses Policy. The motion carried 7-0-0-2 with voting as follows:

<u>AYES</u>	<u>NAYS</u>	<u>ABSTAIN</u>	<u>ABSENT</u>
Mr. Balzarini			Mr. Roeser
Mr. Coursey			Mr. Williamson
Mr. Eaton			
Mr. Jahn			
Mr. Tambe			
Mr. Tuscany			
Mr. Williams			

H. Trustee/Staff Training & Conferences

1. CALAPRS General Assembly, March 5 to 8, 2022, San Diego Mission Bay Resort, CA. Trustee Williams is attending.
2. CALAPRS Trustee Roundtable, April 29, 2022, virtual.
3. SACRS Spring Conference, May 10 to 13, 2022, Omni Rancho Las Palmas Resort, Rancho Mirage, CA. Trustee Williams is attending.

I. Communications

1. Service Retirements
2. Reciprocal Service Connected Disability Benefit – Efren Jauregui
3. Trustee Education Report – Q4 2021
4. SACRS Q4 2021 Federal Tax Update
5. SACRS February 2022 Legislative Update

III. GENERAL DISCUSSION ITEMS

Opportunity was given to advise the Board of new matters and for Trustees to ask questions for clarification, provide information to staff, request staff to report back on a matter or direct staff to place a matter on a subsequent agenda.

There were no general discussion items.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

Opportunity was given for public comment on non-agenda items within the jurisdiction of the Retirement Board.

There were no public comments.

The Board of Retirement moved into Executive Session and closed the meeting to all attendees who were not necessary for the determination of a disability retirement. While the meeting was closed, those attendees were placed into the WebEx lobby by the WebEx host and did not hear or see the meeting.

V. EXECUTIVE SESSION

- A. Executive Session. Meeting closed pursuant to Government Code Section 54957(b) to consider the employment status and evaluation of performance of a SCERA member or members as concerns eligibility for a disability retirement.

Disability Committee Chair provided the recommendations made by the Committee at the February 17, 2022 meeting:

1. TIMOTHY KEEGAN, JR., Correctional Sergeant filed 07/07/21 for a service connected disability retirement.

A motion was made by Trustee Balzarini, seconded by Trustee Jahn to grant a service connected disability retirement for Timothy Keegan, Jr., Correctional Sergeant. The motion carried 7-0-0-2 with voting as follows:

<u>AYES</u>	<u>NAYS</u>	<u>ABSTAIN</u>	<u>ABSENT</u>
Mr. Balzarini			Mr. Roeser
Mr. Coursey			Mr. Williamson
Mr. Eaton			
Mr. Jahn			
Mr. Tambe			
Mr. Tuscany			
Mr. Williams			

2. SAMUEL JONES, Correctional Deputy II filed 08/23/21 for a service connected disability retirement.

A motion was made by Trustee Jahn, seconded by Trustee Coursey to grant a service connected disability retirement for Samuel Jones, Correctional Deputy II. The motion carried 7-0-0-2 with voting as follows:

<u>AYES</u>	<u>NAYS</u>	<u>ABSTAIN</u>	<u>ABSENT</u>
Mr. Balzarini			Mr. Roeser
Mr. Coursey			Mr. Williamson

Mr. Eaton
Mr. Jahn
Mr. Tambe
Mr. Tuscany
Mr. Williams

3. MARINA ABBOTT, Senior Client Support Specialist filed 08/26/21 for a service connected disability retirement.

A motion was made by Trustee Tuscany, seconded by Trustee Balzarini to grant a service connected disability retirement for Marina Abbott, Senior Client Support Specialist. The motion carried 7-0-0-2 with voting as follows:

<u>AYES</u>	<u>NAYS</u>	<u>ABSTAIN</u>	<u>ABSENT</u>
Mr. Balzarini			Mr. Roeser
Mr. Coursey			Mr. Williamson
Mr. Eaton			
Mr. Jahn			
Mr. Tambe			
Mr. Tuscany			
Mr. Williams			

The Board of Retirement moved out of Executive Session and reopened the meeting to all WebEx attendees who were placed in the lobby during the closed session period.

V. EXECUTIVE SESSION REPORT OUT

Trustee Williams reported that the Board unanimously granted service connected disability retirements for Timothy Keegan, Jr., Correctional Sergeant, Samuel Jones, Correctional Deputy II, and Marina Abbott, Senior Client Support Specialist.

VII. NOTICE OF NEXT MEETINGS

All meetings are held at SCERA in the Board Room at 433 Aviation Boulevard, Suite 100, Santa Rosa, CA, or virtually via WebEx unless otherwise noted.

Investment Committee
February 24, 2022
8:30 a.m.

Disability Committee
March 17, 2022
8:30 a.m.

Retirement Board
March 17, 2022

9:00 a.m.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to conduct, the meeting adjourned at 10:15 a.m.

IX. APPROVAL

The above minutes from the February 17, 2022 Retirement Board meeting were approved at the Retirement Board meeting on March 17, 2022.

BRIAN WILLIAMS, CHAIR