

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

Thursday, July 21, 2022
9:04 a.m.

In accordance with Retirement Board Resolution #156, adopted on September 23, 2021, and readopted June 30, 2022, the Sonoma County Employees' Retirement Association Retirement Board meeting was held virtually and in compliance with California Government Code section 54953(e).

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=m87d5edf9a743d1edd5d5e59bb4cf71>

2. Call-in:

(408) 418-9388

Meeting ID: 2499 559 7578

Password: 07212022

Presiding via the

Boardroom: Brian Williams, Chair

Present

via WebEx: Trustee Amos Eaton

Present in the

SCERA Boardroom: Trustees Neil Baker (Alternate Retiree – arrived at 9:10 a.m.), Chris Coursey, Greg Jahn, Erick Roeser, Joe Tambe, Tim Tuscany, and Bob Williamson; Chief Executive Officer Julie Wyne, Assistant CEO/Chief Legal Counsel Cristina Hess, Member Services Manager Jackie Purter, Finance and Retiree Services Manager Cheryl Enold, Retirement Analyst Rebecca Gay, and Administrative Aide Julia Smith

Also present

via WebEx: Nick Klein (Sonoma County CAO office), Joe Ebisa (member of the public)

Absent: Travis Balzarini

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

All agenda items on the Consent calendar were approved in a single motion.

- A. Meeting Minutes – June 16, 2022, Retirement Board Meeting Minutes
- B. Active Member Death Benefits

Recommendation: Approve Consent Calendar items A through B.

A motion was made by Trustee Williamson, seconded by Trustee Coursey to approve the Consent Calendar items A through B. The motion carried 8-0-0-1 with voting as follows:

Mr. Balzarini	Absent
Mr. Coursey	Aye
Mr. Eaton	Aye
Mr. Jahn	Aye
Mr. Roeser	Aye
Mr. Tambe	Aye
Mr. Tuscany	Aye
Mr. Williams	Aye
Mr. Williamson	Aye

II. REGULAR CALENDAR

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

Recommendation: Take appropriate action.

A motion was made by Trustee Tuscany, seconded by Trustee Williamson 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 August 20, 2022. The motion carried 8-0-0-1 with voting as follows:

Mr. Balzarini	Absent
Mr. Coursey	Aye
Mr. Eaton	Aye
Mr. Jahn	Aye
Mr. Roeser	Aye
Mr. Tambe	Aye
Mr. Tuscany	Aye
Mr. Williams	Aye
Mr. Williamson	Aye

B. Deductions from Retiree Payments Policy Review

Recommendation: Approve the amendments to the Deduction from Retiree Payments Policy.

A motion was made by Trustee Tambe, seconded by Trustee Williamson to approve amendments to the Deduction from Retiree Payments Policy to update antiquated language. The motion carried 8-0-0-1 with voting as follows:

Mr. Balzarini	Absent
Mr. Coursey	Aye
Mr. Eaton	Aye
Mr. Jahn	Aye
Mr. Roeser	Aye
Mr. Tambe	Aye
Mr. Tuscany	Aye
Mr. Williams	Aye
Mr. Williamson	Aye

C. Administrative Benefits Committee Charter Review

Recommendation: Approve the Administrative Benefits Committee Charter review.

A motion was made by Trustee Tuscany, seconded by Trustee Jahn to approve the Administrative Benefits Committee Charter review. The motion carried 8-0-0-1 with voting as follows:

Mr. Balzarini	Absent
Mr. Coursey	Aye
Mr. Eaton	Aye
Mr. Jahn	Aye
Mr. Roeser	Aye
Mr. Tambe	Aye
Mr. Tuscany	Aye
Mr. Williams	Aye
Mr. Williamson	Aye

D. Audit Committee Charter Review

Recommendation: Approve the Audit Committee Charter review.

A motion was made by Trustee Tambe, seconded by Trustee Roeser to approve the Audit Committee Charter review. The motion carried 8-0-0-1 with voting as follows:

Mr. Balzarini	Absent
Mr. Coursey	Aye
Mr. Eaton	Aye
Mr. Jahn	Aye

Mr. Roeser	Aye
Mr. Tambe	Aye
Mr. Tuscany	Aye
Mr. Williams	Aye
Mr. Williamson	Aye

E. Disability Committee Charter Review

Recommendation: Approve amendments to the Disability Committee Charter.

A motion was made by Trustee Williamson, seconded by Trustee Jahn to approve amendments to the Disability Committee Charter review to add the review of retired members who return to work. The motion carried 8-0-0-1 with voting as follows:

Mr. Balzarini	Absent
Mr. Coursey	Aye
Mr. Eaton	Aye
Mr. Jahn	Aye
Mr. Roeser	Aye
Mr. Tambe	Aye
Mr. Tuscany	Aye
Mr. Williams	Aye
Mr. Williamson	Aye

F. Benefit Appeals Policy and Process

Recommendation: Approve amendments to the Benefit Appeals Policy and Process.

A motion was made by Trustee Eaton, seconded by Trustee Jahn to approve amendments to the Benefit Appeals Policy and Process to change 30 days to 60 days for the initial appeal. The motion carried 8-0-0-1 with voting as follows:

Mr. Balzarini	Absent
Mr. Coursey	Aye
Mr. Eaton	Aye
Mr. Jahn	Aye
Mr. Roeser	Aye
Mr. Tambe	Aye
Mr. Tuscany	Aye
Mr. Williams	Aye
Mr. Williamson	Aye

G. Trustee/Staff Training & Conferences

Notify Julia Smith if you plan to attend any future event. Please note, if out of state travel to attend a conference is not approved in the Budget, separate approval from the Board must be obtained prior to attending the conference.

1. NCPERS 2022 Public Pension Funding Forum, August 21 to August 23, 2022, UCLA Meyer & Renee Luskin Conference Center, Los Angeles, CA.
2. CALAPRS Principles of Pension Governance for Trustees, August 29 to September 1, 2022, The Lodge at Tiburon, Tiburon, CA.
3. UBS Trumbull Property Fund Annual Investor and Client Advisory Council Meetings, September 12 to September 15, 2022, Hayes Mansion, San Jose, CA.
4. CALAPRS Virtual Trustee Roundtable, October 28, 2022.

H. Communications

1. Service Retirements
2. Member Interest Crediting Rate
3. Key Findings – Actuarial Valuation for the plan year ending December 31, 2021
4. Trustee Education Report 2Q2022
5. Sonoma County Prepayment of Contribution Letter FY 2022/2023
6. Email correspondence from member and SCERA response re: COLA and PAFR

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.

Ms. Wyne discussed demonstrations she and staff had received from two companies that offer electronic Board meeting document solutions, noting that the current iPad platform in place was problematic. Trustees Tuscany and Williamson offered to assist with implementation once a company was chosen to test the new platform in advance of rolling it out to the full Board.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

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

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 nor see the meeting. Attendees in the lobby were re-connected to the meeting once the Board returned to open session.

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.

1. Application for review:

KATHRYN SNYDER, general member who retired effective 10/12/14 with a service retirement. On May 11, 2022, Ms. Snyder submitted a request that her retirement be suspended and that she be reinstated per Government Code section 31680.4. She has been offered the position of an Account Clerk II with the County of Sonoma.

A motion was made by Trustee Eaton, seconded by Trustee Jahn to grant the request of Kathryn Snyder, to suspend her retirement and be reinstated per Government Code section 31680.4, so she may accept a position as Account Clerk II with the County of Sonoma. The motion carried 8-0-0-1 with voting as follows:

Mr. Balzarini	Absent
Mr. Coursey	Aye
Mr. Eaton	Aye
Mr. Jahn	Aye
Mr. Roeser	Aye
Mr. Tambe	Aye
Mr. Tuscany	Aye
Mr. Williams	Aye
Mr. Williamson	Aye

2. Proposed Decision for review:

MAZEN AWAD, Captain, requested an application on 06/29/21 for a service connected disability retirement. Application request was reviewed and denied for not meeting Government Code Section 31722 (timeliness of application). Mr. Awad service retired 03/10/20 and did not file within 4 months of retiring and was unable to prove permanent incapacity back to his date of retirement.

A motion was made by Trustee Tambe, seconded by Trustee Williamson to adopt the Hearing Officer's recommendation to deny a service connected disability for Mazen Awad, Captain, for not meeting Government Code Section 31722 (timeliness of application). The motion carried 8-0-0-1 with voting as follows:

Mr. Balzarini	Absent
Mr. Coursey	Aye
Mr. Eaton	Aye
Mr. Jahn	Aye
Mr. Roeser	Aye
Mr. Tambe	Aye
Mr. Tuscany	Aye

Mr. Williams Aye
Mr. Williamson Aye

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.

VI. EXECUTIVE SESSION REPORT OUT

Chair Williams reported the Board unanimously granted the request of Kathryn Snyder to suspend her retirement and be reinstated per Government Code section 31680.4, so she may accept a position as Account Clerk II with the County of Sonoma and the Board unanimously adopted the Hearing Officer's recommendation to deny a service connected disability for Mazen Awad, Captain, for not meeting Government Code Section 31722 (timeliness of application).

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.

Administrative Benefits Committee

July 21, 2022

~10:00 a.m.

Investment Committee

July 28, 2022

8:30 a.m.

Disability Committee

August 18, 2022

8:30 a.m.

Retirement Board

August 18, 2022

9:00 a.m.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to conduct, the meeting adjourned at 9:33 a.m.

IX. APPROVAL

The above minutes from the July 21, 2022, Retirement Board meeting were approved at the Retirement Board meeting on August 18, 2022.

BRIAN WILLIAMS, CHAIR