

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

Thursday, August 18, 2022
9:12 a.m.

In accordance with Retirement Board Resolution #156, adopted on September 23, 2021, and readopted July 21, 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=mba2b11fd6950fd4198a85d13c54ff8b0>

2. Call-in:

(408) 418-9388

Meeting ID: 2481 305 4288

Password: 08182022

Presiding in the SCERA

Boardroom: Brian Williams, Chair

Present in the

SCERA Boardroom: Trustees Neil Baker (Alternate Retiree), Travis Balzarini, Greg Jahn, Erick Roeser, Joe Tambe, Tim Tuscany, and Bob Williamson; Chief Executive Officer Julie Wyne, Assistant CEO/Chief Legal Counsel Cristina Hess, Finance and Retiree Services Manager Cheryl Enold, Retirement Analyst Rebecca Gay, and Administrative Aide Julia Smith

Present

via WebEx: Trustees Chris Coursey (left at 11:00 a.m.) and Amos Eaton; Member Services Manager Jackie Purter and Accountant III Susan Begun

Also present

via WebEx: Andy Yeung, Paul Angelo, and Todd Tauzer (of Segal Consulting); Nick Klein (Sonoma County CAO office), Phyris Tobler (of SCARE), Jana Blunt (of SEIU 1021), Joe Ebisa (journalist), Doris and an unnamed caller (member of the public)

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 – July 21, 2022, Retirement Board Meeting Minutes
- B. Active Member Death Benefits

Recommendation: Approve Consent Agenda Items A and B.

A motion was made by Trustee Williamson, seconded by Trustee Jahn to approve the Consent Calendar items A through B. The motion carried 9-0-0-0 with voting as follows:

Mr. Balzarini	Aye
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. Retirement Board Resolution #156 – COVID State of Emergency and imminent threat of risk

Recommendation: Take appropriate action.

A motion was made by Trustee Eaton, 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 September 17, 2022. The motion carried 9-0-0-0 with voting as follows:

Mr. Balzarini	Aye
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. Negative Contingency Reserve Discussion – Segal Consulting

Actuaries Paul Angelo and Andy Yeung presented the history of the negative contingency reserve including its purpose and the trajectory of the current balance. Discussions ensued around the retiree Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) and its connection to the reserve balances, including the realization that in the current reserve status a COLA would likely not be able to be recommended by SCERA in the foreseeable future. Policy options were discussed regarding the contingency reserve and the COLA program and a determination was made to discuss these options with the County Administrator. Ms. Wyne suggested that up to four trustees accompany her to the meeting, indicating that more than four would constitute a quorum and require a public meeting. Trustees Williamson, Baker, Tuscany and Balzarini all expressed interest.

C. Administrative Benefits Committee Recommendations

1. Retirement Board Charter
2. Bylaws Amendments

Ms. Wyne summarized the recommendations of the Administrative Benefits Committee to amend the Retirement Board Charter with additional language around fiduciary obligations and clarity around the processing of service retirements, and proposed amendment to the Bylaws to conform them to current practice.

Recommendation: Accept the Administrative Benefits Committee recommendations to amend the Retirement Board Charter and Bylaws.

A motion was made by Trustee Williamson, seconded by Trustee Tuscany to accept the Administrative Benefits Committee recommendations to amend the Retirement Board Charter and Bylaws. The motion carried 8-0-0-1 with voting as follows:

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

D. Chair and Vice Chair of the Retirement Board Charter Reviews

Recommendation: Approve the amendments to the Chair and Vice Chair of the Retirement Board Charter.

A motion was made by Trustee Tuscani, seconded by Trustee Balzarini to approve the amendments to the Chair and Vice Chair of the Retirement Board Charter. The motion carried 8-0-0-1 with voting as follows:

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

E. 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.
5. SACRS Fall Conference, November 8 to 11, Hyatt Regency Long Beach, Long Beach, CA.

F. Communications

1. Service Retirements
2. Insurance Coverage renewals

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 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. Applications for review:

a. JASON ESQUIBEL, Correctional Deputy II filed 12/28/21 for a service connected disability retirement.

A motion was made by Trustee Balzarini, seconded by Trustee Williamson to grant the request of Jason Esquibel, Correctional Deputy II for a service connected disability retirement. The motion carried 8-0-0-1 with voting as follows:

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

- b. BRIAN KEEL, Correctional Deputy II filed 12/28/21 for a service connected disability retirement.

A motion was made by Trustee Balzarini, seconded by Trustee Williamson to deny the request of Brian Keel, Correctional Deputy II for a service connected disability retirement. The motion carried 8-0-0-1 with voting as follows:

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

- c. JOSEPH MORARITY, Correctional Deputy II filed 01/06/22 for a service connected disability retirement.

A motion was made by Trustee Tuscany, seconded by Trustee Williamson to grant the request of Joseph Morarity, Correctional Deputy II for a service connected disability retirement. The motion carried 8-0-0-1 with voting as follows:

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

- d. LUKE SOLORZANO, Deputy Sheriff II filed 01/10/22 for a service connected disability retirement.

A motion was made by Trustee Balzarini, seconded by Trustee Jahn to grant the request of Luke Solorzano, Deputy Sheriff II for a service connected disability retirement. The motion carried 8-0-0-1 with voting as follows:

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

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

- e. EDUARDO FERNANDEZ, Correctional Deputy II filed 02/18/22 for a service connected disability retirement.

A motion was made by Trustee Williamson, seconded by Trustee Balzarini to grant the request of Eduardo Fernandez, Correctional Deputy II for a service connected disability retirement. The motion carried 8-0-0-1 with voting as follows:

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

- f. ROBERT JOHNSON, Correctional Deputy II filed 03/14/22 for a service connected disability retirement.

A motion was made by Trustee Williamson, seconded by Trustee Tuscany to grant the request of Robert Johnson, Correctional Deputy II for a service connected disability retirement. The motion carried 8-0-0-1 with voting as follows:

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

- g. BECKY RASMASON, Court Commissioner filed 04/18/22 for a non-service connected disability retirement.

A motion was made by Trustee Tambe, seconded by Trustee Balzarini to grant the request of Becky Rasmason, Court Commissioner for a non-service connected disability retirement. The motion carried 8-0-0-1 with voting as follows:

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

2. Proposed Decisions:

ELENA TRANSUE, Deputy Sheriff II filed 05/07/20 for a service connected disability retirement. On 01/21/21 the Retirement Board denied the application for a service connected disability.

A motion was made by Trustee Balzarini, seconded by Trustee Williamson to adopt the recommendation by the Administrative Law Judge and grant the request of Elena Transue, Deputy Sheriff II for a service connected disability retirement. The motion carried 8-0-0-1 with voting as follows:

Mr. Balzarini	Aye
Mr. Coursey	Absent
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 that were placed in the lobby during the closed session period.

VI. EXECUTIVE SESSION REPORT OUT

Chair Williams reported the Board unanimously granted the requests of Jason Esquibel, Correctional Deputy II, Joseph Morarity, Correctional Deputy II, Luke Solorzano, Deputy Sheriff II, Eduardo Fernandez, Correctional Deputy II, and Robert Johnson, Correctional Deputy II, for service connected disability retirements. The Board unanimously approved the request of Becky Rasmason, Court Commissioner for a non-service connected disability retirement and the Board

unanimously denied the request of Brian Keel, Correctional Deputy II, for a service connected disability retirement.

The board unanimously adopted the recommendation by the Administrative Law Judge and granted the request of Elena Transue, Deputy Sheriff II for a service connected disability retirement.

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

August 25, 2022

8:30 a.m.

Disability Committee

September 22, 2022

8:30 a.m.

Retirement Board

September 22, 2022

9:00 a.m.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to conduct, the meeting adjourned at 11:38 a.m.

IX. APPROVAL

The above minutes from the August 18, 2022, Retirement Board meeting were approved at the Retirement Board meeting on September 22, 2022.

BRIAN WILLIAMS, CHAIR