

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

Thursday, April 20, 2023
9:01 a.m.

Presiding: Brian Williams, Chair

Present: Trustees Neil Baker (Alternate Retiree), Travis Balzarini, Chris Coursey, Amos Eaton, Greg Jahn, Joe Tambe, Tim Tuscany, and Bob Williamson; 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

Absent: Trustee Erick Roeser

Public comments were solicited prior to the meeting by emailing Rebecca.Gay@sonoma-county.org. Members of the public that joined the Zoom 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.

I. CONSENT CALENDAR

A. Meeting Minutes – March 23, 2023, Retirement Board

Recommendation: Approve Consent Calendar item A.

A motion was made by Trustee Williamson, seconded by Trustee Tambe to approve Consent Calendar item A. The motion carried 8-0-0-1 with voting as follows:

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

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 exited the Board room and/or were electronically blocked by the Zoom host and did not hear nor see the meeting.

II. EXECUTIVE SESSION

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 Williams reported on recommendations made by the Committee at the April 20, 2023, meeting:

ROBERT WOODWORTH, Deputy Sheriff II filed 09/13/22 for a service connected disability retirement.

A motion was made by Trustee Williamson, seconded by Trustee Balzarini to grant the application of Robert Woodworth, 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	Aye
Mr. Eaton	Aye
Mr. Jahn	Aye
Mr. Roeser	Absent
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 attendees previously excluded from the closed session period.

III. EXECUTIVE SESSION REPORT OUT

Chair Williams reported that the Board unanimously granted the application of Robert Woodworth, Deputy Sheriff II, for a service connected disability retirement.

IV. REGULAR CALENDAR

A. SACRS Business Meeting

Recommendation: Direct the SACRS Voting Proxy to cast a vote for the recommended SACRS Officer slate.

The Board discussed last month's vote to designate Chair Williams as Voting Proxy and Trustee Eaton as the Alternate Voting Proxy. A motion was made by Trustee Williamson, seconded by Trustee Tambe to direct the SCARS Voting Proxy to cast a vote for the recommended SACRS officer slate and to approve or receive other business as usual items. The motion carried 8-0-0-1 with voting as follows:

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

B. Interest Crediting and Reserve Policy

Recommendation: Approve amendments to the Interest Crediting and Reserve Policy.

Ms. Hess indicated that there were clerical changes reflected in the new policy. Trustee Williamson expressed interest in learning how interest is credited by SCERA. Ms. Enold provided a brief description. Ms. Hess indicated SCERA could provide a future training on this. Trustee Baker agreed that this is a topic of interest.

A motion was made by Trustee Tambe, seconded by Trustee Williamson to approve amendments to the Interest Crediting and Reserve Policy. The motion carried 8-0-0-1 with voting as follows:

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

C. Board Document Delivery System Update

Ms. Hess and Ms. Gay discussed the progress and timeline for this update. Several Trustees requested there be consideration given to allow Board Members to print from the system. Trustees Williamson and Tuscany were thanked for their willingness to pilot this new system.

D. 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. CALAPRS Advanced Principles of Pension Governance for Trustees 2023, March 29 to 31, 2023, UCLA Meyer and Renee Luskin Conference Center, Westwood, CA. Trustee Eaton reported the conference was a very valuable experience and provided the Board with a comprehensive summary. There was an economic presentation on the State of the Country. California is better suited economically because of the large presence of aerospace and defense technology within our state. There was a session that debated whether an Actuarial Firm is a fiduciary. Among other sessions, there was a LDROM educational session. Trustee Eaton suggested that the Board request Segal to provide an in-depth discussion on this.
2. California Retired County Employees Association (CRCEA), Annual CRCEA Spring Conference, April 23 to 26, 2023, Ontario Airport Hotel, Ontario, CA.
3. CALAPRS Virtual Trustees Roundtable, May 5, 2023.
4. SACRS Spring Conference, May 9 to 12, 2023, Paradise Point Resort & Spa, San Diego, CA. Trustees Eaton, Tuscany, and Williams are attending.
5. NCPERS Annual Conference & Exhibition, May 21 to 24, 2023, New Orleans, LA.
6. Arrowstreet Capital 2023 Client Conference, October 3 to 4, 2023, The Mandarin Oriental Hotel, Boston, MA.

E. Communications

1. Service Retirements
2. Trustee Education Report, Q1 2023
3. COLA Program Policy Discussion Update

The Board appreciates the steps that the Ad Hoc COLA Committee has taken. Segal will complete cost studies on three different COLA scenarios. SCERA staff will complete the written description of the COLA Policy and Negative Contingency Reserve, and schedule meetings with the Ad Hoc Committee and a meeting with the County representatives.

4. NCPERS ASOP 4 Factsheet

Ms. Hess reported the Actuarial Standards Board requires public pension plans to begin disclosing a new liability measure that assumes the pension plan is invested solely in high quality bonds (LDROM). LDROM is not a measure of public pension plan funding nor health. LDROM is an illustration of taxpayer savings. Ms. Hess will reach out to Segal for an in-depth educational presentation for staff and the Board.

5. SACRS April 2023 Legislative Update

Ms. Hess reviewed the language of the presumption changes in disability retirements contained in AB 1020. SCERA will continue to monitor this Bill.

V. 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.

Board Chair Williams reported out from the UBS Shareholder Meeting that he attended with Trustees Williamson, Roeser, Ms. Hess, Ms. Wyne, Mr. Failor, and Ms. Nguyen. The Trustees and staff continue to be impressed with UBS's approach and quality of staff.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT

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

There were no public comments.

VII. NOTICE OF NEXT MEETINGS

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

Investment Committee
April 27, 2023
8:30 a.m.

Actuarial Board Meeting
May 4, 2023
9:00 a.m.

Disability Committee
May 18, 2023
8:30 a.m.

Board Meeting
May 18, 2023
9:00 a.m.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to conduct, the meeting adjourned at 9:47 a.m.

IX. APPROVAL

The above minutes from the April 20, 2023, Retirement Board meeting were approved at the Retirement Board meeting on May 18, 2023.

BRIAN WILLIAMS, CHAIR