

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

Thursday, October 19, 2023

10:00 a.m.

Presiding: Brian Williams, Chair

Present: Trustees Travis Balzarini, Chris Coursey, Amos Eaton, Greg Jahn, Erick Roeser, Tim Tuscany, and Bob Williamson (Vice Chair); Chief Executive Officer Julie Wyne, Assistant CEO/Chief Legal Counsel Cristina Hess, Member Services Manager Jackie Purter, and Retirement Analyst Rebecca Gay

Absent: Trustees Neil Baker (Alternate Retiree) and Joe Tambe

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 – September 21, 2023, Retirement Board

B. Active Member Death Benefits

Recommendation: Approve Consent Calendar items A and B.

A motion was made by Trustee Eaton, seconded by Trustee Williamson, to approve consent calendar items A and B. The motion carried 8-0-0-1 with roll call voting as follows:

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

The Board of Retirement moved into Executive Session and closed the meeting to all attendees that were not necessary for the determination of a disability retirement. While the meeting was closed, those attendees exited the Board room and/or were blocked by the Zoom host and neither saw nor heard the meeting.

II. 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 reported on recommendations made by the Committee at the October 19, 2023, meeting:

1. STEPHEN MERICAL, Deputy Sheriff II filed 12/14/22 for a service connected disability retirement.

A motion was made by Trustee Eaton, seconded by Trustee Balzarini, to grant the application of Stephen Merial, 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	Aye
Mr. Tambe	Absent
Mr. Tuscany	Aye
Mr. Williams	Aye
Mr. Williamson	Aye

2. JOHN DAY, Heavy Equipment Mechanic II filed 03/07/23 for a service connected disability retirement.

A motion was made by Trustee Balzarini, seconded by Trustee Williamson, to grant the application of John Day, Heavy Equipment Mechanic 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	Aye
Mr. Tambe	Absent
Mr. Tuscany	Aye
Mr. Williams	Aye
Mr. Williamson	Aye

3. DANIEL VALLELUNGA, Correctional Deputy II filed 03/20/23 for a service connected disability retirement.

A motion was made by Trustee Williamson, seconded by Trustee Balzarini, to grant the application of Daniel Vallelunga, 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	Aye
Mr. Eaton	Aye
Mr. Jahn	Aye
Mr. Roeser	Aye
Mr. Tambe	Absent
Mr. Tuscany	Aye
Mr. Williams	Aye
Mr. Williamson	Aye

4. JON BUIJTEN, Probation Officer III filed 04/03/23 for a service connected disability retirement.

A motion was made by Trustee Williamson, seconded by Trustee Balzarini, to grant the application of Jon Buijten, Probation Officer III, 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	Aye
Mr. Tambe	Absent
Mr. Tuscany	Aye
Mr. Williams	Aye
Mr. Williamson	Aye

5. ELISE HANSEN, Communications Dispatcher II filed 04/05/23 for a service connected disability retirement.

A motion was made by Trustee Balzarini, seconded by Trustee Williamson, to grant the application of Elise Hansen, Communications Dispatcher 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	Aye
Mr. Tambe	Absent
Mr. Tuscany	Aye
Mr. Williams	Aye
Mr. Williamson	Ay

6. JOSE ALCALA, Correctional Sergeant filed 04/10/23 for a service connected disability retirement.

A motion was made by Trustee Williamson, seconded by Trustee Balzarini, to grant the application of Jose Alcala, Correctional Sergeant, 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	Aye
Mr. Tambe	Absent
Mr. Tuscany	Aye
Mr. Williams	Aye
Mr. Williamson	Aye

7. VERANIKA BURRELL (AKA SAVITSKAYA), Correctional Deputy II filed 05/02/23 for a service connected disability retirement.

A motion was made by Trustee Williamson, seconded by Trustee Balzarini, to deny the application of Veranika Burrell (aka Savitskaya), Correctional Deputy II for a service connected disability. 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	Aye
Mr. Tambe	Absent
Mr. Tuscany	Aye
Mr. Williams	Aye
Mr. Williamson	Aye

8. JASON HACKATHORN, Correctional Deputy II filed 05/30/23 for a service connected disability retirement.

A motion was made by Trustee Eaton, seconded by Trustee Balzarini, to grant the application of Jason Hackathorn, 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	Aye
Mr. Eaton	Aye
Mr. Jahn	Aye
Mr. Roeser	Aye
Mr. Tambe	Absent
Mr. Tuscany	Aye
Mr. Williams	Aye
Mr. Williamson	Aye

- B. Executive Session. Meeting closed pursuant to Government Code Section 54956(d)(2) for a conference with legal counsel – anticipated litigation. One potential case.

This Executive Session agenda item was determined to be unnecessary and was subsequently removed from the agenda.

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

III. EXECUTIVE SESSION REPORT OUT

Chair Williams reported the Board unanimously granted the service connected disability retirements of Stephen Mercial, Deputy Sheriff II; John Day, Heavy Equipment Mechanic II; Daniel Vallelunga, Correctional Deputy II; Jon Buijten, Probation Officer III; Elise Hansen, Communications Dispatcher II; Jose Alcalá, Correctional Sergeant; and Jason Hackathorn, Correctional Deputy II.

The Board unanimously denied the service connected disability retirement of Veranika Burrell (aka Savitskaya), Correctional Deputy II.

IV. REGULAR CALENDAR

- A. 2024 SCERA Business Plan

Recommendation: Adopt the 2024 SCERA Business Plan.

CEO Julie Wyne highlighted the ongoing work of running a successful, complex retirement system and noted the areas that change annually, like the investment division's

action items. She also noted the new employees in the Finance & Retiree Services and Administrative divisions and the need to train them.

A motion was made by Trustee Williamson, seconded by Trustee Eaton, to adopt the 2024 SCERA Business Plan. 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	Aye
Mr. Tambe	Absent
Mr. Tuscany	Aye
Mr. Williams	Aye
Mr. Williamson	Aye

B. SACRS Business Meeting Items – Legislative Proposal

Recommendation: Direct the SACRS Voting Proxy to approve the Legislative Proposal at the SACRS Fall Business meeting.

Ms. Wyne noted that the only item to be voted on at the SACRS Fall Business meeting was a legislative proposal that contained clean up provisions for the County Employees Retirement Law dealing with debit cards, trusts as beneficiaries, a return receipt mailing requirement that was obsolete and explicit authority to offset a retiree's benefit when they exceed the 960-hour return to work rule.

A motion was made by Trustee Eaton, seconded by Trustee Williamson, to direct the SACRS Voting Proxy to approve the Legislative Proposal at the SACRS Fall Business meeting. 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	Aye
Mr. Tambe	Absent
Mr. Tuscany	Aye
Mr. Williams	Aye
Mr. Williamson	Aye

C. 2024 Board and Committee Meeting Calendar

Recommendation: Approve the 2024 Board and Committee Meeting Calendar.

A motion was made by Trustee Williamson, seconded by Trustee Jahn, to approve the 2024 Board and Committee Meeting Calendar. 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	Aye
Mr. Tambe	Absent
Mr. Tuscany	Aye
Mr. Williams	Aye
Mr. Williamson	Aye

D. Board Communications Policy Review – No recommended changes

The Board reviewed the policy and agreed that no changes were needed.

E. Placement Agent Disclosure Policy Review – No recommended changes

The Board reviewed the policy and agreed that no changes were needed.

F. Securities Litigation Policy Review – No recommended changes

The Board reviewed the policy and agreed that no changes were needed.

G. Communications

1. Service Retirements
2. Trustee Education Report – Q3 2023
3. 2023 Business Plan Report
4. Legislative Update

V. 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.

- A. Sonoma County Economic Development Board – Fall Economic Perspective, October 19, 2023, 7:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m., Sonoma State University, Rohnert Park, CA. Trustees Balzarini and Eaton reported that it was refreshing to hear about the work the Economic Development Board, the County and the Federal Reserve are

doing to measure those that can't fully participate in the economy and bring people out of poverty. Presenter William Rodgers from the St. Louis Federal Reserve discussed the work the agency is doing on measuring the part of the economy represented by those in poverty who are unable to fully participate. Also discussed was the fact that the Economic Development Board is moving towards a more inclusive approach to bring people out of poverty by partnering with county. Both trustees expressed their appreciation at moving the Board meeting to accommodate their attendance at this presentation.

- B. NCPERS Accredited Fiduciary (NAF) Program or Program for Advanced Trustee Studies (PATS), October 21 and 22, 2023, Paris Las Vegas Hotel, Las Vegas, NV.
- C. NCPERS FALL (Fiduciary, Actuarial, Legislative and Legal) Conference, October 22 to 25, 2023, Paris Las Vegas Hotel, Las Vegas, NV.
- D. CALAPRS Virtual Trustees' Round Table, October 27, 2023, 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
- E. SACRS Fall Conference, November 7 to 10, 2023, Omni Rancho Las Palmas Resort & Spa, Rancho Mirage, CA. Chair Williams will be attending.
- F. AON Wealth Insights Series Conference, "Complexity to Clarity, Making Better Investment Decisions", November 27 to 29, 2023, Turnberry Resort & Spa, Miami, FL.

VI. 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.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENT

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

There were no public comments.

VIII. 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.

Audit Committee
October 31, 2023

11:00 a.m.

Disability Committee

November 16, 2023

8:30 a.m.

Investment Committee

November 16, 2023

9:00 a.m.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to conduct, the meeting adjourned at 10:45 a.m.

X. APPROVAL

The above minutes from the October 19, 2023, Retirement Board meeting were approved at the Retirement Board meeting on December 14, 2023.

BRIAN WILLIAMS, CHAIR