

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

Thursday, January 23, 2025  
9:34 a.m.

Presiding: Bob Williamson (2024 Vice Chair), then Travis Balzarini (2025 Chair)

Present: Trustees Neil Baker (Alternate Retiree), Chris Coursey, Amos Eaton, Greg Jahn, Erick Roeser, Joe Tambe, and Mark Walsh, Chief Executive Officer Julie Wyne, Assistant CEO/Chief Legal Counsel Cristina Hess, Chief Investment Officer Jim Failor, Finance and Retiree Services Manager Cheryl Enold, Retirement Analyst Rebecca Gay, and Administrative Aide Julia Smith; Retiree Ed Clites

Present via

Zoom: Phyris Tobler (of SCARE)

Public comments were solicited prior to the meeting by emailing [Rebecca.Gay@sonoma-county.org](mailto: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.

2024 Vice Chair Williamson confirmed with Department Analyst Rebecca Gay that SCERA had not received any public comment prior to the meeting.

**Board Committees for 2025**

**Administrative Benefits –** Neil Baker (Retiree Alternate) Travis Balzarini, Chris Coursey, Jared Gonce, Mark Walsh, Bob Williamson

**Audit Committee –** Amos Eaton, Greg Jahn, Erick Roeser, Joe Tambe, Mark Walsh

**Disability Committee –** Neil Baker (Retiree Alternate), Amos Eaton, Jared Gonce, Joe Tambe, Bob Williamson

**Investment Committee –** Full Board

**I. ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

A. The Board will select a Chair and Vice Chair by majority vote of the members.

**Recommendation:** Select a Chair and Vice Chair.

A motion was made by Trustee Eaton, seconded by Trustee Jahn to select Travis Balzarini as Chair and Mark Walsh as Vice Chair. The motion carried 9-0-0-0 with voting as follows:

Mr. Balzarini	Aye
Mr. Coursey	Aye
Mr. Eaton	Aye
Mr. Gonce	Aye
Mr. Jahn	Aye
Mr. Roeser	Aye
Mr. Tambe	Aye
Mr. Walsh	Aye
Mr. Williamson	Aye

Chair Balzarini took the gavel and presided over the meeting by welcoming newly elected Trustee, Jared Gonce, to the Retirement Board. After Trustee Gonce introduced himself, staff and Trustees also gave brief introductions.

## II. CONSENT CALENDAR

- A. Retirement Board Meeting Minutes – December 19, 2024
- B. Active Member Death Benefits
- C. 2024 Compensation Earnable Determinations

**Recommendation:** Approve Consent Calendar items A through C.

A motion was made by Trustee Williamson, seconded by Trustee Jahn, to approve consent calendar items A through C. The motion carried 9-0-0-0 with voting as follows:

Mr. Balzarini	Aye
Mr. Coursey	Aye
Mr. Eaton	Aye
Mr. Gonce	Aye
Mr. Jahn	Aye
Mr. Roeser	Aye
Mr. Tambe	Aye
Mr. Walsh	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 or consideration of a public employee performance evaluation. Those attendees physically exited the Board room and/or were placed in the virtual Zoom lobby by the host and neither heard nor saw the meeting. All meeting attendees were re-admitted to the meeting when the Board returned to open session.

### III. 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 reported on recommendations made by the Committee at the January 23, 2025, meeting:

#### Disability Applications:

1. RYAN BECK, Correctional Deputy II filed 05/13/24 for a service connected disability retirement.

This application was sent back to staff for further development.

2. JUSTIN CARTER, Correctional Sergeant filed 06/21/24 for a service connected disability retirement.

A motion was made by Trustee Walsh, seconded by Trustee Gonce, to grant the application of Justin Carter, Correctional Sergeant for a service connected disability retirement. The motion carried 9-0-0-0 with voting as follows:

Mr. Balzarini	Aye
Mr. Coursey	Aye
Mr. Eaton	Aye
Mr. Gonce	Aye
Mr. Jahn	Aye
Mr. Roeser	Aye
Mr. Tambe	Aye
Mr. Walsh	Aye
Mr. Williamson	Aye

3. MICHAEL TONELLI, Correctional Sergeant filed 07/17/24 for a service connected disability retirement. Consideration under Government Code Section 31725.65 (reemployment plan) is requested.

A motion was made by Trustee Eaton, seconded by Trustee Walsh, to grant the application of Michael Tonelli, Correctional Sergeant for a service connected disability

retirement with consideration under Government Code Section 31725.65 (reemployment plan). The motion carried 9-0-0-0 with voting as follows:

Mr. Balzarini	Aye
Mr. Coursey	Aye
Mr. Eaton	Aye
Mr. Gonce	Aye
Mr. Jahn	Aye
Mr. Roeser	Aye
Mr. Tambe	Aye
Mr. Walsh	Aye
Mr. Williamson	Aye

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.

#### IV. EXECUTIVE SESSION REPORT OUT

Chair Balzarini reported the Board unanimously granted the applications of Justin Carter, Correctional Sergeant for a service connected disability retirement and Michael Tonelli, Correctional Sergeant for a service connected disability retirement with consideration under Government Code Section 31725.65 (reemployment plan).

The Board sent the application of Ryan Beck, Correctional Deputy II, back to staff for further development.

#### V. REGULAR CALENDAR

##### A. Retirement CEO Charter Review

CEO, Julie Wyne, presented the proposed amendments to the CEO Charter which added compliance and cybersecurity features as well as coaching and training opportunities for staff.

**Recommendation:** Approve amendments to the Retirement CEO Charter.

A motion was made by Trustee Eaton, seconded by Trustee Tambe, to approve amendments to the Retirement CEO Charter. The motion carried 9-0-0-0 with voting as follows:

Mr. Balzarini	Aye
Mr. Coursey	Aye
Mr. Eaton	Aye
Mr. Gonce	Aye
Mr. Jahn	Aye

Mr. Roeser	Aye
Mr. Tambe	Aye
Mr. Walsh	Aye
Mr. Williamson	Aye

B. Felony Forfeiture Policy Review – No Recommended Changes

A motion was made by Trustee Walsh, seconded by Trustee Coursey, to approve the Felony Forfeiture Policy as written. The motion carried 9-0-0-0 with voting as follows:

Mr. Balzarini	Aye
Mr. Coursey	Aye
Mr. Eaton	Aye
Mr. Gonce	Aye
Mr. Jahn	Aye
Mr. Roeser	Aye
Mr. Tambe	Aye
Mr. Walsh	Aye
Mr. Williamson	Aye

C. Use of SCERA Member Addresses Policy Review

Trustee Eaton raised concerns that SCARE (Sonoma County Association of Retired Employees) has been denied use of SCERA's complete membership address list for various mailings in the past. Ms. Wyne stated that this has not been the case during her tenure at SCERA. Phyris Tobler (of SCARE and via Zoom) confirmed that there have been no problems with obtaining the complete membership address list, used by a confidential printer/mailer, for SCARE mailings.

Ms. Wyne noted the proposed amendments were to remove reference to other organizations besides a recognized retiree organization as a recognized retiree organization is the only organization that is statutorily authorized to access SCERA member mailing addresses through a confidential mailing service vendor.

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

A motion was made by Trustee Tambe, seconded by Trustee Walsh, to approve amendments to the Use of SCERA Member Addresses Policy. The motion carried 9-0-0-0 with voting as follows:

Mr. Balzarini	Aye
Mr. Coursey	Aye
Mr. Eaton	Aye

Mr. Gonce	Aye
Mr. Jahn	Aye
Mr. Roeser	Aye
Mr. Tambe	Aye
Mr. Walsh	Aye
Mr. Williamson	Aye

D. Article 8.4 Policy Review

Assistant CEO/Chief Legal Counsel Cristina Hess presented the proposed amendments clarifying the rules and obligations of SCERA regarding the nonmember accounts and the disability retirement provisions regarding members and nonmembers.

**Recommendation:** Approve amendments to Article 8.4 Policy.

A motion was made by Trustee Williamson, seconded by Trustee Gonce, to approve amendments to the Article 8.4 Policy. The motion carried 9-0-0-0 with voting as follows:

Mr. Balzarini	Aye
Mr. Coursey	Aye
Mr. Eaton	Aye
Mr. Gonce	Aye
Mr. Jahn	Aye
Mr. Roeser	Aye
Mr. Tambe	Aye
Mr. Walsh	Aye
Mr. Williamson	Aye

E. Assessment and Determination of Compensation Enhancements Policy Review

Ms. Wyne summarized the proposed amendment noting the removal of a footnote which recited a Government Code provision authorizing the compensation enhancement assessment procedure.

**Recommendation:** Approve amendments to the Assessment and Determination of Compensation Enhancements Policy.

A motion was made by Trustee Williamson, seconded by Trustee Eaton, to approve amendments to the Assessment and Determination of Compensation Enhancements Policy. The motion carried 9-0-0-0 with voting as follows:

Mr. Balzarini	Aye
Mr. Coursey	Aye
Mr. Eaton	Aye

Mr. Gonce	Aye
Mr. Jahn	Aye
Mr. Roeser	Aye
Mr. Tambe	Aye
Mr. Walsh	Aye
Mr. Williamson	Aye

F. Educational Forum location discussion

After a robust discussion of community options for this event and the pros and cons of holding the Educational Forum elsewhere, the Board collectively agreed that the DoubleTree Hotel in Rohnert Park, CA works well on many levels. Retiree Ed Clites expressed support for this location due to his experience with the resort meeting spaces and its staff for many professional events he's organized and attended. The Board directed staff to execute a contract with the DoubleTree for the 2025 event.

G. Communications

1. Service Retirements January 2025
2. Member Interest Crediting Rate, December 31, 2024
3. FPPC Fact Sheet
4. Trustee Education Report – Q4 2024
5. SACRS 2025-26 Board of Directors Election Timeline

VI. 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 General Assembly, March 2 to 5, 2025, Silverado Resort, Napa, CA. Trustees Baker and Williamson are attending.
2. SACRS Spring Conference, May 13 to 16, 2025, Omni Rancho Las Palmas Resort, Rancho Mirage, CA. Trustees Walsh and Eaton expressed interest in attending.
3. Arrowstreet Capital 2025 Client Conference, May 13 to 14, 2025, The Fairmont Copley Hotel, Boston, MA.
4. SACRS UC Berkeley Program, July 13 to 16, 2025, UC Berkeley Haas School of Business, Berkeley, CA.

VII. 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 mentioned the AgriVest Shareholder Meeting taking place in Monterey on April 3<sup>rd</sup>.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT

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

There were no public comments.

IX. 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  
January 30, 2025  
**9:30 a.m.**

Disability Committee  
February 20, 2025  
8:30 am.

Retirement Board  
February 20, 2025  
9:00 a.m.

X. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to conduct, the meeting adjourned at 10:18 a.m.

XI. APPROVAL

The above minutes from the January 23, 2025, Retirement Board meeting were approved at the Retirement Board meeting on February 20, 2025.

TRAVIS BALZARINI, CHAIR