

VERMONT STATE TEACHERS' RETIREMENT SYSTEM

Meeting of the Board of Trustees – Conference Call, Treasurer's Conference Room

August 9, 2022 – 9:00 a.m.

DRAFT COPY – NOT YET APPROVED BY BOARD

Please note all members participated via telephone, video, or teleconference:

Members present:

JON HARRIS, Chairperson, VRTA representative, term expiring July 1, 2024

ERIN CARTER, Active Member Representative, term expiring July 1, 2023

DANIEL RADDOCK, Financial Regulation Representative

SANDRA MINGS-LAMAR, Active Member Representative, term expiring July 1, 2025

EMILY SIMMONS, representing Secretary of Agency of Education

GENEVIEVE HAMBY, Active Member Alternate Representative, term expiring July 1, 2025

PERRY LESSING, VRTA Alternate Representative, term expiring July 1, 2024

Members absent:

BETH PEARCE, VT State Treasurer

Also attending:

Michael Clasen, Deputy Treasurer

Tim Duggan, Director, Vermont Retirement Systems

Justin St. James, Staff Attorney, Office of the State Treasurer

Stephen Barry, Financial Administrator, Retirement Division

Briana Howard, Retirement Specialist, Retirement Division

Eric Henry, Chief Investments Officer

Gabe D'Ulisse, Empower Retirement

Joseph Fein, Empower Retirement

Ann Arch, Empower Retirement

Melissa Chiumento, Empower Retirement

Chip Sanville, Empower Retirement

Brian Ficek, Empower Retirement

Thomas Walters

The Chair, Jon Harris, called the Tuesday, August 9, 2022, Board meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. which was held by conference call and in-person at the Treasurer's Conference Room, Pavilion Building, 4th Floor, 109 State Street, Montpelier, VT.

ITEM 1: **Agenda approval and announcements**

Mr. Duggan introduced Justin St. James as the new Staff Attorney at the Treasurer's Office.

On a motion made by Mr. Clasen, seconded by Ms. Carter, the Board voted unanimously to approve the agenda.

ITEM 2: **Approve the Minutes of:**

- July 14, 2022

On a motion made by Ms. Clasen, seconded by Ms. Carter, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of July 14, 2022 as presented.

ITEM 3: Empower Quarterly Presentation – 403(b) & SDIA 2nd Quarter Results

Mr. D’Ulisse provided an update to the Board regarding the transition to Empower.

Mr. D’Ulisse presented the 2nd quarter 403(b) Plan Review. As of the end of the quarter the plan had 3,164 participants with total assets of \$146,521,905. For the calendar year-to-date, total contributions and rollovers into the plan were \$7,990,600 with an average account balance of \$46,309. There were 1,012 participants utilizing GoalMaker representing \$20.40 million in assets. At of the end of the quarter there were 447 participants utilizing Roth representing \$5.73 million in assets.

Ms. Hamby entered the meeting at 9:16 a.m.

Mr. Sanville provided an update from the in-state counselors. As of the end of the quarter there were 162 individual participant meetings, 38 new enrollments, and \$190,000 in rollovers into the plan. Mr. Sanville expressed that this was the first quarter since 2020 that COVID was not the main topic of conversation during counseling sessions.

Mr. Walters entered the meeting at 9:30 a.m.

Mr. Fein presented the investment report for the 403(b) Deferred Comp Plan. Overall performance for the quarter was negative, although there has been a slight bounce back since July. The PIMCO Total Return ESG Fund is the only fund that is currently not meeting performance criteria.

Mr. D’Ulisse presented the 2nd Quarter report for the SDIA Plan. As of the end of the year there were 816 participants in the plan with \$1,009,978 in distributions and total assets of \$28.4 million.

Mr. Henry and representatives from Empower left the meeting at 9:47 a.m.

ITEM 4: Thomas Walters 90 Day Waiver Request

On a motion made by Ms. Mings-Lamar, seconded by Ms. Carter, the Board voted unanimously to enter executive session at 9:49 a.m. pursuant to 1 V.S.A. § 313 in order to discuss personal medical information.

The Board came out of executive session at 10:10 a.m.

Mr. Walters left the meeting at 10:11.

On a motion made by Mr. Clasen, seconded by Ms. Mings-Lamar, the Board voted unanimously to enter executive session at 10:12 a.m. pursuant to 1 V.S.A. § 313 in order to hear advice of council upon a finding of substantial disadvantage to the Board if this matter were discussed in open session.

The Board came out of executive session at 10:17 a.m.

On a motion made by Mr. Clasen, seconded by Ms. Mings-Lamar, the Board voted unanimously to deny Mr. Walter's request to apply for disability retirement benefits beyond the 90-day window afforded by statute.

ITEM 5: Disability recommendation(s) from the July 21, 2022 meeting of the Medical Review Board:

- Pamela Crino
- Melanie Savio

On a motion made by Mr. Clasen, seconded by Ms. Carter, the Board voted unanimously to accept the recommendation of the Medical Review Board for the disability retirement for Pamela Crino.

On a motion made by Mr. Raddock, seconded by Mr. Clasen, the Board voted unanimously to accept the recommendation of the Medical Review Board for the disability retirement for Melanie Savio.

ITEM 6: Adjournment

On a motion made by Mr. Clasen, seconded by Mr. Raddock, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn at 10:21 a.m.

Next Meeting Date:

The next VSTRS Board meeting is on September 8, 2022 at 3:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S B' followed by a stylized flourish.

Stephen Barry
Financial Administrator I