

VERMONT STATE TEACHERS' RETIREMENT SYSTEM
Meeting of the Board of Trustees – Conference Call, Treasurer's Conference Room
May 10, 2023 – 9:00 a.m.

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

Members present:

JON HARRIS, Chairperson, VREA representative, term expiring July 1, 2024
ERIN CARTER, Vice-Chairperson, Active Member Representative, term expiring July 1, 2023
MIKE PIECIAK, VT State Treasurer
EMILY SIMMONS, representing Secretary of Agency of Education
GENEVIEVE HAMBY, Active Member Alternate Representative, term expiring July 1, 2025

Members absent:

SANDRA MINGS-LAMAR, Active Member Representative, term expiring July 1, 2025
PERRY LESSING, VREA Alternate Representative, term expiring July 1, 2024
DANIEL RADDOCK, Financial Regulation Representative

Also attending:

Gavin Boyles, Deputy State Treasurer, (*designated voting member on behalf of Treasurer Pieciak)
Tim Duggan, Director, Vermont Retirement Systems
Nicole Weidman, Director of Retirement Operations and Policy
Jeremiah Breer, Chief Financial Officer, Vermont State Treasurer's Office
Justin St. James, Staff Attorney, Vermont State Treasurer's Office
Stephen Barry, Administrative Services Manager, Retirement Division
Nicolas Marineau, Executive Assistant to the Treasurer
Steve May, Hickok & Boardman
Colin Robinson, Political Director, Vermont NEA
Andrew Emrich, Vermont NEA
Gabe D'Ulisse, Empower Retirement
Ronald Sanville, Empower Retirement
Melissa Chiumento, Empower Retirement
Brian Ficek, Empower Retirement
Kristin Green, Empower Retirement
Joseph Fein, Empower Retirement

The Chair, Jon Harris, called the Wednesday, May 10, 2023, Board meeting to order at 9:01 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

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

ITEM 2: Approve the Minutes of:

- April 13, 2023

Mr. Pieciak joined the meeting at 9:03 a.m.

On a motion made by Ms. Simmons, seconded by Mr. Pieciak, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of April 13, 2023 as presented.

ITEM 3: Empower Quarterly Presentation – 403(b) & SDIA 1st Quarter Report

Mr. D’Ulisse and the team from Empower provided an update to the Board regarding the transition to Empower, macroeconomic trends, and the Quarterly Presentation for the 403(b) and the SDIA for the 1st quarter of 2023.

Discussion was focused on the SECURE 2.0 Act, migration to the Empower platform and current market trends. Mr. Harris inquired about Teachers’ participation in the 403(b) and the 457(b).

Ms. Hamby joined the meeting at 9:10 a.m.

Link: [403\(b\) Plan Review for January 1-March 31, 2023](#)

The team from Empower left the meeting at 9:50 a.m.

ITEM 4: Health Insurance Update

Mr. Duggan informed the Board of the Blue Cross Blue Shield of Vermont affiliation with Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan.

Mr. Duggan and Mr. May presented the proposed VSTRS health insurance rates for CY 2024. Discussion revolved around the proposed pro forma rate increases; 3.2% for the Comprehensive plan, 2.7% for the JY plan, and 3.2% for the Vermont Health Partnership plan as well as 8.3% for the VSTRS 65 plan administered by VEHI.

On a motion made by Ms. Carter, seconded by Ms. Simmons, the Board voted unanimously to direct staff to inform VEHI that the Board has reviewed the pro forma rates proposed by VEHI and believes no adjustment is required in advance of VEHI’s late-May filing with DFR.

ITEM 5: Legislative Update

Mr. Duggan provided an update on all legislative items relating to VSTRS. He indicated that there have been no changes to many of the items: the COLA one-time payment, elimination of the Marginal Rate structure for FY 2025, new positions in the Retirement and Treasurer’s Office all remain in the budget.

Ms. Howard joined the meeting at 10:09 a.m.

Mr. Boyles updated the Board that S.42 had been put on hold but the study on VPIC's holdings and \$100,000 appropriation was moved to the budget.

ITEM 6: Disability Recommendation(s) from the April 20, 2023 meeting of the Medical Review Board:

- Paul Eaton

On a motion made by Ms. Simmons, seconded by Ms. Carter, the Board voted unanimously to accept the recommendation of the Medical Review Board for the disability retirement for Paul Eaton.

- Patricia Jones

On a motion made by Ms. Simmons, seconded by Ms. Hamby, the Board voted unanimously to accept the recommendation of the Medical Review Board for the disability retirement for Patricia Jones.

ITEM 7: Any other business and adjournment

Mr. Duggan informed the Board that he intended to bring a contract for Actuarial Services for approval in June. He also stated that the first VPIC update of the year would be on the agenda for the June meeting. Mr. Duggan reminded the Board that the Active Member nomination period was ongoing and that no nominations had been received.

Mr. Harris proposed moving the June 8th meeting to June 6th due to a scheduling conflict.

On a motion made by Mr. Picciak, seconded by Ms. Hamby, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn at 10:13 a.m.

Next Meeting Date:

The next VSTRS Board meeting is on June 6, 2023 at 3:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Stephen Barry
Secretary to the Board