

**VERMONT STATE TEACHERS' RETIREMENT SYSTEM**  
Conference Call Meeting of the Board of Trustees  
**February 12, 2009**

**Members present:**

JON HARRIS, Chairperson (Active No. 25669), term expiring July 1, 2011 – via telephone  
JOSEPH MACKEY, Vermont Retired Teachers Association, term expiring July 1, 2009 – via telephone  
THOMAS CANDON, representing Commissioner of BISHCA – via telephone  
VAUGHN ALTEMUS, representing Commissioner of Education  
JEB SPAULDING, VT State Treasurer

**Members absent:**

None

**Also attending:**

Linda Deliduka, Vermont Retired Teachers Association – via telephone  
Cynthia Webster, Director of Retirement Policy and Outreach & Executive Secretary to the Board  
Jeff Fannon – VTNEA legal counsel for Nancy Morrie – via telephone  
Nancy Morrie – via telephone  
Joel Cook - VT NEA  
Monica Chiren, Assistant to Cynthia Webster

The Chairperson, Jon Harris, called the Thursday, February 12, 2009, *conference call* meeting to order at 3:37 p.m., which was held in the Treasurer's Conference Room, 109 State Street, Montpelier, VT.

**ITEM 1:      **Approve the Minutes of: January 8, 2009****

**On motion by Mr. Candon, seconded by Mr. Mackey, the Board voted to approve the minutes of January 8, 2009, as submitted. Mr. Altemus abstained from the vote, all others voted aye.**

**ITEM 2:      **Discuss/Act on Excess Compensation denial appeal for:****

**Nancy Morrie**

Ms. Webster indicated her reason for her recommendation to deny the appeal was that in her opinion, a licensed teacher was not required to perform the duties of the project. Mr. Fannon addressed that issue explaining it was a merger of technology and the curriculum.

**Mr. Mackey made a motion to approve the Excess Compensation appeal for Ms. Nancy Morrie. Mr. Harris seconded the motion. Mr. Mackey and Mr. Harris voted aye, and Mr. Altemus, Mr. Spaulding, and Mr. Candon voted nay. The motion did not pass.**

**The original denial remains valid since the appeal was not approved.**

(Jeff Fannon and Nancy Morrie left the conference call at this time.)

**ITEM 3:      Review/Discuss 2009 legislative initiatives**

The Board discussed the proposed 10% cap in the years used to calculate AFC. Mr. Cook expressed his opinion of situations where the 10% cap would be unfair to members. There was a discussion concerning the difference between the 10% cap and senior teacher programs. Ms. Webster indicated to the Board the 10% already exists in the Teacher Statute. The Board discussed they would like to tighten the language of the section dealing with senior teacher programs. Ms. Webster will draft language regarding this section and circulate it to the Board members. The Board decided further discussion of this item would be put on the March agenda.

The Board discussed the proposed clarification of the definition of teacher and licensing. Ms. Webster indicated she attended meetings that have been helpful in defining what positions require licensing. Ms. Webster indicated the information she obtained will be a helpful tool and that she will make a draft and provide it to the Board for review. The Board requested that Ms. Webster consult with Marta Cambra about how provisional licenses are dealt with concerning this issue.

(Joel Cook left the meeting at this time.)

(Thomas Candon left the conference call at this time.)

The Board decided to discuss the Dependent Student definition at the March 11, 2009 meeting.

**ITEM 4:      Discuss/Approve 2009 meeting schedule**

The Board decided the meeting schedule as revised was acceptable.

**ITEM 5:      Discuss 2009 travel policy**

The Board decided to discuss the 2009 travel policy at the March 11, 2009 meeting.

**ITEM 6:      403(b) Investment Program Update**

Ms. Webster indicated they were making progress and moving forward with the 403(b) Program. Ms. Webster indicated whenever she received an update from Great West she would forward it onto the Board members. Ms. Webster indicated there were a little over 800 contributing participants at this time. The Board discussed it would like a quarterly report from Great West at their June 16, 2009 meeting.

**ITEM 7:      Discuss replacement of active member trustee**

The Board discussed proceeding with five members on the Board until the next election. It was decided to discuss the alternate member election at the March 11, 2009 meeting.

**ITEM 8: Any other business**

Mr. Spaulding advised the Board of the Governor's proposal to have TRS funded through the Education Fund. Ms. Deliduka indicated she had 1,000 postcards that were going to be sent out.

**ITEM 9: Adjournment**

**On motion by Mr. Spaulding, seconded by Mr. Altemus, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn at 5:14 p.m.**

**Next Meeting Date:**

The next scheduled VSTRS meeting is Wednesday, March 11, 2009 @ 9:00 a.m., an in-house meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia L. Webster  
Executive Secretary to the Board