

MERS PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
AGENDA
MAY 29, 2015

Municipal Employees' Retirement System of LA's Professional Development Committee meeting held at Pineville City Hall, 910 Main St., Pineville, Louisiana at **Noon** on Friday, May 29, 2015.

Committee Members:

Mayor Clarence Fields
Ms. Mary Vice
Mayor Vern Breland

Staff Attending:

Bob Rust
Warren Ponder

Meeting Called to Order by the Chairman:

1. Appoint a Chairman to the Committee

2. Discuss the nine (9) items listed below and how to proceed
 - A. Determination of whether the funds paid by the sponsors are public funds. Authorize a request for an Attorney General opinion.

 - B. Whether the payment of the sponsor fees of \$1500 paid to fund the Professional Development Plan violates the Louisiana Ethics Code;

 - C. Whether the MERS Board of Trustees has properly exercised its fiduciary duty to the system's retirees by attempting to reduce the cost of the Professional Development Program by using the same consultants who do business with MERS to provide education to the Trustees, which avoids the expense of paying travel, lodging and instructional fees in association with the Professional Development Program to other qualified instructors;

 - D. Consult with the Attorney General, Legislative Auditor or Ethics Commission, and to the extent necessary, obtain rulings or opinion letters on how the Professional Development Program can be implemented in accordance with the law, direct staff to reach out for "best practices" and report findings to committee.

 - E. Consult with the executive directors and trustees of other statewide plans subject to this act, and determine how each of these plans fund the cost of their Professional Development Program, direct staff to reach out and report findings to committee;

- F. Determine whether it is a breach of the fiduciary duty of any trustee to impose any additional cost on MERS for the cost of the Professional Development Program when professionals with the required expertise will lecture at the Professional Development Program at no cost.
- G. Determine whether the payment of the nominal fee of \$1,500 by each of approximately 15 to 20 sponsors would constitute an improper benefits in violation of the Louisiana ethics law including whether the purchase of meals and alcoholic beverages for trustees from these funds at the out of state location where the Professional Development Program is being presented is a violation of Louisiana Law.
- H. Whether there is a more cost effective and efficient way for each trustee of MERS to meet his Professional Development obligation mandated by law.
- I. Such other matters as the committee established below and staff deem advisable to determine that the Professional Development Program is in compliance with Louisiana Law.

3. Other Business

4. Adjourn