

# MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM OF LOUISIANA

## MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

April 18, 2024

The Board of Trustees of the Municipal Employees' Retirement System of Louisiana met in regular session on Thursday, April 18, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. at the Municipal Employees' Retirement System, 7937 Office Park Boulevard, Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

### PRESENT:

Ms. Susan Percle, Vice-Chair  
Mr. Ty Carlos, Trustee  
Mayor Rich Dupree, Trustee  
Mayor Roderick Hampton, LMA Designee  
Ms. Sonia Mallett, Designee, Commissioner of Administration  
Ms. Nicole Brown, Designee, State Treasurer's Office

### UNABLE TO ATTEND:

Ms. Phyllis McGraw, Chair  
Mayor Barney Arceneaux, Trustee  
Representative Roy Daryl Adams, House Retirement Committee  
Senator Valarie Hodges, Senate Retirement Committee  
Mayor Rodney Grogan, Trustee

### IN ATTENDANCE:

Maris LeBlanc, Executive Director  
Nancy LaGarde, Chief Financial Officer  
Christopher Saik, Chief Investment Officer  
Lacey Weimer, Retirement Benefits Administrator  
Gay Courson, Board Secretary  
Stephen Brouillette, G. S. Curran & Company, Ltd.

The Vice Chair called the meeting to order.

The Vice Chair gave the opening prayer and led everyone in the pledge of allegiance.

The Vice Chair asked Ms. Courson to call roll. Six members were present and a quorum.

The Vice Chair read a statement of Opportunity for Public Comment and the Disclosure of Conflicts of Interest.

The Vice Chair asked for approval of the minutes of the meeting held on March 21, 2024

Mayor Hampton moved that the minutes of the meeting held on March 21, 2024, be approved; the motion was seconded by Mayor Dupree. The motion carried without objection.

The Vice Chair asked for approval of the Plan A and Plan B retirements for April 2024. (A list was provided to the Board Members).

Mr. Carlos moved that Plan A and Plan B retirements be approved for the month of April; the motion was seconded by Mayor Hampton. The motion carried without objection.

Mr. Saik presented the investment cash flow report as of March 31, 2024.

Mr. Saik informed the Board that the new negotiated price was presented to the buyers of the Gainesville property and we are waiting on the acceptance of the offer.

Mr. Saik presented the Meketa Performance Report for the month ending March 31, 2024.

Mr. Saik presented the Board with the Investment Policy Statement updated with allocation changes from 33 to 30% in domestic equities and from 0 to 3% in private equities.

Mayor Dupree moved to accept the revised Investment Policy Statement; the motion was seconded by Mr. Carlos. The motion carried without objection.

Mr. Saik presented the Board with information regarding Bernhard Capital Partners. The recommendation is to earmark \$50 million for private equity investment with \$25 million being committed to Bernhard Capital Partners Fund III.

Mayor Hampton moved to invest \$25 million with Bernhard Capital Partners Fund III and \$25 million in a private equity strategy to be determined; the motion was seconded by Mayor Dupree. The motion carried without objection.

Ms. LaGarde presented the budget report as of March 31, 2024.

Ms. LaGarde presented the financial statements.

Ms. Weimer updated the Board on the current membership status.

Ms. Weimer informed the Board that the Village of Tangipahoa has applied to become a member of Plan B. She stated that the Village has one full-time employee.

Mr. Carlos moved to accept the application of the Village of Tangipahoa to join Plan B; the motion was seconded by Mayor Hampton. The motion carried without objection.

Ms. LeBlanc informed the Board that there will be two open seats on the Board of Trustees. Ms. McGraw holds a non-elected position that expires in August and is eligible to run again. Mayor Arceneaux holds an elected position and will resign as Mayor of Gonzales effective May 1, 2024, to take the position as Executive Director of the Louisiana Municipal Association. His resignation makes him ineligible to remain on the Board of Trustees. Mayor Arceneaux has 5 years remaining in his term.

Mayor Dupree made a motion to approve the election timeline, election announcement and to allow the Executive Director to make adjustments if an additional Trustee seat opens; the motion was seconded by Mayor Hampton. The motion carried without objection.

Ms. LeBlanc informed the Board there were no employers with late contributions to be reported to the Treasurer's Office. The City of Homer is currently up to date on their employer contributions.

Ms. LeBlanc recommended that the Board renew the contract with Curran Actuarial Consulting, Ltd. with the described changes.

Mr. Carlos made a motion to accept the Curran Actuarial Consulting, Ltd contract; the motion was seconded by Mayor Hampton. The motion carried without objection.

Ms. LeBlanc reported there was no new litigation filed against MERS. She stated that the three BREC cases have been consolidated. Judge Johnson, the presiding judge, previously served on the BREC Board of Commissioners and has been recused. A new judge will be appointed, and the case will proceed.

Ms. LeBlanc reported that a summary judgment hearing was scheduled this week regarding the Lafayette Consolidated Government case, but due to pending legislation the hearing was continued. This matter is still pending.

Ms. LeBlanc stated that an Executive Session was not needed.

Ms. LeBlanc updated the Board on pending legislation.

SB 1 – Senator Price – Provides relative to transfers of service credit between systems. SB 1 has passed the Senate and has been reported favorably by the House Retirement Committee.

SB 2 – Senator Price – (MERS bill) Provides relative to the Board of Trustees for the Municipal Employees' Retirement System. SB 2 has passed the Senate Floor and has been reported favorably by the House Retirement Committee.

SB 5 - Senator Miguez – Requires fiduciaries for public retirement systems to make investment decisions based solely on financial factors. SB 5 remains in the Senate Retirement Committee, after a tie vote on a motion to favorably report the bill.

HB 22 – Representative Adams – (MERS bill) Provides for the purchase of a higher accrual rate for members of the Municipal Employees' Retirement System. HB 22 has not moved in the legislative process after the MERS Board asked the author not to pursue it.

HB 744 – Representative Glorioso – Provides relative to part-time reemployment of retirees in the Municipal Employees' Retirement System. The bill was amended in the House Retirement Committee to only apply to retirees with 30 years of service and is scheduled to be heard on the House Floor April 23<sup>rd</sup>.

HB 34 – Representative Tarver – Provides relative to membership in the District Attorney's Retirement System. HB 34 has not moved in the legislative process.

HCR 20 – Representative Johnson – Provides relative to the Government Pension Offset and Windfall Elimination Provision. HCR 20 has passed the House Floor.

Ms. LeBlanc asked the Board to take a position on the following pieces of legislation:

HB 902 – Melerine – Creates new rules as to the proxy voting of corporate shares owned by public retirement systems. Ms. LeBlanc recommended the Board oppose this bill.

After discussion, Mayor Dupree made a motion to oppose HB 902; the motion was seconded by Mr. Carlos. The motion carried without objection. Ms. Mallett and Ms. Brown abstained.


SB 478 – Boudreaux – Changes the time period from 10 to 20 years for Lafayette Consolidated Government to pay MERS the liability created when positions are moved from MERS to the Parochial Employees' Retirement System. Ms. LeBlanc recommended that the Board be neutral on this bill.

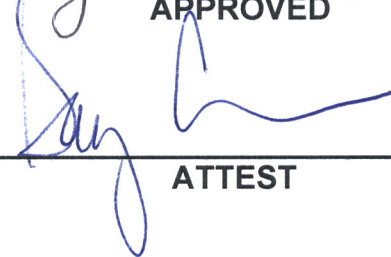
Mayor Dupree made a motion to be neutral on SB 478; the motion was seconded by Mr. Carlos. The motion carried without objection. Ms. Mallett and Ms. Brown abstained.

Ms. LeBlanc reminded Board members that personal financial disclosure reports are due to the Ethics Board no later than May 15<sup>th</sup>.

Ms. LeBlanc recommended that the resolution for Mayor Arceneaux be deferred to the May meeting.

Mr. Carlos made a motion to adjourn; the motion was seconded by Mayor Dupree.  
The motion carried without objection.

  
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**APPROVED**

  
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**ATTEST**