

MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM OF LOUISIANA

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

JUNE 21, 2018

The Board of Trustees of the Municipal Employees' Retirement System of Louisiana met in regular session on Thursday, June 21, 2018 at 9:00 A.M. at the Municipal Employees' Retirement System, 7937 Office Park Boulevard, Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

PRESENT:

Ms. Andrea Mahfouz, Chairman
Mayor Donald Villere, Vice Chairman
Ms. Mary O. Vice, Trustee
Mayor Raymond Harris, Trustee
Ms. Susan Percle, Trustee
Mayor Greg Jones, Trustee
Mr. James Mack, State Treasurer's Office
Ms. Marsha Guedry, Commissioner of Administration's Office
Senator Barrow Peacock, Chairman,
Senate Retirement Committee

UNABLE TO ATTEND:

Mr. Mike Sands, Trustee
Representative J. Kevin Pearson, Chairman,
House Retirement Committee

IN ATTENDANCE:

Warren Ponder, Executive Director
Susita Suire, Retirement Benefits Administrator
Christopher Saik, Chief Investment Officer
Nancy LaGarde, Chief Financial Officer
Aaron Lally, Investment Consultant
Gustavo Bikkesbakker, Investment Consultant
Greg Curran, G.S. Curran Actuary
Margaret Corley, Senate Retirement Committee

The Chairman called the meeting to order.

The Chairman asked Ms. Vice to open the meeting with a prayer and the Chairman led everyone in the pledge of allegiance.

The Chairman asked Ms. Suire to call roll. A quorum was present.

The Chairman asked for approval of the minutes of the meeting held on May 17, 2018.

Mayor Jones moved that the minutes of the meeting held on May 17, 2018 be approved; the motion was seconded by Ms. Vice. The motion carried without objection or opposition. A copy is attached and made a part of these minutes.

The Chairman asked for approval of the Plan A and Plan B retirements (a list was provided to the Board Members).

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Ms. Vice moved that the Plan A and Plan B retirements be approved; the motion was seconded by Mayor Jones. The motion carried without objection or opposition.

Mr. Saik presented the investment cash flow report as of May 31, 2018.

Mr. Bikkesbakker and Mr. Lally presented the Board with the Preliminary Performance Report for the month of May 31, 2018. A copy of this report is attached and made part of these minutes.

Mr. Bikkesbakker and Mr. Lally reviewed the current Investment Policy Statement with the Board. The language will be revised and resubmitted at the July regular meeting for approval.

Christopher Krein gave a presentation on Artisan Partners Developing World Strategy Fund. A copy of this presentation is attached and made part of these minutes.

Matthew Crowe and Brian Kersmanc gave a presentation on GQG Partners Emerging Markets Equity Fund. A copy of this presentation is attached and made part of these minutes.

Ms. Vice moved to move the current balance in the index fund to GQG Partners Emerging Markets Equity Fund; the motion was seconded by Ms. Percle. The motion carried without objection or opposition. Senator Peacock abstained.

After a brief discussion, Ms. Vice moved to allow G.S. Curran to perform services requested by the Louisiana Legislative Auditor up to \$5,000. Charges over \$5,000 will need Board approval; the motion was seconded by Mayor Jones. The motion passed without objection or opposition.

Ms. Vice moved to discuss agenda item #19 before #11; the motion was seconded by Ms. Percle. The motion carried without objection or opposition.

Mayor Jones moved to authorize Christopher Saik or Nancy LaGarde to sign releases on partial releases of lots in Bedico Creek to be notarized by Warren Ponder; the motion was seconded by Ms. Vice. The motion carried without objection or opposition.

Mayor Jones moved to defer the discussion of staff salary ranges and parameters for the July 19, 2018 regular meeting; the motion was seconded by Ms. Guedry. The motion carried without objection or opposition.

Ms. Vice moved to approve budget option #3; the motion was seconded by Mayor Jones.

Ms. Vice withdrew the motion to approve budget option #3.

Mayor Villere moved to approve the operating budget option #4 for fiscal year July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019 amended to grant the Director a 2.5% salary increase; the motion was seconded by Ms. Percle. The motion carried without objection or opposition. A copy of this operating budget is attached and made part of these minutes.

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Ms. Vice moved to approve the capital budget for fiscal year July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019 amended to move \$15,000 from fiscal year ending June 30, 2018 to fiscal year ending June 30, 2019; the motion was seconded by Mayor Harris. The motion carried without objection or opposition. Senator Peacock abstained. A copy of this capital budget is attached and made part of these minutes.

Ms. LaGarde presented a budget report through May 31, 2018 detailing the budgeted amount. Ms. Vice moved to accept the budget report through May 31, 2018; the motion was seconded by Ms. Guedry. The motion carried without objection or opposition. A copy of this budget is attached and made part of these minutes.

Ms. LaGarde presented the cash flow report as of May 31, 2018.

Ms. LaGarde presented the “Ethics & Fiduciary Policy” to the Board for their signatures on the attestations for year ending June 30, 2018.

Ms. Suire gave an update on the Town of Slaughter, Town of Lecompte, and the City of Winnsboro.

Ms. Suire updated the Board on the Trustee election. The ballots were mailed on June 15, 2018 with a deadline for return on July 6, 2018. There are three (3) candidates; Kevin Belanger, South Central Planning & Development Commission, Donald Clause, City of Thibodaux, and Phyllis McGraw, City of Bossier City.

Ms. Suire presented the Board with a proposed policy to no longer accept employee and employer contributions on leave/wages paid to a member that is absent due to a worker’s compensation claim. Mayor Villere moved to approve the proposed policy concerning worker’s compensation; the motion was seconded by Mr. Mack. The motion carried without objection or opposition. A copy of this policy is attached and made part of these minutes.

Ms. Vice moved to approve the membership agreement between Firefighters’ Pension & Relief Fund of the City of New Orleans and MERS in Plan A to become effective July 1, 2018; the motion was seconded by Ms. Percle. The motion carried without objection or opposition. A copy of this agreement is attached and made part of these minutes.

Ms. Guedry moved to approve the membership agreement between the Louisiana Uniform Local Sales Tax Board and MERS in Plan A to become effective July 1, 2018; the motion was seconded by Ms. Vice. The motion carried without objection or opposition. A copy of this agreement is attached and made part of these minutes.

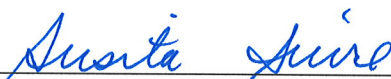
Mr. Ponder updated the Board that the contract with Empower Retirement for the DROP funds is almost complete and the transfer should be finalized in early September.

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Mr. Ponder reminded the Board that there will be a Joint Board meeting with MERS, Firefighters' Retirement System, and Municipal Police Employees' Retirement System on July 10, 2018 at 1:30 to held at the Louisiana Municipal Association's (LMA) building.

Mayor Villere moved to adjourn; the motion was seconded by Ms. Vice. The motion carried without objection or opposition.


APPROVED


ATTEST