

**DRAFT**  
**STATE OF CONNECTICUT**  
**STATE EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT COMMISSION**

A regular meeting of the State Employees Retirement Commission (the “Commission”) was held on July 15, 2021 in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Conference Room at 165 Capitol Ave. Hartford, CT; however, due to COVID-19, the meeting was held electronically via Zoom. The meeting convened at 9:00 a.m. and the following members of the Commission were present:

- Peter Adomeit, Chairman
- Michael Bailey, Trustee
- Sandra Fae Brown Brewton, Trustee
- Michael Carey, Trustee
- Martha Carlson, Deputy Comptroller, Ex Officio Member
- Carl Chisem, Trustee
- Robert D. Coffey, Trustee
- John Disette, Trustee
- John Flores, General Counsel Office of the Treasurer, Ex Officio Member
- Sal Luciano, Trustee
- Karen Nolen, Trustee
- Michael O’Brien, Trustee
- Claude Poulin, Trustee
- Angel Quiros, Trustee
- Mark Sciota, Municipal Liaison
- Rebecca Simonsen, Trustee
- Timothy Ryor, Trustee

Absent

- Karen Buffkin, Trustee

Also present were:

- Bruce Barth, Tax Counsel to the Commission, Robinson & Cole
- Cindy Cieslak, General Counsel to the Commission, Rose Kallor
- John Herrington, Director, Retirement Services Division
- Yamuna Menon, General Counsel/Assistant State Comptroller, Office of the State Comptroller
- Michael Rose, General Counsel to the Commission, Rose Kallor
- Colin Newman, Assistant Director, Retirement Services Division
- Alisha Sullivan, Tax Counsel to the Commission, Robinson & Cole
- Steve Carbone, representing Vito Barbagallo
- Vito Barbagallo

**Call to Order**

Chairman Adomeit called the meeting to order at 9:09 a.m. The Chairman swore in two new trustees: John Disette and Rebecca Simonsen.

Attorney Cieslak identified those in attendance.

**Chairman’s Report**

At 9:12 a.m., the Chairman provided his report. He recognized John Herrington, Martha Carlson, and the Division’s operations throughout the pandemic.

## Division Director's Report

At 9:12 a.m., Mr. Herrington provided the Division Director's Report.

### Division Director Report (7/15/2021)

#### I. Disability Retirements:

**A. Pending Disability Applications for the Initial Review by the Medical Examining Board:** The Division is in the process of adding additional meetings for 2021 in attempt to reduce the wait period. Currently scheduling into September 2021.

- There are 89 Disability Retirement Applications pending of which:
  - 15 New applications received for May 2021
    - 67 Applications have been scheduled for MEB hearings through September 2021
    - 22 Applications are awaiting additional medical documentation

	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
2021	114	107	103	117	125	90	<b>89</b>					
2020	291	232	226	197	162	140	117	114	97	86	83	108

#### B. Twenty-Four Month Reviews:

148 Cases are due for a 24-month review.

- 0 Cases – are receiving SSD benefits (Expedited Approvals Process)
- 148 Cases – Retiree does not appear to be receiving SSD benefits.
  - 37 have retirement dates beyond 24 months old.

#### C. Disability Files Processed:

	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
2021	60	85	156	115	101	145	<b>163</b>					
2020	19	93	103	48	29	53	43	38	38	44	35	39

#### D. Disability Backlog:

	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
2021	1,527	1,453	1,341	1,226	1,140	1,089	<b>960</b>					
2020	1,992	1,868	1,777	1,729	1,765	1,739	1,732	1,687	1,687	1,675	1,625	1,596

#### II. Normal Retirement Audits:

	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
2021	243	192	124	337	152	244	<b>291</b>						1,583
2020	178	166	149	268	149	140	170	226	198	219	101	92	2,056
10-YR Avg	164	142	124	234	119	192	251	166	167	226	107	91	1982

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	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
2021	661	1,233	1,366	790	1,044	1,009	283						6,386
2020	n/a	n/a	157	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	682	584	821	740	811	3,795
<b>Total Released to Date:</b>													<b>10,181</b>

III. **Self-Service Benefit Estimator Roll-Out:**

**Estimated = 13,050 Eligible for 2022 (~78% Currently have self-service estimator)**

At 9:18 a.m., Mr. Poulin moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey, to amend the agenda to add as Item 19: Request Commission acceptance of the Connecticut Probate Judges and Employees Retirement System Actuarial Valuation Report as of December 31, 2020. The Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote. The Commission voted unanimously in favor to amend the agenda.

Mr. Luciano remarked upon Mr. Herrington's report. Ms. Carlson provided her remarks.

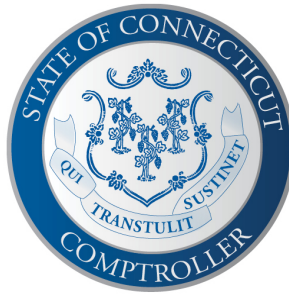
**New Matters**

1. Request Commission Approval of the June 17, 2021 minutes.
  - i. At 9:23 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to approve the June 17, 2021 minutes.
  - ii. Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote.
  - iii. The Commission voted unanimously in favor to approve the June 17, 2021 minutes.
2. Request Commission Approval of the State Employees Retirement Commission Chairman's Per Diem Expenses.
  - i. At 9:23 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to approve the State Employees Retirement Commission Chairman's Per Diem Expenses
  - ii. Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote.
  - iii. The Commission voted unanimously in favor to approve the State Employees Retirement Commission Chairman's Per Diem Expenses.
3. Request Commission Approval of the State Employees Retirement Commission Union Trustee Claude Poulin's Per Diem and Travel Expenses Reimbursement.

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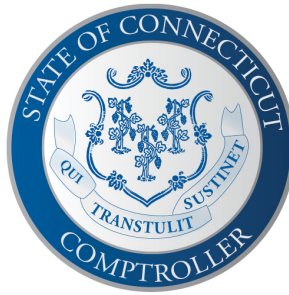
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- i. At 9:23 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to approve the State Employees Retirement Commission Union Trustee Claude Poulin's Per Diem and Travel Expenses Reimbursement.
  - ii. Mr. Poulin abstained.
  - iii. Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote.
  - iv. The Commission voted unanimously in favor, with Mr. Poulin abstaining, to approve the State Employees Retirement Commission Union Trustee Claude Poulin's Per Diem and Travel Expenses Reimbursement.
4. Request Commission Approval of the State Employees Retirement Commission Management Trustee Timothy A. Ryor's Per Diem Expenses.
  - i. At 9:24 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to approve the State Employees Retirement Commission Management Trustee Timothy A. Ryor's Per Diem Expenses.
  - ii. Mr. Ryor abstained.
  - iii. Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote.
  - iv. The Commission voted unanimously in favor, with Mr. Ryor abstaining, to approve the State Employees Retirement Commission Management Trustee Timothy A. Ryor's Per Diem Expenses.
5. Request Commission Acceptance of the Invoices from Robinson and Cole for Federal Tax Matters rendered for the month of June.
  - i. At 9:25 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to accept the invoices from Robinson and Cole for Federal Tax Matters rendered for the month of June.
  - ii. Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote.
  - iii. The Commission voted unanimously in favor to accept the invoices from Robinson and Cole for Federal Tax Matters rendered for the month of June.
6. Request Commission Acceptance of the Invoices from Rose Kallor rendered for the month of May.
  - i. No action was taken on this item.
7. Request Commission Approval of the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Service Retirements for the Month of June 2021.
  - i. At 9:25 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to approve the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Service Retirements for the Month of June 2021.

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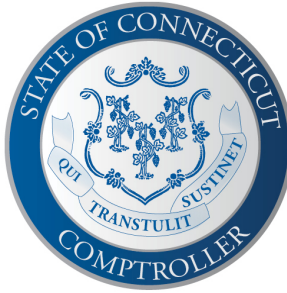
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- ii. Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote.
    - iii. The Commission voted unanimously in favor to approve the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Service Retirements for the Month of June 2021.
8. Request Commission Approval of the Connecticut State Employees System Voluntary Pending Retirements for the Month of June 2021.
  - i. At 9:25 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to approve the Connecticut State Employees System Voluntary Pending Retirements for the Month of June 2021.
  - ii. Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote.
  - iii. The Commission voted unanimously in favor to approve the Connecticut State Employees System Voluntary Pending Retirements for the Month of June 2021.
9. Request Commission Approval of the Connecticut State Employees System Disability Retirements for the Month of June 2021.
  - i. At 9:25 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to approve the Connecticut State Employees System Disability Retirements for the Month of June 2021.
  - ii. Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote.
  - iii. The Commission voted unanimously in favor to approve the Connecticut State Employees System Disability Retirements for the Month of June 2021.
10. Request Commission Approval of the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Municipal Employees Retirements for the Month of June 2021.
  - i. At 9:25 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to approve the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Municipal Employees Retirements for the Month of June 2021.
  - ii. Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote.
  - iii. The Commission voted unanimously in favor to approve the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Municipal Employees Retirements for the Month of June 2021.
11. Request Commission Approval of the Municipal Retirement System Disability Retirement Approvals.
  - i. At 9:25 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to approve the Municipal Retirement System Disability Retirement Approvals.
  - ii. Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote.

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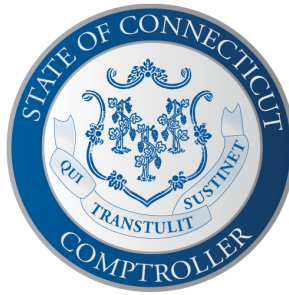
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- iii. The Commission voted unanimously in favor to approve the Municipal Retirement System Disability Retirement Approvals.
12. Request Commission Approval of the Municipal Retirement System Disability Retirement Denials.
  - i. At 9:26 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to approve the Municipal Retirement System Disability Retirement Denials.
  - ii. Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote.
  - iii. The Commission voted unanimously in favor to approve the Municipal Retirement System Disability Retirement Denials.
13. Request Commission Acceptance of the Recommendations by the Medical Examining Board for the Continued Entitlement Approvals.
  - i. At 9:26 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to accept the Recommendations by the Medical Examining Board for the Continued Entitlement Approvals.
  - ii. Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote.
  - iii. The Commission voted unanimously in favor to accept the Recommendations by the Medical Examining Board for the Continued Entitlement Approvals.
14. Request Commission Acceptance of the Recommendations by the Medical Examining Board for the Continued Entitlement Tabled and Denials.
  - i. At 9:26 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to accept the Recommendations by the Medical Examining Board for the Continued Entitlement Tabled and Denials.
  - ii. Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote.
  - iii. The Commission voted unanimously in favor to accept the Recommendations by the Medical Examining Board for the Continued Entitlement Tabled and Denials.
15. Request Commission Approval of the Connecticut Probate Judges and Employees Retirement System.
  - i. At 9:26 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to approve the Connecticut Probate Judges and Employees Retirement System.
  - ii. Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote.
  - iii. The Commission voted unanimously in favor to approve the Probate Judges and Employees Retirement System.

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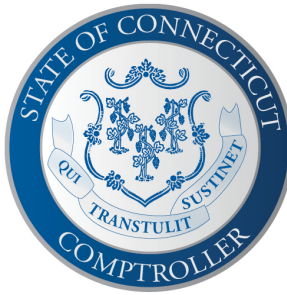
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16. Request Commission Approval of the Probate Judges and Employees Retirement Fund Personnel Expenses for the Pay Period May 8, 2021 through June 5, 2021.
  - i. At 9:26 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to approve the Probate Judges and Employees Retirement Fund Personnel Expenses for the Pay Period May 8, 2021 through June 5, 2021.
  - ii. Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote.
  - iii. The Commission voted unanimously in favor to approve the Probate Judges and Employees Retirement Fund Personnel Expenses for the Pay Period May 8, 2021 through June 5, 2021.
  
17. Request Commission Acceptance of the State of Connecticut Retirement Plans (457, 403 (b), 401(a)/Alternate Retirement Program and Tier IV) Statement of Investment Policy.
  - i. At 9:26 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to accept the State of Connecticut Retirement Plans (457, 403 (b), 401(a)/Alternate Retirement Program and Tier IV) Statement of Investment Policy.
  - ii. Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote.
  - iii. The Commission voted unanimously in favor to accept the State of Connecticut Retirement Plans (457, 403 (b), 401(a)/Alternate Retirement Program and Tier IV) Statement of Investment Policy.
  
18. Request Received from Vito Barbagallo that the Commission Review and Reconsider its December 17, 2020 denial of his request to purchase his periods of prior military service rendered between November 5, 1975 and March 1, 1999.
  - i. At 9:27 a.m., Attorney Cieslak advised regarding her discussions with the claimant and his attorney. She directed the trustees to the document in Mr. Barbagallo's submissions which identifies the new information upon which he relies.
  
19. Request Commission acceptance of the Connecticut Probate Judges and Employees Retirement System Actuarial Valuation Report as of December 31, 2020.
  - i. i. At 9:29 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to accept the State of Connecticut Retirement Plans (457, 403 (b), 401(a)/Alternate Retirement Program and Tier IV) Statement of Investment Policy.
  - ii. Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote.

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- iii. The Commission voted unanimously in favor to accept the State of Connecticut Retirement Plans (457, 403 (b), 401(a)/Alternate Retirement Program and Tier IV) Statement of Investment Policy.

### **Executive Session – Discussion and Possible Action**

1. Update to public meeting requirements – written legal opinion.
2. Interpretation of Conn. Gen. Stat. § 7-438 – written legal opinion.
3. Process for Identifying Municipalities That Have Ceased Enrollment of New Employees in CMERS – written legal opinion.
4. Ronald Johnson v. SERC – pending litigation.
5. Douglas Latham appeal – written legal opinion.
6. Ralph Tedesco v. SERC – pending litigation.
7. Catherine Crandle v. SERC – pending litigation.
8. Marianna Grzeszczyk v. SERC – pending litigation.

At 9:29 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to suspend the regular meeting and go into executive session for the purposes of discussing Item 1. Attorney Barth, Attorney Cieslak, John Herrington, Attorney Menon, Colin Newman, Attorney Rose, and Attorney Sullivan were invited by the Commission to stay for executive session. The Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote. The Commission voted unanimously in favor to enter executive session to discuss Item 1.

At 9:38 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to exit executive session. The Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote. The Commission voted unanimously to exit executive session.

At 9:38 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to go into executive session for purposes of discussing Item 2. Attorney Barth, Attorney Cieslak, John Herrington, Attorney Menon, Colin Newman, Attorney Rose, and Attorney Sullivan were invited by the Commission to stay for executive session. The Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote. The Commission voted unanimously in favor to enter executive session to discuss Item 2.

At 10:00 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to exit executive session. The Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote. The Commission voted unanimously to exit executive session.

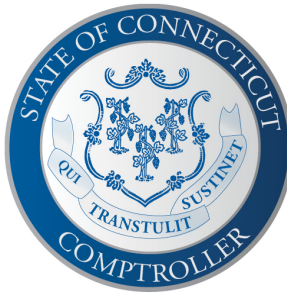
### **Public Session**



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At 10:01 a.m., Mr. Luciano requested that the Commission hear Mr. Barbagallo's request (Item 18). Mr. Carbone presented Mr. Barbagallo's request to the Commission, and Mr. Barbagallo answered the trustee's questions.

At 10:14 a.m., Ms. Brown Brewton moved, seconded by Mr. Chisem to grant Mr. Barbagallo's request. The Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote. The Commission voted unanimously to grant Mr. Barbagallo's request.

**Executive Session**

At 10:15 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to go into executive session for purposes of discussing Item 4. Attorney Barth, Attorney Cieslak, John Herrington, Attorney Menon, Colin Newman, Attorney Rose, and Attorney Sullivan were invited by the Commission to stay for executive session. The Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote. The Commission voted unanimously in favor to enter executive session to discuss Item 4.

At 10:18 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to exit executive session. The Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote. The Commission voted unanimously to exit executive session.

At 10:18 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to go into executive session for purposes of discussing Item 3. Attorney Barth, Attorney Cieslak, John Herrington, Attorney Menon, Colin Newman, Attorney Rose, and Attorney Sullivan were invited by the Commission to stay for executive session. The Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote. The Commission voted unanimously in favor to enter executive session to discuss Item 3.

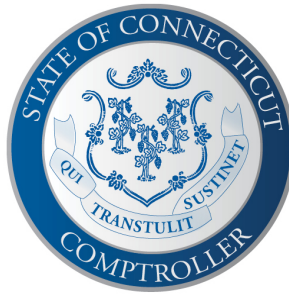
At 10:20 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to exit executive session. The Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote. The Commission voted unanimously to exit executive session.

At 10:20 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to go into executive session for purposes of discussing Item 5. Attorney Cieslak, John Herrington, Attorney Menon, Colin Newman, and Attorney Rose were invited by the Commission to stay for executive session. The Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote. The Commission voted unanimously in favor to enter executive session to discuss Item 5.

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At 10:36 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to exit executive session. The Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote. The Commission voted unanimously to exit executive session.

At 10:36 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to go into executive session for purposes of discussing Item 6. Attorney Cieslak, John Herrington, Attorney Menon, Colin Newman, and Attorney Rose were invited by the Commission to stay for executive session. The Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote. The Commission voted unanimously in favor to enter executive session to discuss Item 6.

At 10:37 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to exit executive session. The Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote. The Commission voted unanimously to exit executive session.

At 10:37 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to go into executive session for purposes of discussing Item 7. Attorney Cieslak, John Herrington, Attorney Menon, Colin Newman, and Attorney Rose were invited by the Commission to stay for executive session. The Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote. The Commission voted unanimously in favor to enter executive session to discuss Item 7.

At 10:38 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to exit executive session. The Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote. The Commission voted unanimously to exit executive session.

At 10:38 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to go into executive session for purposes of discussing Item 8. Attorney Cieslak, John Herrington, Attorney Menon, Colin Newman, and Attorney Rose were invited by the Commission to stay for executive session. The Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote. The Commission voted unanimously in favor to enter executive session to discuss Item 8.

At 10:39 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to exit executive session. The Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote. The Commission voted unanimously to exit executive session.

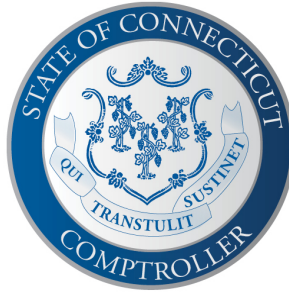
### **Public Session**

At 10:40 a.m., Mr. Luciano advised that there was a consensus to continue to meet by Zoom, consistent with statutory provisions, and re-evaluate in 3 months.

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At 10:41 a.m., Mr. Carey moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to deny Mr. Latham's appeal. The Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote. The Commission voted unanimously in favor of the motion to deny Mr. Latham's appeal.

**Adjournment**

With no further business before the Commission, Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to adjourn at 10:41 a.m. The Commission voted unanimously to adjourn.

Respectfully Submitted by:

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Peter Adomeit, Chairman

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Prepared by John Herrington  
Director Retirement Services Division