

DRAFT
STATE OF CONNECTICUT
STATE EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT COMMISSION

A regular meeting of the State Employees Retirement Commission (the “Commission”) was held on October 21, 2021 in the 3rd 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
- Karen Buffkin, Trustee
- Michael Carey, Trustee
- Carl Chisem, Trustee
- Robert D. Coffey, 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

- Martha Carlson, Deputy Comptroller, Ex Officio Member
- John Disette, 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
- Colin Newman, Assistant Director, Retirement Services Division
- Michael Rose, General Counsel to the Commission, Rose Kallor

Call to Order

Chairman Adomeit called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m.

Attorney Cieslak identified those in attendance.

Chairman’s Report

At 9:05 a.m., the Chairman provided his report. He acknowledged the report prepared by the Retirement Services Division.

Division Director’s Report

At 9:05 a.m., Mr. Herrington provided the Division Director’s Report.

Division Director Report (10/21/2021)

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 January 2022.

- There are 79 Disability Retirement Applications pending of which:
 - 10 New applications received for October 2021
 - 54 Applications have been scheduled for MEB hearings through January 2022
 - 25 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	89	85	77	79		
2020	291	232	226	197	162	140	117	114	97	86	83	108

B. Twenty-Four Month Reviews:

153 Cases are due for a 24-month review (i.e. approved within the past 24 months)

- 16 Cases – are receiving SSD benefits (Expedited Approvals Process)
- 137 Cases – Retiree does not appear to be receiving SSD benefits.
 - 40 have retirement dates beyond 24 months old.
 - 24 have been scheduled for November 2021

C. Disability Files Processed:

	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
2021	60	85	156	115	101	145	163	184	173	240		
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	960	605	426	206		
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	291	213	234	331			2,361
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

STATE EMPLOYEES
RETIREMENT COMMISSION



MEDICAL EXAMINING BOARD
for DISABILITY RETIREMENT



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
RETIREMENT SERVICES DIVISION
OFFICE of the STATE COMPTROLLER
165 Capitol Ave.
Hartford, CT 06106

PHONE: (860) 702-3480 | EMAIL: OSC.RSD@CT.GOV

	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	800	130	246			7,551
2020	n/a	n/a	157	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	682	584	821	740	811	3,795
Total Released to Date:													11,346

III. Self-Service Benefit Estimator Roll-Out:

Estimated = 12,500 Eligible for 2022

New Matters

1. Request Commission Approval of the September 16, 2021 minutes.
 - i. At 9:11 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to approve the September 16, 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 September 16, 2021 minutes.

2. Request Commission Approval of the State Employees Retirement Commission Chairman's Per Diem Expenses.
 - i. At 9:11 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.
 - i. At 9:12 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.

STATE EMPLOYEES
RETIREMENT COMMISSION



MEDICAL EXAMINING BOARD
for DISABILITY RETIREMENT



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
RETIREMENT SERVICES DIVISION
OFFICE *of the* STATE COMPTROLLER
165 Capitol Ave.
Hartford, CT 06106

PHONE: (860) 702-3480 | EMAIL: OSC.RSD@CT.GOV

- 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 9:12 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 September.
 - i. At 9:12 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 September.
 - 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 September.
 6. Request Commission Acceptance of the Invoices from Rose Kallor rendered for the month of September.
 - i. At 9:12 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to accept the invoices from Rose Kallor rendered for the month of September.
 - 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 Rose Kallor rendered for the month of September.
 7. Request Commission Approval of the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Service Retirements for the Month of September 2021.
 - i. At 9:13 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to approve the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Service Retirements for the Month of September 2021.

STATE EMPLOYEES
RETIREMENT COMMISSION



MEDICAL EXAMINING BOARD
for DISABILITY RETIREMENT



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
RETIREMENT SERVICES DIVISION
OFFICE of the STATE COMPTROLLER
165 Capitol Ave.
Hartford, CT 06106

PHONE: (860) 702-3480 | EMAIL: OSC.RSD@CT.GOV

- 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 September 2021.
8. Request Commission Approval of the Connecticut State Employees System Voluntary Pending Retirements for the Month of September 2021.
 - i. At 9:13 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to approve the Connecticut State Employees System Voluntary Pending Retirements for the Month of September 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 September 2021.
9. Request Commission Approval of the Connecticut State Employees System Disability Retirements for the Month of September 2021.
 - i. At 9:13 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to approve the Connecticut State Employees System Disability Retirements for the Month of September 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 September 2021.
10. Request Commission Approval of the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Municipal Employees Retirements for the Month of September 2021.
 - i. At 9:14 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to approve the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Municipal Employees Retirements for the Month of September 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 September 2021.
11. Request Commission Approval of the Municipal Retirement System Disability Retirement Approvals.
 - i. At 9:13 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to approve the Municipal Retirement System Disability Retirement Approvals.

STATE EMPLOYEES
RETIREMENT COMMISSION



MEDICAL EXAMINING BOARD
for DISABILITY RETIREMENT



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
RETIREMENT SERVICES DIVISION
OFFICE *of the* STATE COMPTROLLER
165 Capitol Ave.
Hartford, CT 06106

PHONE: (860) 702-3480 | EMAIL: OSC.RSD@CT.GOV

- 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 Approvals.
12. Request Commission Approval of the Municipal Retirement System Disability Retirement Denials.
 - i. At 9:14 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 9:14 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 9:14 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey 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 9:15 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.

STATE EMPLOYEES
RETIREMENT COMMISSION



MEDICAL EXAMINING BOARD
for DISABILITY RETIREMENT



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
RETIREMENT SERVICES DIVISION
OFFICE *of the* STATE COMPTROLLER
165 Capitol Ave.
Hartford, CT 06106

PHONE: (860) 702-3480 | EMAIL: OSC.RSD@CT.GOV

- iii. The Commission voted unanimously in favor to approve the Probate Judges and Employees Retirement System.
16. Request Commission Approval of the Connecticut Judges, Family Support Magistrates and Compensation Commissioners Retirement System.
- i. At 9:15 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to approve the Connecticut Judges, Family Support Magistrates and Compensation Commissioners 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 Connecticut Judges, Family Support Magistrates and Compensation Commissioners Retirement System.
17. Request Commission Approval of the Probate Judges and Employees Retirement Fund Personnel Expenses for the Pay Period August 13, 2021 through September 9, 2021.
- i. At 9:15 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to approve the Probate Judges and Employees Retirement Fund Personnel Expenses for the Pay Period August 13, 2021 through September 9, 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 August 13, 2021 through September 9, 2021.
18. a. Request Commission Review and Acceptance of the State Employees Retirement System Statement of Operations for Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2021.
- i. At 9:15 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to accept the State Employees Retirement System Statement of Operations for Fiscal Year ending June 30, 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 accept the State Employees Retirement System Statement of Operations for Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2021.
- b. Request Commission Review and Acceptance of the State Employees Retirement System Balance Sheet as of June 30, 2021.
- i. At 9:15 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to accept the State Employees Retirement System Balance Sheet as of June 30, 2021.
 - ii. Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote.

STATE EMPLOYEES
RETIREMENT COMMISSION



MEDICAL EXAMINING BOARD
for DISABILITY RETIREMENT



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
RETIREMENT SERVICES DIVISION
OFFICE *of the* STATE COMPTROLLER
165 Capitol Ave.
Hartford, CT 06106

PHONE: (860) 702-3480 | EMAIL: OSC.RSD@CT.GOV

- iii. The Commission voted unanimously in favor to accept the State Employees Retirement System Balance Sheet as of June 30, 2021.

19. a. Request Commission Review and Acceptance of the Connecticut Municipal Employees Retirement System Fund B Statement of Operations for Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2021.
 - i. At 9:16 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to accept Connecticut Municipal Employees Retirement System Fund B Statement of Operations for Fiscal Year ending June 30, 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 accept the Connecticut Municipal Employees Retirement System Fund B Statement of Operations for Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2021.

- b. Request Commission Review and Acceptance of the Connecticut Municipal Employees Retirement System Fund B Balance Sheet as of June 30, 2021.
 - i. At 9:16 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to accept the Connecticut Municipal Employees Retirement System Fund B Balance Sheet as of June 30, 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 accept the Connecticut Municipal Employees Retirement System Fund B Balance Sheet as of June 30, 2021.

Executive Session – Discussion and Possible Action

1. Jaishree Duggal appeal – written legal opinion.
2. Municipalities Ceasing Enrolling in CMERS – written legal opinion.
3. Ronald Johnson v. SERC – pending claim/pending litigation/written legal opinion.
4. Marianna Grzeszczyk v. SERC – pending litigation.
5. Catherine Crandle v. SERC – pending litigation.
6. FOI appeal by Attorney Russell Zimmerman – pending claim/pending litigation.

At 9:16 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, 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 1.

STATE EMPLOYEES
RETIREMENT COMMISSION



MEDICAL EXAMINING BOARD
for DISABILITY RETIREMENT



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
RETIREMENT SERVICES DIVISION
OFFICE *of the* STATE COMPTROLLER
165 Capitol Ave.
Hartford, CT 06106

PHONE: (860) 702-3480 | EMAIL: OSC.RSD@CT.GOV

At 9:22 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 9:22 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, 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 2.

At 9:30 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 9:30 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, 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 3.

At 9:45 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 9:45 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, 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 4.

At 9:47 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 9:47 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to go into executive session for purposes of discussing Item 5. Attorney Barth, 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.

STATE EMPLOYEES
RETIREMENT COMMISSION



MEDICAL EXAMINING BOARD
for DISABILITY RETIREMENT



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
RETIREMENT SERVICES DIVISION
OFFICE *of the* STATE COMPTROLLER
165 Capitol Ave.
Hartford, CT 06106

PHONE: (860) 702-3480 | EMAIL: OSC.RSD@CT.GOV

At 9:48 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 9:48 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to go into executive session for purposes of discussing Item 6. Attorney Barth, 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 9:50 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 9:50 a.m., Mr. Carey moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano to deny Ms. Duggal'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 to deny Ms. Duggal's appeal.

Adjournment

With no further business before the Commission, Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to adjourn at 9:51 a.m. The Commission voted unanimously to adjourn.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Peter Adomeit, Chairman

Prepared by John Herrington
Director Retirement Services Division