

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

**STATE OF CONNECTICUT
STATE EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT COMMISSION**

A regular meeting of the State Employees Retirement Commission (the “Commission”) was held on September 21, 2023 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
- Karen Buffkin, Trustee
- Michael Carey, Trustee
- John Disette, Trustee
- Tara Downes, Deputy Comptroller, Ex Officio Member
- Brian Hill, Trustee
- David Kraveski, Trustee
- Sal Luciano, Trustee
- Karen Nolen, Trustee
- Michael O’Brien, Trustee
- Claude Poulin, Trustee
- Timothy Ryor, Trustee
- Mark Sciota, Municipal Liaison
- Rebecca Simonsen, Trustee
- Ted Wright, Chief Investment Officer, Office of the Treasurer, Ex Officio Member

Absent

- Michael Bailey, Trustee
- Carl Chisem, Trustee
- Angel Quiros, Trustee

Also present were:

- Bruce Barth, Tax Counsel to the Commission, Robinson & Cole
- Cindy Cieslak, General Counsel to the Commission, Rose Kallor
- John Garrett, Cavanaugh Macdonald
- Robert Helfand, Assistant Director, Retirement Services Division
- John Herrington, Director, Retirement Services Division
- Virginia McGarrity, Tax Counsel to the Commission, Robinson & Cole
- Yamuna Menon, General Counsel & Assistant Comptroller
- Charlotte Moller, Retirement Services Division
- Colin Newman, Retirement Services Division
- Ben Sedrowski, Retirement Services Division



Call to Order

Chairman Adomeit called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. Ms. Cieslak identified those in attendance.

At 9:07 a.m., Mr. Poulin moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano to amend the agenda to include the following as Items 20 and 21:

- Request Commission Acceptance of the Connecticut Probate Judges and Employees Retirement System Report of the Actuary on the Valuation prepared as of December 31, 2022.
- Discussion of the Low Default Risk Obligation Measure (LDROM) disclosure requirement.

All voted in favor.

Division Director's Report

At 9:07 a.m., Mr. Herrington provided the Division Director's Report.

Division Director Report (09/21/2023)

I. Disability Retirements:

A. Pending Disability Applications for the Initial Review by the Medical Examining Board:

Currently the Disability Retirement Unit is scheduling into December 2023.

- There are 80 Disability Retirement Applications pending of which:
 - 5 New applications received for September 2023
 - 68 Applications have been scheduled for MEB meetings through December 2023
 - 12 Applications are awaiting review and scheduling by Unit

	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
2023	78	75	75	86	88	92	93	90	80			
2022	76	89	90	111	120	127	146	149	149	129	122	96



B. Twenty-Four Month Reviews: Currently the Disability Retirement Unit is scheduling into December 2023.

- 38 Cases are Scheduled
- 0 Tabled Cases Pending Due Date
- 4 Reconsideration Cases Pending Due Date
- 115 Cases are Awaiting Due Date for 24-Month Review

II. Normal Retirements:

	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Totals
2023	81	60	48	47	50	63	100	75	79				603
2022	356	268	337	1,137	277	723	1,436	46	52	101	50	30	4,813
Historical Average	179	153	129	255	128	205	262	177	180	248	116	98	2,130

New Matters

1. Request Commission Approval of SERC minutes w/ Directors Report from August 17, 2023.
 - i. At 9:13 a.m., Ms. Buffkin moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano to approve the SERC minutes w/ Directors Report from August 17, 2023.
 - 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 SERC minutes w/ Directors Report from August 17, 2023.

2. Request Commission Approval of the Connecticut SERS Expenses for August 2023.
 - i. At 9:14 a.m., Ms. Buffkin moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano to approve the Connecticut SERS Expenses for August 2023.
 - 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 SERS Expenses for August 2023.

3. Request Commission Approval of the State Employees Retirement Commission Chairman's Per Diem Expenses for August 2023.
 - i. At 9:14 a.m., Ms. Buffkin moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano to approve the State Employees Retirement Commission Chairman's Per Diem Expenses for August 2023.
 - 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 for August 2023.

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4. Request Commission Approval of the State Employees Retirement Commission Union Trustee Claude Poulin's Per Diem and Travel Expenses Reimbursement for August 2023.
 - i. At 9:14 a.m., Ms. Buffkin moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano to approve the State Employees Retirement Commission Union Trustee Claude Poulin's Per Diem and Travel Expenses Reimbursement for August 2023.
 - 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 for August 2023.

5. Request Commission Approval of the State Employees Retirement Commission Management Trustee Timothy A. Ryor's Per Diem Expenses for August 2023.
 - i. At 9:15 a.m., Ms. Buffkin moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano to approve the State Employees Retirement Commission Management Trustee Timothy A. Ryor's Per Diem Expenses for August 2023.
 - 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 for August 2023.

6. Request Commission Acceptance of the Invoices from Robinson and Cole for Federal Tax Matters services for August 2023.
 - i. At 9:15 a.m., Ms. Buffkin moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano to accept the invoices from Robinson and Cole for Federal Tax Matters services for August 2023.
 - 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 services for August 2023.

7. Request Commission Acceptance of the Invoices from Rose Kallor for August 2023.
 - i. At 9:16 a.m., Ms. Buffkin moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano to accept the invoices from Rose Kallor for August 2023.
 - 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 for August 2023.

8. Request Commission Approval of the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Service Retirements for August 2023.
 - i. At 9:16 a.m., Ms. Buffkin moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano to approve the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Service Retirements for August 2023.
 - 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 approve the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Service Retirements for August 2023.
9. Request Commission Approval of the Connecticut State Employees System Voluntary Pending Retirements for August 2023.
 - i. At 9:18 a.m., Ms. Buffkin moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano to approve the Connecticut State Employees System Voluntary Pending Retirements for August 2023.
 - 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 August 2023.
 10. Request Commission Approval of the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Disability Retirements for August 2023.
 - i. At 9:16 a.m., Ms. Buffkin moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano to approve the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Disability Retirements for August 2023.
 - 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 Disability Retirements for August 2023.
 11. Request Commission Approval of the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Pre-Retirement Deaths for August 2023.
 - i. At 9:16 a.m., Ms. Buffkin moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano to approve the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Pre-Retirement Deaths for August 2023.
 - 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 Pre-Retirement Deaths for August 2023.
 12. Request Commission Approval of the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Retroactive Retirements for August 2023.
 - i. At 9:18 a.m., Ms. Buffkin moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano to approve the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Retroactive Retirements for August 2023.
 - 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 Retroactive Retirements for August 2023.
 13. Request Commission Approval of the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Municipal Employees Retirements for August 2023.
 - i. At 9:19 a.m., Ms. Buffkin moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano to approve the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Municipal Employees Retirements for August 2023.
 - 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 August 2023.

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14. Request Commission Approval of the Municipal Employees Retirement System Disability Retirement Tabled and/or Denials from the Medical Examining Board for August 2023.
 - i. At 9:19 a.m., Ms. Buffkin moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano to approve the Municipal Employees Retirement System disability retirement tabled and/or denials from the Medical Examining Board for August 2023.
 - 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 Employees Retirement System disability retirement tabled and/or denials from the Medical Examining Board for August 2023.

15. Request Acceptance of the Recommendations by the Medical Examining Board for the Continued Entitlement Approvals for August 2023.
 - i. At 9:20 a.m., Ms. Buffkin moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano to accept the recommendations by the Medical Examining Board for the continued entitlement approvals for August 2023.
 - 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 for August 2023.

16. Request Acceptance of the Recommendations by the Medical Examining Board for the Continued Entitlement Tabled and Denials for August 2023.
 - i. At 9:20 a.m., Ms. Buffkin moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano to accept the recommendations by the Medical Examining Board for the continued entitlement tabled and denials for August 2023.
 - 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 for August 2023.

17. Request Commission Approval of the Probate Judges and Employees Retirement Fund Personnel Expenses for August 2023.
 - i. At 9:20 a.m., Ms. Buffkin moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano to approve the Probate Judges and Employees Retirement Fund Personnel Expenses for August 2023.
 - 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 August 2023.

18. Request Commission Approval of the Connecticut Judges, Family Support Magistrates, Compensation Commissioners, Probate Judges and Employees Retirement Systems Retirements for August 2023.

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- i. At 9:20 a.m., Ms. Buffkin moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano to approve the Connecticut Judges, Family Support Magistrates, Compensation Commissioners, Probate Judges and Employees Retirement Systems Retirements for August 2023.
 - 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, Compensation Commissioners, Probate Judges and Employees Retirement Systems Retirements for August 2023.
19. Request Commission Approval of the Recommendations from the Regulations and Overpayments Subcommittee Meeting held on September 14, 2023.
 - i. At 9:20 a.m., Ms. Buffkin moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano to approve the recommendations from the Regulations and Overpayments Subcommittee meeting held on September 14, 2023.
 - 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 recommendations from the Regulations and Overpayments Subcommittee meeting held on September 14, 2023.
20. Request Commission Approval of the creation of the Subcommittee on Matters related to the Connecticut Municipal Employees Retirement System, and it is directed that they meet as often as needed, as determined by the Retirement Commission Chairman in coordination with the Retirement Services Division.
 - i. At 9:22 a.m., Ms. Buffkin moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano to approve the creation of the Subcommittee on Matters related to the Connecticut Municipal Employees Retirement System, and direct that they meet as often as needed, as determined by the Retirement Commission Chairman in coordination with the Retirement Services Division.
 - 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 creation of the Subcommittee on Matters related to the Connecticut Municipal Employees Retirement System, and direct that they meet as often as needed, as determined by the Retirement Commission Chairman in coordination with the Retirement Services Division.
21. Request Commission Acceptance of the Connecticut Probate Judges and Employees Retirement System Report of the Actuary on the Valuation prepared as of December 31, 2022.
 - i. At 9:22 a.m., Mr. Poulin moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano to accept the Connecticut Probate Judges and Employees Retirement System Report of the Actuary on the Valuation prepared as of December 31, 2022.
 - 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 Probate Judges and Employees Retirement System Report of the Actuary on the Valuation prepared as of December 31, 2022.
22. Discussion of the Low Default Risk Obligation Measure (LDROM) disclosure requirement.

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- i. At 9:22 a.m., Mr. Poulin moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano to discuss the Low Default Risk Obligation Measure (LDROM) disclosure requirement.
- 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 discuss the Low Default Risk Obligation Measure (LDROM) disclosure requirement.
- iv. Mr. Garrett provided information regarding ASOP #4.

Executive Session – discussion and possible action

1. Linda Savitsky appeal – written legal opinion.
2. Patrick Butler petition for declaratory ruling – written legal opinion.
3. Ricardo Harris appeal – written legal opinion.
4. SERC v. Town of Ellington – pending litigation.
5. Linda Cicarella v. SERC – pending litigation.

At 9:30 a.m., Ms. Buffkin moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano to suspend the regular meeting and go into executive session for the purposes of discussing Items 1-5. Bruce Barth, Cindy Cieslak, Robert Helfand, John Herrington, Virginia McGarrity, Yamuna Menon, Charlotte Moller, Colin Newman, and Ben Sedrowski were invited by the Commission to stay for executive session on Items 1-5. 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 Items 1-8.

Ms. Downes exited the meeting at 9:58 a.m. Mr. O'Brien exited the meeting at 9:59 a.m.

At 10:20 a.m., Ms. Buffkin moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano 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 10:20 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Poulin, with respect to Ms. Savitsky and specific to the facts of her matter, including that she left reemployment early due to health, that her pension not be lower than it was before she returned to work. A roll call vote was taken. Ms. Buffkin, Mr. Disette, Mr. Hill, Mr. Luciano, Mr. Poulin, and Ms. Simonsen voted in favor. Mr. Carey, Mr. Kraveski, Ms. Nolen, and Mr. Ryor voted in opposition. The motion passed 6-4.

At 10:23 a.m., Ms. Buffkin moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano to issue a declaratory ruling on Mr. Butler's petition for declaratory ruling, in accordance with the recommendation by the Legal & Personnel Subcommittee. All voted in favor.

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At 10:23 a.m., Ms. Buffkin moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano to remand Mr. Harris's disability retirement application to the MEB for additional review of the documents received but not identified in the most recent MEB decision. All voted in favor.

Adjournment

With no further business before the Commission, Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Ms. Buffkin to adjourn at 10:24 a.m. The Commission voted unanimously to adjourn.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Peter Adomeit, Chairman

Prepared by John Herrington
Director Retirement Services Division