

STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
STATE EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT COMMISSION MEETING

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APRIL 18, 2024 MEETING  
HELD VIA ZOOM  
CONVENED AT 9:06 a.m.

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Present:

Peter Adomeit, Chairman  
Michael Bailey, Trustee  
Karen Buffkin, Trustee  
Michael Carey, Trustee  
John DiSette, Trustee  
Tara Downes, Deputy Comptroller, Ex Officio Member  
Brian Hill, Trustee  
David Krayeski, Trustee  
Sal Luciano, Trustee  
Karen Nolen, Trustee  
Michael O'Brien, Trustee  
Claude Poulin, Trustee  
Angel Quiros, Trustee  
Timothy Ryor, Trustee  
Mark Sciota, Municipal Liaison  
Rebecca Simonsen, Trustee  
Ted Wright, Chief Investment Officer, Office of the Treasurer,  
Ex Officio Member

Absent was:

Carl Chisem, Trustee

Also present were:

Bruce Barth, Tax Counsel to the Commission, Robinson & Cole  
Cindy Cieslak, General Counsel to the Commission, Rose Kallor  
Robert Helfand, Assistant Director, Retirement Services Division  
John Herrington, Director, Retirement Services Division

Also present, continued:

Virginia McGarrity, Tax Counsel to the Commission, Robinson &  
Cole

Yamuna Menon, General Counsel, Assistant Comptroller

Michael Rose, General Counsel to the Commission, Rose Kallor

Ben Sedrowski, Retirement Services Division

TRANSCRIPTIONIST: Karin A. Empson

1 (Proceedings commenced at 9:06 a.m.)

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5 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Okay, we'll call the  
6 meeting to order. I'll defer the Chairman's Report -  
7 I'll defer that time to John Herrington.

8 MR. HERRINGTON: Good morning.

9 MS. CIESLAK: Mr. Chairman, this is - my  
10 apologies. Mr. Chairman, this is Cindy Cieslak. Would  
11 you like me to provide the attendance before Mr.  
12 Herrington proceeds?

13 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Oh, I'm sorry. Yes, yes,  
14 yes, yes, yes. Go ahead.

15 MS. CIESLAK: All right. Good morning. This  
16 is Cindy Cieslak. Present, we have Chairman Peter  
17 Adomeit; Trustee Michael Bailey; Tax Counsel from  
18 Robinson & Cole, Bruce Barth; Trustee Karen Buffkin;  
19 Trustee Michael Carey; General Counsel from Rose  
20 Kallor, Cindy Cieslak; Trustee John DiSette; Deputy  
21 Comptroller and Ex Officio Member of the Retirement  
22 Commission, Tara Downes; Assistant Director, Retirement  
23 Services Division, Robert Helfand; Retirement Services  
24 Division Director, John Herrington; Trustee Brian Hill;  
25 Trustee David Kraveski; Trustee Sal Luciano; Tax

1 Counsel from Robinson & Cole, Virginia McGarrity;  
2 General Counsel and Assistant Comptroller, Yam Menon;  
3 Trustee Karen Nolen; Trustee Michael O'Brien; Actuarial  
4 Trustee Claude Poulin; Trustee Angel Quiros; General  
5 Counsel from Rose Kallor, Mike Rose; Actuarial Trustee  
6 Tim Ryor; from the Retirement Services Division, Ben  
7 Sedrowski; Municipal Liaison Mark Sciota; Trustee  
8 Rebecca Simonsen; and Chief Investment Officer, Office  
9 of the Treasurer, Ex Officio Member of the Retirement  
10 Division, Ted Wright.

11 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Okay, thank you, Cindy.  
12 John Herrington.

13 MR. HERRINGTON: Good morning, everyone.  
14 Before I get started with the Director's Report  
15 (inaudible) Yam Menon has an announcement.

16 MS. MENON: Good morning, folks. Apologies  
17 that my video isn't working this morning. Just a final  
18 verbal reminder because we're a little less than two  
19 weeks out from the deadline for the Office of State  
20 Ethics Statement of Financial Interests filing. So I  
21 just wanted to give one last reminder. Again, it's an  
22 electronic-only filing, so no paper filings.

23 If you have any questions, let me know. And  
24 again, if you're someone who is already filing for  
25 another agency or office, you are considered a dual

1 filer, and so you only have to do it once and it will  
2 be cross-referenced for you for the Retirement  
3 Commission.

4 So, again, one last final reminder,  
5 Wednesday, May 1<sup>st</sup> is the deadline. Thanks.

6 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Okay, thank you.

7 MR. HERRINGTON: Yes. So with respect to the  
8 Director's Report, again, another month where we have  
9 historical kind of - we're on the light side with  
10 respect to the number of retirements. In terms of our  
11 priorities for the month, we are focused heavily on the  
12 CMERS reforms. There is a working group, as you all  
13 know, that's looking into possible reforms to CMERS.

14 There has been some legislation that has been  
15 introduced for some of those reforms, and we're gearing  
16 up for the education piece in terms of educating the  
17 relevant populations regarding the impact of those  
18 changes. And we're also building out our processes so  
19 that we can implement the DROP Plan for that  
20 population.

21 Another recent priority has been an  
22 evaluation of our disability processes, and we are  
23 evaluating the experience with respect to the  
24 disability population and gathering some metrics in  
25 terms of how the offsets have worked. And this is

1 another initiative where either next month or, you  
2 know, sometime in this first half of the year, we  
3 likely will come to the Commission with some  
4 suggestions on possible improvements to the disability  
5 process.

6 But that's all I have today.

7 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Okay, thank you, John.

8 New matters.

9 MR. BAILEY: Good morning, everyone. This is  
10 Michael Bailey calling - calling. This is Michael  
11 Bailey. Mr. Chairman, I move approval of the State  
12 Employees Retirement Commission Minutes with Director's  
13 Report from March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

14 MR. LUCIANO: Sal Luciano, second.

15 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Any discussion? Hearing  
16 none, all in favor, say aye or raise your hand.  
17 Opposed, nay or raise your hand. It's unanimous; the  
18 ayes have it.

19 MR. BAILEY: Mr. Chairman, Michael Bailey. I  
20 move approval of the Connecticut State Employees  
21 Retirement expenses for March 2024.

22 MR. LUCIANO: Sal Luciano, second.

23 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Any discussion? Hearing  
24 none, all in favor, say aye or raise your hand.  
25 Opposed, nay or raise your hand. It's unanimous; the

1 ayes have it.

2 MR. BAILEY: Mr. Chairman, Michael Bailey. I  
3 move approval of the State Employee Retirement  
4 Commission Chairman's per diem expenses for March 2024.

5 MR. LUCIANO: Sal Luciano, second.

6 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Any discussion? Hearing  
7 none, all in favor, say aye or raise your hand.

8 MR. LUCIANO: Aye.

9 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Opposed, nay or raise your  
10 hand. It's unanimous; the ayes have it.

11 MR. BAILEY: Mr. Chairman, I move approval of  
12 the State Employees Retirement Commission Union Trustee  
13 Claude Poulin's per diem and travel expenses  
14 reimbursement for March 2024.

15 MR. LUCIANO: Sal Luciano, second.

16 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Any discussion? Hearing  
17 none, all in favor, say aye or raise your hand.

18 Opposed, nay or raise your hand. It's unanimous; the  
19 ayes have it.

20 MR. BAILEY: Mr. Chairman, I move approval of  
21 the State Employees Retirement Commission Management  
22 Trustee Timothy Ryor's per diem expenses for March  
23 2024.

24 MR. LUCIANO: Sal Luciano, second.

25 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Any discussion? Hearing

1 none, all in favor, say aye or raise your hand.

2 Opposed, nay or raise your hand. It's unanimous; the  
3 ayes have it.

4 MR. BAILEY: Mr. Chairman, Michael Bailey. I  
5 move Items 6 and 7 on the agenda, acceptance of  
6 invoices from Robinson & Cole and from Rose Kallor for  
7 March 2024.

8 MR. LUCIANO: Sal Luciano, second.

9 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Any discussion? Hearing  
10 none, all in favor, say aye or raise your hand.  
11 Opposed, nay or raise your hand. It's unanimous; the  
12 ayes have it.

13 MR. BAILEY: Mr. Chairman, Michael Bailey. I  
14 move Items 8, 9, and 10 on the agenda, approval of the  
15 Connecticut State Employees Retirement System service  
16 retirements, voluntary pending retirements, and  
17 disability retirements for March 2024.

18 MR. LUCIANO: Sal Luciano, second.

19 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Any discussion? Hearing  
20 none, all in favor, say aye or raise your hand.  
21 Opposed, nay or raise your hand. It's unanimous; the  
22 ayes have it.

23 MR. BAILEY: Mr. Chairman, I move approval of  
24 the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System  
25 preretirement death benefits for March 2024.

1 MR. LUCIANO: Sal Luciano, second.

2 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Any discussion? Hearing  
3 none, all in favor, say aye or raise your hand.  
4 Opposed, nay or raise your hand. It's unanimous; the  
5 ayes have it.

6 MR. BAILEY: Mr. Chairman, I move approval of  
7 the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System  
8 municipal employees' retirements for March 2024.

9 MR. LUCIANO: Sal Luciano, second.

10 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Any discussion? Hearing  
11 none, all in favor, say aye or raise your hand.  
12 Opposed, nay or raise your hand. It's unanimous; the  
13 ayes have it.

14 MR. BAILEY: Mr. Chairman, I move approval of  
15 the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System  
16 municipal employees retirement for March 2024.

17 MR. LUCIANO: Sal Luciano, second.

18 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Any discussion? Hearing  
19 none, all in favor, say aye or raise your hand.  
20 Opposed, nay or raise your hand. The ayes have it;  
21 it's unanimous.

22 MR. BAILEY: Mr. Chairman, Michael Bailey. I  
23 move approval of the Connecticut State Employees  
24 Retirement System retroactive retirements for March  
25 2024.

1 MR. LUCIANO: Sal Luciano, second.

2 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Any discussion? Hearing  
3 none, all in favor, say aye or raise your hand.  
4 Opposed, nay or raise your hand. The ayes have it.

5 MR. BAILEY: Mr. Chairman, I move—

6 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: It's unanimous. Go ahead.

7 MR. BAILEY: Mr. Chaiman, I move approval of  
8 the Municipal Employees Retirement System tabled,  
9 denials, disability retirements from the Medical  
10 Examining Board, March 2024.

11 MR. LUCIANO: Sal Luciano, second.

12 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Any discussion? Hearing  
13 none, all in favor, say aye or raise your hand.  
14 Opposed, nay or raise your hand. It's unanimous; the  
15 ayes have it.

16 MR. BAILEY: Mr. Chairman, I move acceptance  
17 of the recommendations by the Medical Examining Board  
18 for the continued entitlement approvals, March 2024.

19 MR. LUCIANO: Sal Luciano, second.

20 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Any discussion? Hearing  
21 none, all in favor, say aye or raise your hand.  
22 Opposed, nay or raise your hand. It's unanimous; the  
23 ayes have it.

24 MR. BAILEY: Mr. Chairman, Michael Bailey. I  
25 move acceptance of the recommendations by the Medical

1 Examining Board for the continued entitlement tabled  
2 and denials, March 2024.

3 MR. LUCIANO: Sal Luciano, second.

4 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Any discussion? Hearing  
5 none, all in favor, say aye or raise your hand.  
6 Opposed, nay or raise your hand. The ayes have it.

7 MR. BAILEY: Mr. Chairman, I move approval of  
8 the Retirement Services Division to discontinue  
9 disability applications' one-year limitations from  
10 March 2024.

11 MR. LUCIANO: Sal Luciano, second.

12 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Any discussion? Hearing  
13 none, all in favor, say aye or raise your hand.  
14 Opposed, nay or raise your hand. It's unanimous; the  
15 ayes have it.

16 MR. BAILEY: And, Mr. Chairman, I move  
17 approval of the Probate Judges and Employees Retirement  
18 Fund personnel expenses for March 2024.

19 MR. LUCIANO: Sal Luciano, second.

20 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Any discussion? Hearing  
21 none, all in favor, say aye or raise your hand.  
22 Opposed, nay or raise your hand. It's unanimous; the  
23 ayes have it.

24 MR. BAILEY: Mr. Chairman, I move Item 19 on  
25 the agenda, to take up to the request received from

1 Kristofer Kelso that the Commission review and  
2 reconsider its August 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023 denial of his request  
3 to make a new retirement plan election to the Teachers  
4 Retirement System.

5 MR. LUCIANO: Sal Luciano, second.

6 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Is there discussion?  
7 Okay, hearing none, all in favor, say aye or raise your  
8 hand. Opposed, nay or raise your hand. It's  
9 unanimous; the ayes have it.

10 Executive session, we need a motion to go in,  
11 please.

12 MR. BAILEY: Mr. Chairman, Michael Bailey. I  
13 move that we suspend the regular session and move into  
14 executive session to take up the Items 1 through 5 on  
15 the executive session agenda, and I'd also like Cindy  
16 to invite our other individuals to enter executive  
17 session with us.

18 MR. LUCIANO: Second, Sal Luciano.

19 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Cindy?

20 MS. CIESLAK: Mr. Chairman, this is Cindy  
21 Cieslak. I understand the motion to go into executive  
22 session has been moved and seconded. However, I would  
23 like to note the motion for Number 19 was to take up  
24 Kristofer Kelso. So I don't know if you want to have  
25 discussion on Kristofer Kelso before we go into

1 executive session, after executive session.

2 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Is there news to discuss,  
3 Cindy?

4 MS. CIESLAK: I believe Ben Sedrowski has  
5 added information.

6 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Oh.

7 MR. SEDROWSKI: That is correct, yes.

8 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Okay, I was unaware of  
9 that. Then let's - can we back up to that one then,  
10 please?

11 MS. CIESLAK: This is Cindy Cieslak. I would  
12 just ask for Mr. Bailey and Mr. Luciano to withdraw  
13 their motion.

14 MR. BAILEY: Mr. Chairman, Michael Bailey. I  
15 withdraw my motion on moving into executive session.

16 MR. LUCIANO: I'll withdraw my second.

17 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Okay. Cindy?

18 MS. CIESLAK: I'm going to defer to Ben  
19 Sedrowski, if we are taking up Item 19, Kristofer  
20 Kelso's request to make a new retirement election into  
21 Teachers Retirement System.

22 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Okay. Ben?

23 MR. SEDROWSKI: Thank you very much. This is  
24 Ben Sedrowski, Retirement Services Division. If I can  
25 direct all the members of the Commission to the

1 supplemental information in your packet for Mr. Kelso-

2 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Is there a page number?

3 MS. CIESLAK: This is Cindy Cieslak. That is  
4 at Page 183.

5 MR. SEDROWSKI: Thank you, Cindy.

6 At last month's meeting, Mr. Kelso's request  
7 was tabled by the Commission pending further  
8 information received from his employing agency of  
9 Western Connecticut State University. In the interim,  
10 between last month and this month, I have received the  
11 information as provided to him by Western at his time  
12 of hire.

13 The question that was posed last month was  
14 whether or not Mr. Kelso had received an HR point of  
15 contact as well as any other information that could  
16 direct him to have a better understanding of his  
17 retirement plan options. As seen in the discussion  
18 portion as well as the exhibits that are attached to  
19 this supplement, he received both of those prior to his  
20 date of employment, approximately one week prior to his  
21 start date.

22 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Okay. What is your  
23 conclusion?

24 MR. SEDROWSKI: The conclusion, Mr. Chairman,  
25 is that he did receive - both of which he was informed

1 appropriately by Human Resources of a point of contact  
2 for retirement questions, as well as was provided  
3 multiple links to different areas where he could  
4 receive further information regarding his retirement  
5 plan options.

6 Looking to Page 2 of the supplemental  
7 information that I've supplied, you can see that there  
8 was an HR website that had been provided to Mr. Kelso  
9 in 2022. I have provided links to that from  
10 InternetArchive-dot-org to show the exact website that  
11 was available at that time. At that time, the  
12 Connecticut Teachers Retirement System, which is the  
13 system that is in question and debated between Teachers  
14 Retirement Board versus Teachers Retirement System. If  
15 you do click that link, it takes you directly to TRB's  
16 website.

17 In addition to that, the supplemental  
18 information that was included also refers to TRB as the  
19 sole source for the Connecticut Teachers Retirement  
20 System. As such, that is what the Division has  
21 uncovered.

22 MR. CAREY: Mr. Chairman, this is Mike Carey.  
23 Given the additional information, I would move that the  
24 Commission deny Mr. Kelso's request for  
25 reconsideration.

1 MR. LUCIANO: This is Sal Luciano. I  
2 reluctantly agree. I still, though, recommend that we  
3 try to make sure we are telling people TRS and TRB are  
4 the same thing in the future.

5 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Okay. Is there any  
6 discussion?

7 MS. CIESLAK: Mr. Chairman, this is Cindy  
8 Cieslak. Can I ask Mr. Luciano, can I note that as a  
9 second to Mr. Carey's motion?

10 MR. LUCIANO: Yes.

11 MS. CIESLAK: Thank you.

12 MR. CAREY: Reluctant second noted, yeah.

13 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Okay. Is there any  
14 discussion? Okay, hearing none, all in favor of  
15 denial, raise your hand or say aye. All opposed, raise  
16 your hand or say aye. It's unanimous; the ayes have  
17 it.

18 Thank you, Cindy.

19 Now we can go into executive session. I need  
20 a motion, please.

21 MR. BAILEY: Mr. Chairman, Michael Bailey. I  
22 move that we suspend the regular meeting and go into  
23 executive session to take up the items on the executive  
24 session agenda 1 through 5. I'd also like Cindy to  
25 invite members of this committee to join us.

1 MR. LUCIANO: Sal Luciano, second.

2 MS. CIESLAK: Mr. Chairman, this is Cindy  
3 Cieslak. The individuals to whom Mr. Bailey refers are  
4 Bruce Barth, Cindy Cieslak, Robert Helfand, John  
5 Herrington, Virginia McGarrity, Yam Menon, Michael  
6 Rose, and Ben Sedrowski.

7 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Okay. All in favor, say  
8 aye or raise your hand. Opposed, nay or raise your  
9 hand. It's unanimous; the ayes have it.

10 (The Commission was in executive session from  
11 9:22 a.m. until 9:50 a.m.)

12 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Okay, we need a motion on  
13 the CMERS DROP issue.

14 MR. LUCIANO: So this is Sal Luciano, and I'd  
15 like to make a motion that we accept the CMERS DROP  
16 Plan and parameters, including Item 1 as corrected.

17 MR. BAILEY: Bailey, second.

18 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Any discussion? Hearing  
19 none, all in favor, say aye or raise your hand.  
20 Opposed, nay or raise your hand. It's unanimous; the  
21 ayes have it.

22 Lisa Penna appeal.

23 MR. LUCIANO: Regarding Lisa Penna, I would  
24 make a motion that we deny her attempt to get service-  
25 connected disability simply based on the fact that the

1 MEB has denied it and we cannot overrule the MEB's  
2 ruling.

3 MR. BAILEY: Bailey, second.

4 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Any discussion? Hearing  
5 none, all in favor, say aye or raise your hand.  
6 Opposed, nay or raise your hand.

7 MR. POULIN: I abstain. This is Claude.

8 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Okay. The ayes have it.

9 MR. LUCIANO: Sal Luciano. Regarding  
10 Cicarella, I recommend that we remand her case to the  
11 MEB for reevaluation.

12 MR. BAILEY: Bailey, second.

13 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Any discussion? Hearing  
14 none, all in favor, say aye or raise your hand.  
15 Opposed, nay or raise your hand. It's unanimous; the  
16 ayes have it.

17 Adjournment.

18 MR. LUCIANO: Sal Luciano, so moved.

19 MR. BAILEY: Bailey, second.

20 MR. SEDROWSKI: Mr. Chairman, if I may, this  
21 is Ben Sedrowski from the Retirement Commission - or  
22 from the Retirement Services Division. Do we require a  
23 motion for Kristofer Kelso?

24 MS. CIESLAK: Mr. Chairman, this is Cindy  
25 Cieslak. I'm just checking my notes here. We did have

1 a motion on him at 9:21 denying his request.

2 MR. SEDROWSKI: Thank you, Cindy. Apologies  
3 for the interruption.

4 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: No problem.

5 All right, it's been moved and seconded that  
6 we adjourn. No discussion? All in favor, say aye or  
7 raise your hand.

8 MR. LUCIANO: Aye.

9 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Opposed, nay or raise your  
10 hand. It's unanimous; the ayes have it.

11 MR. LUCIANO: Thank you, everybody. Stay  
12 safe.

13 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Okay.

14 MR. BAILEY: Take care.

15 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (Inaudible) take care.  
16 Bye-bye.

17 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Cindy-

18 (Adjourned at 9:52 a.m.)  
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I, Karin A. Empson, do hereby  
certify that the preceding pages are an accurate  
transcription of the Connecticut State Employees  
Retirement Commission meeting held electronically via  
Zoom, conducted at 9:06 a.m. on April 18, 2024.

Karin A. Empson

Karin A. Empson

05/06/2024

Date