

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
STATE EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT COMMISSION
MONTHLY MEETING
JANUARY 15, 2026
(Via Zoom)

Members Present:

Peter Adomeit, Chairman	Michael Bailey, Trustee
Karen Buffkin, Trustee	Michael Carey, Trustee
Carl Chisem, Trustee	Angel Quiros, Trustee
Brian Hill, Trustee	David Krayeski, Trustee
Sal Luciano, Trustee	Karen Nolen, Trustee
Michael O'Brien, Trustee	Claude Poulin, Trustee
Tara Downes, Deputy, Comptroller, Ex Officio Member	
Ted Wright, Chief Investment Officer, Office of the Treasurer, Ex Officio Member	

Absent were:

John Disette, Trustee
Rebecca Simonsen, Trustee

Also present were:

Cindy Cieslak, General Counsel to the Commission, Rose
Kallor
Michael Rose, General Counsel to the Commission, Rose
Kallor
Robert Helfand, Retirement Services Division
John Herrington, Director, Retirement Services Division
Virginia McGarrity, Tax Counsel, Robinson & Cole
Yamuna Menon, General Counsel & Assistant Comptroller
Benjamin Sedrowski, Retirement Services Division

(Transcription from Electronic Sound Recording)

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1 (Meeting commenced: 9:04 a.m.)

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3 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: All right. This is the
4 monthly meeting of the State Employees Retirement
5 Commission being held remotely using Zoom technology.

6 Cindy, do you have the attendance, please?

7 MS. CIESLAK: Good morning. This is Cindy
8 Cieslak. Present today we have Chairman Peter
9 Adomeit; Trustee Michael Bailey; Trustee Karen
10 Buffkin; Trustee Michael Carey; Trustee Carl Chisem;
11 general counsel from Rose Kallor Cindy Cieslak; Deputy
12 Comptroller and Ex Officio Member of the Retirement
13 Commission Tara Downes; Assistant Director Retirement
14 Services Division, Robert Helfand; Division Director
15 Retirement Services Division, John Herrington; Trustee
16 Brian Hill; Trustee David Krayeski; Trustee Sal
17 Luciano, the tax counsel from Robinson and Cole,
18 Virginia McGarrity; General Counsel and Assistant
19 Comptroller John Menon; Trustee Michael O'Brien;
20 Trustee Angel Guiros; General Counsel from Rose
21 Kallor, Michael Rose; from the Retirement Services
22 Division, Benjamin Sedrowski; and Chief Investment
23 Officer, Office of the Treasurer, Ex Officio Member of
24 the Retirement Commission, Ted Wright.

25 CHAIRMAN: Okay.

1 MS. CIESLAK: Oh, and Actuarial Trustee
2 Claud Poulin in joining us right now.

3 CHAIRMAN: Okay. Division Director's
4 report?

5 MR. HERRINGTON: Good morning, everyone. I
6 don't have much new to report other than you will see
7 that we've seen a, a considerable uptick in retirement
8 activity. We've had over 200 retirements for the
9 month of January. That's the largest number that
10 we've seen in a number of years. It remains to be
11 seen whether this is kind of a, a new adjustment to
12 the COLA provisions or whether this is indicative of
13 some type of trend. But we -- it, it is a, a slightly
14 larger number, but it, it's not a number that was in
15 any unmanageable for us to, to work through.

16 CHAIRMAN: Okay. Any questions? If not,
17 let's move on to new matters.

18 MR. BAILEY: Good morning, everyone. Mr.
19 Chairman, this is Michael Bailey. I move approval of
20 the State Employees Retirement Commission minutes with
21 Directors Report for December 2025.

22 MR. LUCIANO: Attorney Lucian, second.

23 CHAIRMAN: Any discussion? Hearing none,
24 all in favor say aye or raise your hand.

25 Opposed, nay or raise your hand.

1 It's unanimous, the ayes have it.

2 MR. BAILEY: Mr. Chairman, I move approval
3 of the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System
4 expenses for December 2025.

5 MR. LUCIANO: Sal Luciano, second.

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

8 Opposed, nay or raise your hand.

9 The ayes have it.

10 MR. BAILEY: Mr. Chairman, Michael Bailey.
11 I move approval of the State Employees Retirement
12 Commission Chairman's per diem expenses for December
13 2025.

14 MR. LUCIANO: Sal Luciano, second.

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

17 Opposed, nay or raise your hand.

18 It's unanimous, the ayes have it.

19 MR. BAILEY: Mr. Chairman, I move approval
20 of the State Employees Retirement Commission Union
21 Trustee Claude Poulin's per diem and travel expenses
22 reimbursement for December 2025.

23 MR. LUCIANO: Sal Luciano, second with
24 Claude abstaining.

25 CHAIRMAN: Any, any discussion? Hearing

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

2 Opposed, nay or raise your hand.

3 It's unanimous, the ayes have it.

4 MR. BAILEY: Mr. Chairman, I move items 5
5 and 6 on the agenda, acceptance of invoices from Rose
6 Kallor executive session and invoices from Robinson
7 and Cole for federal tax matter services, executive
8 session for December 2025.

9 MR. LUCIANO: Sal Luciano, second.

10 CHAIRMAN: Any discussion? Hearing none,
11 all in favor say aye or raise your hand.

12 Opposed, nay or raise your hand.

13 It's unanimous, the ayes have it.

14 MR. BAILEY: Mr. Chairman, I move items 7,
15 8, and 9 on the agenda, approval of the Connecticut
16 State Employees Retirement System service retirements,
17 voluntary pending retirements, and disability
18 retirements for December 2025.

19 MR. LUCIANO: Sal Luciano, second.

20 CHAIRMAN: Any discussion? Hearing none,
21 all in favor say aye or raise your hand.

22 Opposed, nay or raise your hand.

23 It's unanimous, the ayes have it.

24 MR. BAILEY: And Mr. Chairman, I move
25 approval of the Probate Judges and Employees

1 Retirement Fund personnel expenses for November and
2 December 2025.

3 MR. LUCIANO: Sal Luciano, second.

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

6 Opposed, nay or raise your hand.

7 It's unanimous, the ayes have it.

8 Motion to go into executive session, please?

9 MR. BAILEY: Mr. Chairman, Michael Bailey.
10 I move that we move into executive session to take up
11 items 1 through 5.

12 MR. LUCIANO: Sal Luciano, second.

13 CHAIRMAN: Okay. Who does that include?

14 MR. BAILEY: I can do that for you.

15 MR. ROSE: That's you, Cindy.

16 MR. CIESLAK: Mr. Bailey, would you like me
17 to identify those individuals?

18 MR. BAILEY: That'll be great. Thank you.

19 MS. CIESLAK: Okay. That would be Cindy
20 Cieslak, Robert Helfand, John Herrington, Virginia
21 McGarrity, Yan Menon, Michael Rose, and Benjamin
22 Sedrowski.

23 MR. BAILEY: And the reason that we'd like
24 them to join us is they may give us opinions of a more
25 factual background with respect to the topics at

1 issue.

2 MR. LUCIANO: This is second
3 (indiscernible).

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

6 Opposed, nay or raise your hand.

7 It's unanimous, the ayes have it.

8 MS. CIESLAK: For the record, I'll also note
9 that Trustee Karen Nolan joined us. She was having a
10 -- Zoom was giving her difficulties.

11 CHAIRMAN: All right. Hi, Kar. Okay.
12 Okay. We need a motion please on Lori Laprise.

13 MR. LUCIANO: Regarding Lori, I'd like to
14 make a motion that we approve the draft that --
15 declaratory ruling.

16 MR. BAILEY: Bailey, second.

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

19 Opposed, nay or raise your hand.

20 It's unanimous, the ayes have it.

21 CHAIRMAN: Lawlor.

22 MR. LUCIANO: Regarding Lawlor, I'd like to
23 make a motion that we move his request for
24 reconsideration and make it clear that any future
25 retirees would be actuarially reduced from age 65

1 going forward.

2 MR. BAILEY: Bailey, second.

3 CHAIRMAN: Any discussion? Hearing none,
4 all in favor say aye or raise your hand.

5 Opposed, nay or raise your hand.

6 It's unanimous, the ayes have it.

7 CHAIRMAN: Okay. Anything else?

8 MR. LUCIANO: I believe that's it.

9 Is that it, (indiscernible)?

10 CHAIRMAN: Yeah.

11 MS. CIESLAK: If you would like -- this is
12 Cindy Cieslak. If you would like to make a
13 determination on Brenda Baerga, you can.

14 CHAIRMAN: Oh, I'm sorry.

15 MR. LUCIANO: Oh, that we deny -- I'd like
16 to make a motion that we deny Brenda Baerga's appeal.

17 MR. BAILEY: Bailey, second.

18 CHAIRMAN: Okay. Sorry. All in favor say
19 aye or raise your hand.

20 Opposed, nay or raise your hand.

21 It's unanimous, the ayes have it.

22 MR. LUCIANO: Happy New Year, everybody.
23 I'd like to make a motion that we adjourn.

24 MR. BAILEY: Bailey, second.

25 CHAIRMAN: All in favor say aye or raise

1 your hand. It's always unanimous.

2 MR. ROSE: Good seeing everyone. Happy New
3 Year.

4 MR. LUCIANO: Have a good one, everyone.
5 Take care.

6 (Meeting adjourned at 9:47 a.m.)

7 (End of recording.)

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CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that the foregoing 9 pages are a complete and accurate transcription to the best of my ability of the electronic sound recording of the State of Connecticut, State Employees Retirement Commission, monthly meeting held via Zoom and recorded on January 15, 2026.



Joanne Auger, Transcriber

Date: February 2, 2026