

MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
March 14, 2024

A meeting of the Board of Trustees was held on March 14, 2024, at the Firefighters' Retirement System building in Baton Rouge. Chairman Perry Jeselink called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

Mr. Jeselink gave the invocation and Mr. Romero led the pledge of allegiance.

Ms. Vicknair called the roll. A quorum was present.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Perry Jeselink
Jerry Tarleton
Stacy Birdwell
Brian Fleming (designee of Commissioner Taylor Barras)
Mayor Darnell Waites
Louis Romero
Mayor Chad Monceaux
Clarence Reese, Jr.

OTHERS PRESENT

Barbara Goodson	Daniel Loper	Chad Duffaut
Marella Houghton	David Barnes	Michael James
Layne McKinney	Greg Curran	Terry Stuard
Michael Becker	Kenneth Herbold	Frank Cusimano
Caitlin Myers	Robert Atkinson	Robert Burkett
Ben Johnson	Jason Burge	Craig Burkett
Ashley Vicknair	Diana Kodanov	Paul Smith
William Hall	Chris Kaufmann	Dennie Boyt

The discussion of this matter was concluded with no action being needed or taken.

MINUTES

MOTION: Mr. Birdwell moved to approve the minutes of the board meeting held on February 6, 2024. Mr. Tarleton seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

The discussion of this matter was concluded with no further action being needed or taken.

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

Ms. Goodson distributed an updated list of FRS committee assignments and asked anyone to contact her if a change of assignment was desired. (see attached Exhibit #1)

APPLICANTS

- New Members

PROCEDURE: The FRS enrollment process, including the completion of the applicant forms, the physical examination, and the completion of any waivers of preexisting conditions, must be completed and all documents received by FRS within six months of the date of employment. If the FRS enrollment process is not completed within six months from the date of employment, the applicant will be a member eligible to begin vesting for regular benefits from the date of employment, but not eligible to begin vesting for disability benefits until the completion of the enrollment process. It is the statutory responsibility of the employer to ensure that the enrollment process is timely completed or to provide FRS with notice of noncompliance by the applicant. If a member who has not completed the enrollment process becomes injured in the line of duty and applies for disability benefits, then the member must prove that the disabling condition was not preexisting. Each enrollment application is reviewed by staff to determine eligible job classification, date of hire, employer certification, and medical waiver information. Each application for membership was completed and submitted in accordance with all applicable state laws.

Caitlin Myers presented the list of new member applicants for the month of March 2024. (see attached Exhibit #2) She stated that all applications were in order.

MOTION: Mr. Birdwell moved to approve the new member applicants for the month of March 2024. Mr. Romero seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

The discussion of this matter was concluded with no further action being needed or taken.

- Retirees

PROCEDURE: To retire, a member must furnish the retirement office with an application for retirement. When the application is received by the retirement office, the member's file is reviewed for proper documentation and to determine that the applicant meets the legal criteria necessary to receive payment in the form of a monthly retirement benefit. Calculations for retirement are performed by the benefit analyst and verified by the system's administrator. All retirement applications were submitted, and benefits calculated in accordance with all applicable state laws.

Ms. Myers presented the list of new retirees for the month of March 2024. (see attached Exhibit #3). She stated that all applications were in order.

MOTION: Mr. Birdwell moved to approve the retiree applicants for the month of March 2024. Mr. Romero seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

The discussion of this matter was concluded with no further action being needed or taken.

- Survivor Applications

PROCEDURE: Survivors applying for benefits must furnish the retirement office with a notarized application for survivor benefits, a copy of the member's death certificate, a marriage license (if beneficiary is a spouse), and the beneficiary's birth certificate. Once received, the deceased member's records are reviewed by staff to determine survivor benefit eligibility and to determine that the survivor's benefit calculation is completed per all applicable state laws and any merger agreements.

[NOTE: Individuals who retired under another retirement system where FRS is a third-party administering payments as a result of a merger, and where the individual becomes deceased after the merger, the beneficiary or survivor is still required to submit all necessary documents; however, payment is made as set forth in the merger agreement (contract) affecting beneficiaries and survivors.] (R.S. 11:2256 and R.S. 11:2259)

Ms. Myers presented the list of new survivor applicants for the month of March 2024. (see attached Exhibit #4). She stated that all applications were in order.

MOTION: Mr. Birdwell moved to approve the survivor applicants for the month of March 2024. Mr. Romero seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

The discussion of this matter was concluded with no further action being needed or taken.

- Disability Applicants

PROCEDURE: To obtain disability benefits, a member must furnish the retirement office with an application for disability retirement. For the following applicant(s), the application for disability retirement, current job duties, and all medical records pertaining to the injury or illness were received and reviewed by the retirement office staff. An appointment was scheduled with a State Medical Disability Board doctor specializing in the area of the claimed disability. The doctor submitted a detailed report in laymen's terms of his findings based on the examination performed and the medical records reviewed. Prior to the meeting, the board of trustees was provided with the disability application, job description, State Medical Disability Board doctor's report and all medical records related to each applicant, for their review. (R.S. 11:215, 216, 218, & 2258)

[NOTE: By giving advance notice on its duly posted agenda, the board of trustees reserved the right to enter executive session pursuant to R.S. 42:17(A)(1) for discussion of any privacy protected physical or mental health information related to the disability applicants.]

Ms. Myers presented the disability application of Ms. Myers stated that, based on the report by State Medical Disability Board doctor, the staff recommendation is for approval of the Application for Disability Retirement (Non-Job-Related). (see attached Exhibit #5)

MOTION: Mr. Birdwell moved to enter executive session. Mr. Romero seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

BOARD MEETING

PAGE 4

MOTION: Mr. Birdwell moved to resume public session. Mr. Romero seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: Mr. Birdwell moved to grant a job-related disability retirement. Mr. Romero seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

The discussion of this matter was concluded with no further action being needed or taken.

RECESS FRS BOARD MEETING

CONVENE FRS-LLC JOINT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

[NOTE: The FRS-LLC Joint Advisory Committee met on March 14, 2024, at the FRS office in Baton Rouge at 8:30 a.m. to discuss the following business set forth in its posted agenda- (i) Discussion and advisory action regarding updates of the following LLCs: FRS-LB, FRS-LB#1, and FRS-GA, and all related matters. The minutes of that meeting are embedded herein. Committee members present were Ms. Goodson, manager; Mr. Jeselink, Mr. Tarleton, Mr. Birdwell, Mr. Fleming, Mayor Waites, Mr. Romero, Mayor Monceaux, Mr. Reese, Marella Houghton, Layne McKinney, Michael Becker, Ben Johnson, Caitlin Myers, William Hall, Daniel Loper, Ashley Vicknair, David Barnes, Greg Curran, Robert Atkinson, Chris Kaufmann, Chad Duffaut, Terry Stuard, Kenneth Herbold, Diana Kodanov, Dennie Boyt, Paul Smith, Craig Burkett, Robert Burkett, Michael James, Jason Burge and Frank Cusimano.]

- Discussion and advisory action regarding updates of the following LLCs: FRS-LB, FRS-LB#1, and FRS-GA

Ms. Goodson invited Michael Becker and Robert Atkinson to provide an update regarding the FRS-GA property in Gainesville, GA. Mr. Becker referred to an email received from the buyer. (see attached Exhibit #6) He explained that the buyer is requesting a reduction in the price from \$16,700,000 to \$11,500,000 and to move the closing date up from July 2028 to December 2024.

MOTION: Mr. Birdwell moved to enter executive session. Mr. Romero seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: Mr. Birdwell move to resume public session. Mr. Tarleton seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: Mr, Birdwell moved to authorize the staff and LLC attorney to continue negotiations regarding the matter for FRS-GA. Mr. Romero seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

The discussion of this matter was concluded with no further action being needed or taken.

ADJOURN FRS-LLC JOINT ADVISORY COMMITTEE**RECONVENE FRS BOARD MEETING****LLA ACTUARIAL VALUATION STANDARDS OF PRACTICE DISCLOSURE COMPLIANCE**

Ms. Goodson invited Kenneth Herbold, Director of Actuarial Services with the Louisiana Legislative Auditors Office, to present the LLA Actuarial Valuation Standards of Practice Disclosure Compliance Review. (see attached Exhibit #7) Mr. Herbold explained that there were no material violations of the ASOP disclosure requirements, but did identify two immaterial violations, and added that his office provided recommendations for correcting the items.

MOTION: Mr. Tarleton moved to accept the report presented by Mr. Herbold. Mr. Birdwell seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

The discussion of this matter was concluded with no further action being needed or taken.

FULL AND PARTIAL DISSOLUTIONS OF EMPLOYERS REPORT

Ms. Goodson invited Mr. Curran to present the Full and Partial Dissolutions of Employers Report for 2023. (see attached Exhibit #8) Mr. Curran explained that according to their database, no employers have fully or partially dissolved during fiscal year 2023.

MOTION: Mr. Tarleton moved to accept the report presented by Mr. Curran. Mayor Monceaux seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

The discussion of this matter was concluded with no further action being needed or taken.

EMPLOYER CONTRIBUTION RATE

Ms. Goodson invited Mr. Curran to present the actuarial minimum recommended FRS employer contribution rate, as adopted by PRSAC, for the upcoming fiscal year. (see attached Exhibit #9) Mr. Curran stated that the minimum recommended net direct employer contribution rate for fiscal 2025 is 32.50%, per the Annual Funding Evaluation Report. He added that the board can choose to keep the rate at 33.25%, moving excess funds to the funding deposit account, or they can drop the rate to 32.50%.

MOTION: Mr. Romero moved to keep the employer contribution rate at 33.25% for fiscal 2025 above the minimum recommended amount and to have the excess funds deposited into the funding deposit account. Mr. Tarleton seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

The discussion of this matter was concluded with no further action being needed or taken.

NEW CUSTODIAL BANK – NORTHERN TRUST

Ms. Goodson invited Diana Kodanov, Vice President/Asset Servicing with Northern Trust, to introduce herself to the board. Ms. Kodanov addressed the board stating that she enjoyed working with the staff leading up to the transition that took place March 1, 2023, and excited to work with the board.

The discussion of this matter was concluded with no action being needed or taken.

MONTHLY FLASH REPORT – FEBRUARY 2024

Mr. Barnes, consultant with NEPC, presented the monthly flash report for the month of February 2024. (see attached Exhibit #10) The overall fund was up as follows: 2.1% for the month of February as compared to the allocation index of 2.3%, 2.0% for the calendar year to date as compared to the allocation index of 2.0%, 12.1% for the trailing 12 months as compared to the allocation index of 12.2%; and 4.2% for the trailing 3 years as compared to the allocation index of 3.5%.

The discussion of this matter was concluded with no action being needed or taken.

COMMITTEE REPORT - INVESTMENT COMMITTEE

[NOTE: The Investment Committee met March 13, 2024, at the FRS office in Baton Rouge at 1:00 p.m. to discuss the following business set forth in its posted agenda- (i) Discussion and action regarding FRS' monthly investment performance results for February 2024, and all items related to the foregoing items. The minutes of that meeting are embedded herein. Committee members present were Mr. Tarleton, chairman; Mr. Birdwell, Mr. Broussard Mr. Romero, and Mr. Fleming. Also present were Perry Jeselink, Mayor Monceaux, Mr. Reese, Mayor Waites, Barbara Goodson, Marella Houghton, Layne McKinney, Michael Becker, Daniel Loper, Ashley Vicknair, Ben Johnson, William Hall, Caitlin Myers and David Barnes.]

Mr. Tarleton provided the investment committee report. He explained that the only item the committee had on its agenda was the flash report.

That concluded the Investment Committee report.

COMMITTEE REPORT – SYSTEM'S RECOMMENDATION COMMITTEE

[NOTE: The System's Recommendation Committee met March 13, 2024, at the FRS office in Baton Rouge at 1:30 p.m. to discuss the following business set forth in its posted agenda- (i) Discussion and action regarding third-party litigation involving FRS contractors and potential impact of FRS' contract rights, and all items related to the foregoing items. The minutes of that meeting are embedded herein. Committee members present were Mr. Fleming, chairman; Mr. Broussard, Mr. Tarleton, and Mayor Monceaux. Also present were Perry Jeselink, Stacy Birdwell, Louis Romero, Mayor Waites, Mr. Reese, Barbara Goodson, Marella Houghton, Layne McKinney

BOARD MEETING

PAGE 7

Michael Becker, Daniel Loper, Ashley Vicknair, Ben Johnson, William Hall, Caitlin Myers and Robert Klausner.]

Mr. Fleming provided the system's recommendation committee report. He explained that the committee discussed the item on the agenda in executive session. He added that resuming public session the committee moved to recommend to the full board to accept the advice of counsel.

MOTION: Mr. Fleming moved to accept the system's recommendation committee's recommendation to accept the advice of counsel. Mayor Monceaux seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

The discussion of this matter was concluded with no further action being needed or taken.

That concluded the System's Recommendation Committee report.

COMMITTEE REPORT – PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

[NOTE: The Personnel Committee met March 13, 2024, at the FRS office in Baton Rouge at 2:00 p.m. to discuss the following business set forth in its posted agenda- (i) Discussion and action regarding an update for the FRS' career retention and salary study, and all items related to the foregoing items. The minutes of that meeting are embedded herein. Committee members present were Mr. Romero, chairman; Mayor Waites, Mr. Birdwell, and Mr. Fleming. Also present were Perry Jeselink, Jerry Tarleton, Mr. Broussard, Mayor Monceaux, Mr. Reese, Barbara Goodson, Marella Houghton, Layne McKinney, Ashley Vicknair, Ben Johnson, William Hall and Caitlin Myers.]

Mr. Romero provided the system's recommendation committee report. He explained that the committee discussed the item on the agenda resulting in a recommendation to the full board to accept the additions to the scope and fee presented to the committee for the salary study performed by SSA. (see attached Exhibit #11)

MOTION: Mayor Waites moved to accept the personnel committee's recommendation to accept the additions presented to the committee for the salary study. Mr. Fleming seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

The discussion of this matter was concluded with no further action being needed or taken.

That concluded the Personnel Committee report.

BOYLES v. COMMONWEATH ADVISORS, ET AL

Boyles v. Commonwealth Advisors, et al., Case No. 10-854 , Middle District Louisiana.

[NOTE: By giving notice on its duly posted agenda, the board of trustees reserved its right to enter executive session pursuant to R.S. 42:17(A)(2) for discussion of strategy or negotiations with

BOARD MEETING

PAGE 8

respect to actual or prospective litigation, and where an open meeting would have a detrimental effect on the litigation position of FRS in the judicial matter cited in Agenda Item II(1); all pertinent notifications had been provided.]

MOTION: Mr. Birdwell moved to enter executive session to discuss the agenda item shown above. Mr. Romero seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: Mr. Birdwell moved to resume public session. Mr. Tarleton seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

The discussion of this matter was concluded with no action being needed or taken.

LEGISLATION

Ms. Goodson also shared the financial impact statement prepared by FRS for HOUSE BILL NO. 41, as well as the estimated increase in administrative costs relative to HOUSE BILL NO. 13 and HOUSE BILL NO. 40 in the event of an increase in board membership. This was for informational purposes only to share the financial impact statement already submitted and to be submitted to the Legislative Auditor Actuary. This was for informational purposes only and no action required.

Ms. Goodson drew the board's attention to additional bills not previously reviewed by the board for a board position that may have an impact on FRS in the upcoming legislative session.

SENATE BILL NO. 1 Provides relative to transfers of service credit between systems. (see attached Exhibit #12)

MOTION: Mr. Birdwell moved to support Senate Bill No. 1. Mayor Monceaux seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

SENATE BILL NO. 5 Requires fiduciaries for public retirement systems to make investment decisions based solely on financial factors. (see attached Exhibit #13)

MOTION: Mr. Birdwell moved to give the staff the flexibility to support the bill, if amended to meet the needs of the system. Mr. Tarleton seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

SENATE BILL NO. 378 Provides relative to the unfunded accrued liabilities of the Firefighters' Retirement System. (see attached Exhibit #14)

MOTION: Mr. Birdwell moved to oppose SB 378. Mr. Romero seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

The discussion of this matter was concluded with no further action being needed or taken.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Mr. Tarleton moved to adjourn. Mr. Romero seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

FUTURE MEETINGS

**FRS Investment Committee Meeting
Wednesday, April 10, 2024, at 1:00 p.m.
3100 Brentwood Dr. Baton Rouge, LA**

**FRS Board of Trustees
Thursday, April 11, 2024, at 8:30 a.m.
3100 Brentwood Dr. Baton Rouge, LA**

SUBMITTED BY:

APPROVED BY:



Ashley Vicknair, FRS Board Secretary



Perry Jeselink, FRS Chairman