



Members of the Board of Retirement:

Rick Fowler, President
Appointed by the Board of Supervisors

John B. Kelly, Vice President
Appointed by the Board of Supervisors

Keith DeVore, Vice President
Appointed by the Board of Supervisors

Vacant
Appointed by the Board of Supervisors

Dave Comerchero
Elected by the Miscellaneous Members

Diana Gin
Elected by Miscellaneous Members

Ben Lamera
Ex Officio, Director of Finance

Martha J. Hoover
Elected by the Retired Members

Matt Petersen
Elected by the Safety Members

Kathy O'Neil
Elected by the Retired Members

Jack Philp
Elected by the Safety Members

MINUTES

**SPECIAL MEETING
OF THE
BOARD OF RETIREMENT**

**SACRAMENTO COUNTY
EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM**

Executive Staff:

Eric Stern
Chief Executive Officer

Margo Allen
Chief Operations Officer

Steve Davis
Chief Investment Officer

Stephen Lau
General Counsel

Mario Sierras
Chief Benefits Officer

Wednesday, November 17, 2021

10:00 A.M.

**Location: SCERS Board Room
980 9th Street, 19th Floor
Sacramento, California 95814**

OPEN SESSION

Item 1. Call to Order—The meeting was convened at 10:01 a.m.

Board President Rick Fowler call the meeting to order. Mr. Stern noted that Mr. Kelly, Ms. Hoover, and Ms. O'Neil were attending over Zoom, and that Mr. Lamera was absent.

Mr. Stern recognized that Jack Noble and Alina Mangru were also listening into the meeting and congratulated them for being elected to the SCERS Board with terms beginning in January 2022.

Item 2. Public Comment

None.

CONSENT MATTERS – ITEMS 3-5:

The Board approved the Consent Matters Items 3-5 (7-0).

Item 3. Minutes of the October 20, 2021 Regular Meeting—Approved the Minutes of the October 20, 2021 regular meeting.

Item 4. Teleconferencing Rules Under Ralph M. Brown Act—Approved staff's recommendation.

Item 5. Disability Retirement Applications

- A. KOLL, Vincent—Granted a service-connected disability as recommended by staff.
- B. POLANTE, Liwanag—Granted a nonservice-connected disability as recommended by staff.
- C. FOSTER, Staci—Granted a reciprocal nonservice-connected disability as recommended by staff.
- D. STEED, Rachele—Granted a service-connected disability as recommended by staff.
- E. Reference: General Law and Authorized Board Actions on Disability Retirement Proposed Decisions

BENEFIT MATTERS:

Item 6. Member Concerns and Appeals Process

Chief Benefits Officer, Mario Sierras, recapped the public comment issues and concerns shared at the October meeting by recent retiree, Manual Mejia, regarding his request to change his optional allowance selection.

Mr. Sierras explained that members also receive detailed information and descriptions about the options available to them that include benefit amounts for each option, and noted the County Employees' Retirement Law does not permit an option election to be changed once payment has been made.

Mr. Sierras described the appeals process to address member disputes through the Appeal of SCERS' Administrative Decisions Policy (Policy) and that a member must initiate the process with a written request to SCERS, wherein the CBO would review and provide an administrative decision by written response to the member. Mr. Sierras explained that if a member was not satisfied with the decision, that a member could seek further review by the CEO, which could ultimately be appealed to the Board, and finally to the Superior Court.

Mr. Sierras informed the Board that following October's meeting, Mr. Sierras followed up with a letter to Mr. Mejia acknowledging his concerns shared during the public comment period, explained the appeals process, and enclosed a copy of the Policy. Mr. Sierras shared that we received a letter addressed to the Board late yesterday, to which Mr. Sierras stated he would follow up with Mr. Mejia after the Board meeting today.

Mr. Stern handed out a letter from Mr. Mejia that was received the prior day. Mr. Stern clarified that Mr. Mejia has not made it clear to SCERS what he is specifically requesting and reiterated that Mr. Sierras would be contacting Mr. Mejia to discuss further.

The Board approved a motion to receive and file the presentation. (7-0)

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS:

Item 7. Strategic Management Plan

Mr. Stern presented annual progress on the Strategic Management Plan. He noted that the retirement application turnaround time continues to improve. He said the more recent October data, which is not displayed in the presentation, showed 67% of applications completed in under 60 days, with a median turnaround time of 53 days. He thanked Mr. Sierras for leading the benefits team through a difficult year and rebuilding business processes to improve performance.

Mr. DeVore asked to add a metric showing the time between a disability determination and when an application was completed with all medical information, as opposed to when the initial application was submitted.

Mr. Stern thanked CIO Steve Davis and the investment team for an outstanding year, with SCERS posting a record 28 percent gain.

Mr. Comerchero asked when the investment gains would be reflected in contribution rates. Mr. Stern responded that the gains will be built into contribution rates over the next 7 years under the SCERS funding policy, with the aggregate rate estimated to drop 10 percentage points of pay over that time, holding everything else constant. He noted that the aggregate contributions rate will go up 1 percentage point in 2022-23, due to the phasing in of the 2020 decision to lower the investment assumption.

The Board approved a motion to receive and file the Strategic Management Plan. (7-0)

CLOSED SESSION

Mr. Fowler called for a closed session at 11:09 a.m. to discuss litigation matters and the CEO Performance Evaluation.

Item 8. Conference With Legal Counsel—Existing Litigation

Item 9. Conference With Legal Counsel—Anticipated Litigation

Item 10. Public Employee Performance Evaluation—Chief Executive Officer

OPEN SESSION

Mr. Fowler announced there were no actions to report regarding litigation matters. For the Performance Evaluation, he said the Board approved an increase for the Chief Executive Officer to Step 9 of the Retirement Administrator salary scale, effective the December 5, 2021 pay period.

He also recognized and thanked the CEO for leading the organization through a challenging year and keeping SCERS headed in the right direction.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:45 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT Keith DeVore, Dave Comerchero, Diana Gin, Matt Petersen, Jack Philp, Kathy O’Neil, and Rick Fowler presiding.

via teleconference: John Kelly, Kathy O’Neil, and Martha Hoover.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Ben Lamera.

OTHERS PRESENT Eric Stern, Chief Executive Officer; Steve Davis, Chief Investment Officer; Mario Sierras, Chief Benefits Officer; John Lindley, Senior IT Analyst; Stephen Lau, General Counsel; Margo Allen, Chief Operations Officer; Joan Kudin, Senior Public Information Officer.

Respectfully submitted,

/S/

Eric Stern
Chief Executive Officer and
Secretary of the Retirement Board

APPROVED: _____
Richard B. Fowler II, President

DATE: _____



Retirement Board Order

Sacramento County Employees' Retirement System

**Before the Board of Retirement
December 8, 2021**

MOTION:

Minutes

THE BOARD OF RETIREMENT hereby approves the Minutes of the November 17, 2021 special meeting.

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the above order was passed and adopted on December 8, 2021, by the following vote of the Board of Retirement, to wit:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

ALTERNATES (Present but not voting):

Richard B. Fowler II
Board President

Eric Stern
Chief Executive Officer and
Board Secretary