

**SONOMA COUNTY EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION
RETIREMENT BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

Thursday, December 15, 2022
9:02 a.m.

In accordance with Retirement Board Resolution #156, adopted on September 23, 2021, and readopted November 17, 2022, the Sonoma County Employees' Retirement Association Retirement Board meeting was held virtually and in compliance with California Government Code section 54953(e).

Individuals interested in participating in the meeting were invited to join using one of the following methods:

1. WebEx meeting application via computer, tablet or smartphone:

<https://sonomacounty.webex.com/sonomacounty/j.php?MTID=m2df51641eaeaa6520a17143cd52fd152>

2. Call-in:

1 (408) 418-9388

Meeting ID: 2480 937 2493

Password: 12152022

Presiding in the SCERA

Boardroom: Brian Williams, Chair

Present in the

SCERA Boardroom: Trustees Neil Baker (Alternate Retiree), Travis Balzarini, Chris Coursey (left at 10:51 a.m.), Amos Eaton, Erick Roeser, Joe Tambe (left at 11:15 a.m.), Tim Tuscany and Bob Williamson; Chief Executive Officer Julie Wyne, Assistant CEO/Chief Legal Counsel Cristina Hess, Member Services Manager Jackie Purter, Finance and Retiree Services Manager Cheryl Enold, and Administrative Aide Julia Smith

Present

via WebEx: Trustee Greg Jahn; Chief Investment Officer Jim Failor, Investment Officer Mickey Nguyen, Accountant III Susan Begun

Public comments were solicited prior to the meeting by emailing Julia.Smith@sonoma-county.org. Members of the public that joined the WebEx meeting via the app or dial in were provided opportunity to submit live public comment for each agenda item after the Board and staff provided their comments.

I. CONSENT CALENDAR

Trustee Eaton requested consent item E be removed from the consent calendar and placed on the regular calendar for Board consideration.

- A. Meeting Minutes – October 12 & 13, 2022, Planning Session Meeting Minutes
- B. Meeting Minutes – October 20, 2022, Retirement Board Meeting Minutes
- C. Deferred Member Death Benefits

- D. Status of overpaid benefits and under collected contributions
- E. 2023 Board and Committee meeting calendar – updated calendar

Trustee Williamson suggested that the Chair and Vice Chair designations be removed from the minutes as they created some confusion.

Recommendation: Approve Consent Calendar items A through D.

A motion was made by Trustee Roeser, seconded by Trustee Coursey to approve consent calendar items A through D with the minutes for the October 20th Board meeting changed to remove the Chair and Vice Chair designations. The motion carried 9-0-0-0 with voting as follows:

Mr. Balzarini	Aye
Mr. Coursey	Aye
Mr. Eaton	Aye
Mr. Jahn	Aye
Mr. Roeser	Aye
Mr. Tambe	Aye
Mr. Tuscany	Aye
Mr. Williams	Aye
Mr. Williamson	Aye

II. REGULAR CALENDAR

- A. 2023 Board and Committee meeting calendar – updated calendar

Trustee Eaton requested the Board consider moving the January 26, 2023, Investment Committee meeting to 10:00 a.m. from its scheduled 8:30 a.m. meeting time. This change would allow for attendance at the Sonoma County Economic Development Board “2023 Economic Perspective” event, prior to the Investment Committee meeting on that day. The proposal of this one-time meeting adjustment was well received by all Board members.

A motion was made by Trustee Eaton, seconded by Trustee Balzarini to approve the updated meeting calendar with the January Investment Committee meeting time change and correction of a typo. The motion carried 9-0-0-0 with voting as follows:

Mr. Balzarini	Aye
Mr. Coursey	Aye
Mr. Eaton	Aye
Mr. Jahn	Aye
Mr. Roeser	Aye
Mr. Tambe	Aye
Mr. Tuscany	Aye
Mr. Williams	Aye
Mr. Williamson	Aye

B. Retirement Board Resolution #156 – COVID State of Emergency and imminent threat of risk and Brown Act teleconferencing requirements discussion

Assistant Chief Executive Officer Cristina Hess presented a summary of the Brown Act legislation recently enacted that allows for teleconference participation by a Board Member in the event of an emergency or for just cause without strict adherence to the agenda posting and accessibility requirements. The legislation will apply after the Governor lifts the current state of emergency. Trustees asked for clarification on the number of times this teleconference legislation could be used in a year. Trustees discussed the need for continued use of the teleconference statute currently in place.

Recommendation: Take appropriate action.

A motion was made by Trustee Eaton, seconded by Trustee Balzarini to affirm that the conditions set forth in Retirement Board Resolution #156 still exist and warrant continued application of Government Code section 54953(e) to SCERA Retirement Board and Committee meetings for the next thirty days through January 14, 2023. The motion carried 9-0-0-0 with voting as follows:

Mr. Balzarini	Aye
Mr. Coursey	Aye
Mr. Eaton	Aye
Mr. Jahn	Aye
Mr. Roeser	Aye
Mr. Tambe	Aye
Mr. Tuscany	Aye
Mr. Williams	Aye
Mr. Williamson	Aye

C. 2023 Budget

Chief Executive Officer Julie Wyne and Finance and Retiree Services Manager Cheryl Enold presented the 2023 Budget, noting that the main differences from last year's budget were disability retirement applicant medical reviews, which are very difficult to predict, several maintenance projects for the building and surrounding grounds and a software change for delivering Board materials to Trustees.

Recommendation: Adopt the 2023 Budget.

A motion was made by Trustee Tambe, seconded by Trustee Williamson to adopt the 2023 Budget. The motion carried 9-0-0-0 with voting as follows:

Mr. Balzarini	Aye
Mr. Coursey	Aye
Mr. Eaton	Aye
Mr. Jahn	Aye
Mr. Roeser	Aye

Mr. Tambe Aye
Mr. Tuscany Aye
Mr. Williams Aye
Mr. Williamson Aye

D. 2023 Committee Assignment Discussion

Ms. Wyne indicated that at the end of each year the Board Chair and the CEO compile the list of Committee assignments for the coming year and that this was an opportunity for Trustees to change their assigned committees. Trustee Tuscany, the 8th member, indicated he no longer wanted to serve on the Disability Committee which raised the issue of Trustee Baker, as the 8th alternate member, remaining on the Committee in the absence of the 8th member. Ms. Wyne indicated that it has been SCERA's position that the 8th alternate member act as a true alternate and not occupy a position on a Committee in the absence of the 8th member. Ms. Wyne indicated that there may be governance changes necessary for the expansion of this position but that ultimately it was the Board's decision to define the scope of the 8th alternate member's participation on the Board. Trustees indicated their support for Trustee Baker remaining on the Disability Committee due to his unique knowledge and history with SCERA.

E. COLA Discussion

Ms. Wyne provided a historical summary of the COLA program and the various statutory and policy changes that have occurred since the first statutes were adopted in the 1960's. She noted that in the early 2000's SCERA changed its Actuarial Funding Policy in response to some significant investment market disruptions and changed philosophy in the actuarial community regarding the existence of true "excess earnings", and a tracking mechanism for interest crediting shortfalls was developed without a meaningful discussion of the impact on the COLA program. She indicated that the goal of this discussion was to provide direction to the four Trustees and her, as those designated to discuss the COLA program with County leadership. Trustees concurred that the ad hoc group would be meet and discuss the COLA history and other aspects of the COLA program and SCERA's reserve structure with the goal of identifying the information to share with the County to create a collective understanding of past actions, engage with County representatives to produce a decision by the County regarding future retiree COLAs and determine next steps after the County's policy decision.

F. Audit Committee Recommendations

Trustees inquired about whether cybersecurity was included in the audit and Ms. Wyne indicated that this auditor is focused on financial transactions and Ms. Enold indicated that they look at internal controls regarding information technology. Ms. Wyne further indicated that cybersecurity is a separate type of audit and that staff is looking at various service providers to provide this type of service in addition to the testing that is performed

in house.

Recommendation: Approve the 2022 Audit Scope of Services.

A motion was made by Trustee Tambe, seconded by Trustee Williamson to adopt the 2022 Audit Scope of Services. The motion carried 8-0-0-1 with voting as follows:

Mr. Balzarini	Aye
Mr. Coursey	Absent
Mr. Eaton	Aye
Mr. Jahn	Aye
Mr. Roeser	Aye
Mr. Tambe	Aye
Mr. Tuscany	Aye
Mr. Williams	Aye
Mr. Williamson	Aye

G. Trustee/Staff Training & Conferences

Notify Julia Smith if you plan to attend any future event. Please note, if out of state travel to attend a conference is not approved in the Budget, separate approval from the Board must be obtained prior to attending the conference.

1. SACRS Fall Conference, November 8 to 11, Hyatt Regency Long Beach, Long Beach, CA. Trustee Williams reported that the conference overall was excellent with the speakers reflecting on the uncertainty in financial markets. Among the presentations was one on water resources and a discussion about the impact on agricultural producers, which is particularly relevant to SCERA given our farmland holdings.
2. CALAPRS General Assembly, March 4 to 7, 2023, Monterey Marriott, Monterey, CA.
3. CALAPRS Advanced Principles of Pension Governance for Trustees 2023, March 29 to 31, 2023, UCLA Meyer and Renee Luskin Conference Center, Westwood, CA.
4. SACRS Spring Conference, May 9 to 12, 2023, Paradise Point Resort & Spa, Rancho Mirage, CA.

H. Communications

1. Service Retirements
2. SACRS December Legislative Update
3. Trustee Election and Appointment Results

III. GENERAL DISCUSSION ITEMS

Opportunity was given to advise the Board of new matters and for Trustees to ask questions for clarification, provide information to staff, request staff to report back on a matter or direct staff to place a matter on a subsequent agenda.

Trustee Baker informed the Board that Suzanne De Kozan, formerly with the County Counsel's office, had passed and that she had been a large part of SCERA's Disability Retirement program. Trustees and staff expressed their condolences.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

Opportunity was given for public comment on non-agenda items within the jurisdiction of the Retirement Board.

There were no public comments.

The Board of Retirement moved into Executive Session and closed the meeting to all attendees who were not necessary for the determination of disability retirements. While the meeting was closed, those attendees were placed into the WebEx lobby by the WebEx host and did not hear nor see the meeting. Attendees in the lobby were re-connected to the meeting once the Board returned to open session.

V. EXECUTIVE SESSION

A. Executive Session. Meeting closed pursuant to Government Code Section 54957(b) to consider the employment status and evaluation of performance of a SCERA member or members as concerns eligibility for a disability retirement.

Disability Committee Chair reported on recommendations made by the Committee at the following meetings:

November 17, 2022 Disability Committee Meeting

1. PATRICIA HORNE (AKA CRESCI), Communications Dispatcher II filed 04/04/22 for a service connected disability retirement.

A motion was made by Trustee Williamson, seconded by Trustee Balzarini to grant the application of Patricia Horne (AKA Cresci), Communications Dispatcher II for a service connected disability retirement. The motion carried 8-0-0-1 with voting as follows:

Mr. Balzarini	Aye
Mr. Coursey	Absent
Mr. Eaton	Aye
Mr. Jahn	Aye
Mr. Roeser	Aye
Mr. Tambe	Aye

Mr. Tuscany Aye
Mr. Williams Aye
Mr. Williamson Aye

2. TAEJOON SONG, Deputy Sheriff II filed 04/13/22 for a service connected disability retirement. Consideration under Government Code Section 31725.65 (reemployment plan) is requested.

A motion was made by Trustee Tambe, seconded by Trustee Williamson to grant the application of Taejoon Song, Deputy Sheriff II for a service connected disability retirement with consideration under Government Code Section 31725.65. The motion carried 8-0-0-1 with voting as follows:

Mr. Balzarini Aye
Mr. Coursey Absent
Mr. Eaton Aye
Mr. Jahn Aye
Mr. Roeser Aye
Mr. Tambe Aye
Mr. Tuscany Aye
Mr. Williams Aye
Mr. Williamson Aye

3. TIMOTHY ROUNTREE, Deputy Sheriff II filed 04/26/22 for a service connected disability retirement.

A motion was made by Trustee Williamson, seconded by Trustee Balzarini to grant the application of Timothy Rountree, Deputy Sheriff II for a service connected disability retirement. The motion carried 8-0-0-1 with voting as follows:

Mr. Balzarini Aye
Mr. Coursey Absent
Mr. Eaton Aye
Mr. Jahn Aye
Mr. Roeser Aye
Mr. Tambe Aye
Mr. Tuscany Aye
Mr. Williams Aye
Mr. Williamson Aye

4. DESIREE LOMAS, Correctional Deputy II filed 05/12/22 for a service connected disability retirement.

A motion was made by Trustee Tuscany, seconded by Trustee Balzarini to grant the application of Desiree Lomas, Correctional Deputy II for a service connected disability retirement. The motion carried 8-0-0-1 with voting as follows:

Mr. Balzarini Aye

Mr. Coursey	Absent
Mr. Eaton	Aye
Mr. Jahn	Aye
Mr. Roeser	Aye
Mr. Tambe	Aye
Mr. Tuscany	Aye
Mr. Williams	Aye
Mr. Williamson	Aye

5. TAYLOR BRINKMAN, Deputy Sheriff II filed 05/17/22 for a service connected disability retirement.

A motion was made by Trustee Williamson, seconded by Trustee Balzarini to grant the application of Taylor Brinkman, Deputy Sheriff II for a service connected disability retirement. The motion carried 8-0-0-1 with voting as follows:

Mr. Balzarini	Aye
Mr. Coursey	Absent
Mr. Eaton	Aye
Mr. Jahn	Aye
Mr. Roeser	Aye
Mr. Tambe	Aye
Mr. Tuscany	Aye
Mr. Williams	Aye
Mr. Williamson	Aye

6. JESSE SCOTT, Deputy Sheriff II filed 05/27/22 for a service connected disability retirement.

A motion was made by Trustee Williamson, seconded by Trustee Tambe to deny the application of Jesse Scott, Deputy Sheriff II for a service connected disability retirement. The motion carried 8-0-0-1 with voting as follows:

Mr. Balzarini	Aye
Mr. Coursey	Absent
Mr. Eaton	Aye
Mr. Jahn	Aye
Mr. Roeser	Aye
Mr. Tambe	Aye
Mr. Tuscany	Aye
Mr. Williams	Aye
Mr. Williamson	Aye

7. BYRON CLARK, Correctional Deputy II filed 06/21/22 for a service connected disability retirement.

A motion was made by Trustee Williamson, seconded by Trustee Balzarini to grant the application of Byron Clark, Correctional Deputy II for a service connected disability retirement. The motion carried 8-0-0-1 with voting as follows:

Mr. Balzarini	Aye
Mr. Coursey	Absent
Mr. Eaton	Aye
Mr. Jahn	Aye
Mr. Roeser	Aye
Mr. Tambe	Aye
Mr. Tuscany	Aye
Mr. Williams	Aye
Mr. Williamson	Aye

December 15, 2022 Disability Committee Meeting

1. ANTHONY TERRY, Heavy Equipment Mechanic II filed 02/25/22 for a service connected disability retirement Consideration under Government Code Section 31725.65 (reemployment plan) is requested.

A motion was made by Trustee Tuscany, seconded by Trustee Balzarini to deny the application of Anthony Terry, Heavy Equipment Mechanic II for a service connected disability retirement with consideration under Government Code Section 31725.65. The motion carried 8-0-0-1 with voting as follows:

Mr. Balzarini	Aye
Mr. Coursey	Absent
Mr. Eaton	Aye
Mr. Jahn	Aye
Mr. Roeser	Aye
Mr. Tambe	Aye
Mr. Tuscany	Aye
Mr. Williams	Aye
Mr. Williamson	Aye

2. ERIC HAUFLER, Deputy Sheriff II filed 03/21/22 for a service connected disability retirement.

A motion was made by Trustee Williamson, seconded by Trustee Balzarini to grant the application of Eric Haufler, Deputy Sheriff II for a service connected disability retirement. The motion carried 8-0-0-1 with voting as follows:

Mr. Balzarini	Aye
Mr. Coursey	Absent
Mr. Eaton	Aye

Mr. Jahn	Aye
Mr. Roeser	Aye
Mr. Tambe	Aye
Mr. Tuscany	Aye
Mr. Williams	Aye
Mr. Williamson	Aye

3. GRANT JOHNSON, Correctional Deputy II filed 04/18/22 for a service connected disability retirement.

A motion was made by Trustee Williamson, seconded by Trustee Balzarini to deny the application of Grant Johnson, Correctional Deputy II for a service connected disability retirement. The motion carried 8-0-0-1 with voting as follows:

Mr. Balzarini	Aye
Mr. Coursey	Absent
Mr. Eaton	Aye
Mr. Jahn	Aye
Mr. Roeser	Aye
Mr. Tambe	Aye
Mr. Tuscany	Aye
Mr. Williams	Aye
Mr. Williamson	Aye

4. DAVID SOUZA-KING, Correctional Deputy II, filed 05/23/22 for a service connected disability retirement.

A motion was made by Trustee Tuscany, seconded by Trustee Williamson to grant the application of David Souza-King, Correctional Deputy II for a service connected disability retirement. The motion carried 7-0-0-2 with voting as follows:

Mr. Balzarini	Aye
Mr. Coursey	Absent
Mr. Eaton	Aye
Mr. Jahn	Aye
Mr. Roeser	Aye
Mr. Tambe	Absent
Mr. Tuscany	Aye
Mr. Williams	Aye
Mr. Williamson	Aye

5. D’JENNE LOWE, Probation Officer I filed 08/17/22 for a non-service connected disability retirement Consideration under Government Code Section 31725.5 (reemployment plan) is requested.

A motion was made by Trustee Williamson, seconded by Trustee Balzarini to grant the application of D’Jenne Lowe, Probation Officer I for a non-service connected disability retirement with consideration under Government Code Section 31725.5 The motion carried 7-0-0-2 with voting as follows:

Mr. Balzarini	Aye
Mr. Coursey	Absent
Mr. Eaton	Aye
Mr. Jahn	Aye
Mr. Roeser	Aye
Mr. Tambe	Absent
Mr. Tuscany	Aye
Mr. Williams	Aye
Mr. Williamson	Aye

The Board of Retirement moved out of Executive Session and reopened the meeting to all WebEx attendees who were placed in the lobby during the closed session period.

VI. EXECUTIVE SESSION REPORT OUT

Chair Williams reported the Board unanimously granted the applications of Patricia Horne (aka Cresci) - Communications Dispatcher II, Taejoon Song – Deputy Sheriff II, Timothy Rountree – Deputy Sheriff II, Desiree Lomas – Correctional Deputy II, Taylor Brinkman – Deputy Sheriff II, Byron Clark – Correctional Deputy II, Eric Haufler – Deputy Sheriff II, and David Souza-King – Correctional Deputy II for a service connected disability retirement.

The Board unanimously granted the application of D’Jenne Lowe – Probation Officer I for non-service related disability retirement.

The Board unanimously denied the applications of Jesse Scott – Deputy Sheriff II, Anthony Terry – Heavy Equipment Mechanic II, and Grant Johnson – Correction Deputy II for a service connected disability retirement.

VII. NOTICE OF NEXT MEETINGS

All meetings are held at SCERA in the Board Room at 433 Aviation Boulevard, Suite 100, Santa Rosa, CA, or virtually via WebEx unless otherwise noted.

Disability Committee
January 19, 2023
8:30 a.m.

Board Meeting
January 19, 2023
9:00 a.m.

Investment Committee
January 26, 2023
10:00 a.m.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to conduct, the meeting adjourned at 11:21 a.m.

IX. APPROVAL

The above minutes from the December 15, 2022, Retirement Board meeting were approved at the Retirement Board meeting on January 19, 2023.

BRIAN WILLIAMS, CHAIR