

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

Thursday, September 22, 2022

9:04 a.m.

In accordance with Retirement Board Resolution #156, adopted on September 23, 2021, and readopted August 25, 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=m6400116976599950e816a445000e15c2>

2. Call-in:

1 (408) 418-9388

Meeting ID: 2494 254 7910

Password: 09222022

Presiding in the SCERA

Boardroom: Brian Williams, Chair

Present in the

SCERA Boardroom: Trustees Neil Baker (Alternate Retiree), Travis Balzarini, Chris Coursey, Amos Eaton, Greg Jahn, Joe Tambe, Tim Tuscany, and Bob Williamson; Chief Executive Officer Julie Wyne, Assistant CEO/Chief Legal Counsel Cristina Hess, Finance and Retiree Services Manager Cheryl Enold, Retirement Analyst Rebecca Gay, and Administrative Aide Julia Smith

Present

via WebEx: Member Services Manager Jackie Purter, Nick Klein (Sonoma County CAO office), Bill Robotka (SCARE), Kevin Balaod, Chris Spalino, Michael Rankin, Andy Cash, and Cody (members of the public)

Absent: Trustee Erick Roeser

Public comments were solicited prior to the meeting by emailing [Rebecca.Gay@sonoma-county.org](mailto:Rebecca.Gay@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.

Brian Williams, Chair

Bob Williamson, Vice Chair

I. CONSENT CALENDAR

All agenda items on the Consent calendar were approved in a single motion.

- A. Meeting Minutes – August 18, 2022, Retirement Board Meeting Minutes
- B. Active Member Death Benefits

**Recommendation:** Approve Consent Agenda Items A through B.

A motion was made by Trustee Tambe, seconded by Trustee Williamson to approve the Consent Calendar items A through B. The motion carried 8-0-0-1 with voting as follows:

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

II. REGULAR CALENDAR

- A. Retirement Board Resolution #156 – COVID State of Emergency and imminent threat of risk

**Recommendation:** Take appropriate action.

A motion was made by Trustee Williamson, 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 October 22, 2022. The motion carried 8-0-0-1 with voting as follows:

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

B. Quarterly Financial Report, Period Ending December 31, 2021

Finance and Retiree Services Manager Cheryl Enold addressed the Board and highlighted some key financial reporting metrics, noting that the reporting had been delayed while staff worked through investment manager bank statements. She confirmed there were no discrepancies found in her review of the prior manager's work product. She provided a timeline for completion of the current year quarterly financial reports and indicated she and staff were evaluating the content of the reports to ensure they provide the best possible financial reporting information and that they are useful to Trustees.

**Recommendation:** Approve the Quarterly Financial Report, Period Ending December 31, 2021.

A motion was made by Trustee Tambe, seconded by Trustee Eaton to approve the Quarterly Financial Report for the period ending December 31, 2021. The motion carried 8-0-0-1 with voting as follows:

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

C. Disability Retirement Policy and Process review

CEO Julie Wyne advised the Board that the policy amendments consist of minor language changes and removing CEO review and replacing it with Board review of the policy.

**Recommendation:** Approve amendments to the Disability Retirement Policy and Process.

A motion was made by Trustee Balzarini, seconded by Trustee Williamson to approve amendments to the Disability Retirement Policy and Process. The motion carried 8-0-0-1 with voting as follows:

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

Mr. Williamson Aye

D. Next Steps – Negative Contingency Reserve and COLA policy options

Ms. Wyne informed Trustees that five Trustees were interested in accompanying her to the meeting with the County Administrator's office to discuss the County's policy stance on COLA's and to advise of the policy discussions the Board was having relating to the negative contingency reserve. Trustee Tuscany indicated he would step back and allow Trustee Baker to attend in his stead, as Trustee Baker has significant history with the design of the COLA program. Trustees Williamson, Coursey, Baker and Balzarini will be accompanying Ms. Wyne to the discussion with the County Administrator's office. Trustees expressed a desire to receive an educational presentation on the history of the COLA program, the history and explanation of the COLA policy and an explanation of the reserve policy to ensure a fundamental understanding of the policies and underlying concepts of reserving, plan funding and SCERA's COLA evaluation process before attending the meeting with the County Administrator.

Public comments were received by several people indicating their appreciation for the attention SCERA is giving to the COLA, citing the difficulties associated with the lack of one.

E. SACRS Proxy Designation

**Recommendation:** Designate the SACRS Voting Proxy.

A motion was made by Trustee Williamson, seconded by Trustee Balzarini to designate Brian Williams as the SACRS Voting Proxy and Julie Wyne as the alternate SACRS Voting Proxy. The motion carried 8-0-0-1 with voting as follows:

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

F. 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. CALAPRS Virtual Trustee Roundtable, October 28, 2022.
2. SACRS Fall Conference, November 8 to 11, Hyatt Regency Long Beach, Long Beach, CA. Trustee Williams is attending.

G. Communications

1. Service Retirements
2. SACRS September 2022 Legislative Update
3. Opposition Letters AB 2493
4. Trustee Terms Ending and Election Schedule

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.

There were no general discussion items.

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 will report on recommendations made by the Committee at the September 22, 2022, meeting:

1. JONATHAN DEVAULT, Correctional Deputy II filed 07/06/2021 for a service connected disability retirement.

This application was returned to staff for further action.

2. JOAN MCDONALD, Children's Residential Care Counselor II filed 12/08/21 for a service connected disability retirement.

A motion was made by Trustee Tuscany, seconded by Trustee Williamson to deny the request of Joan McDonald, Children's Residential Care Counselor II, for a service connected disability retirement. The motion carried 8-0-0-1 with voting as follows:

Mr. Balzarini	Aye
Mr. Coursey	Aye
Mr. Eaton	Aye
Mr. Jahn	Aye
Mr. Roeser	Absent
Mr. Tambe	Aye
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 returned the application to staff for Jonathan Devault, Correctional Deputy II and unanimously denied the request of Joan McDonald, Children's Residential Care Counselor 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.

Investment Committee  
September 29, 2022  
8:30 a.m.

Planning Session  
October 12 & 13, 2022  
8:30 a.m.  
To be held at Vintners Resort, Santa Rosa, CA

Disability Committee  
October 20, 2022  
8:30 a.m.

Retirement Board  
October 20, 2022  
9:00 a.m.

Audit Committee  
October 20, 2022  
~10:30 a.m.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to conduct, the meeting adjourned at 9:56 a.m.

IX. APPROVAL

The above minutes from the September 22, 2022 Retirement Board meeting were approved at the Retirement Board meeting on October 20, 2022.