

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

Thursday, March 23, 2023  
9:00 a.m.

Presiding: Brian Williams, Chair

Present: Trustees Neil Baker (Alternate Retiree), Travis Balzarini, Amos Eaton, Greg Jahn, Erick Roeser, Joe Tambe, Tim Tuscany (arrived at 9:07 a.m.), 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, Retirement Analyst Rebecca Gay, and Administrative Aide Julia Smith

Present

via WebEx: Bill Robotka (member of the public providing public comment)

Absent: Trustee Chris Coursey

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.

I. CONSENT CALENDAR

A. Meeting Minutes – February 19, 2023, Retirement Board

**Recommendation:** Approve Consent Calendar item A.

A motion was made by Trustee Williamson, seconded by Trustee Eaton to approve the February 19, 2023, Retirement Board meeting minutes. The motion carried 8-0-0-1 with voting as follows:

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

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 exited the Board room and/or were placed into the WebEx lobby by the WebEx host and did not hear or see the meeting. Attendees were invited back into the meeting once the Board returned to open session.

## II. EXECUTIVE SESSION

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 Williams reported on the recommendations made by the Committee at the March 23, 2023, meeting:

1. DANIEL SOOY, Correctional Deputy II filed 07/15/21 for a service connected disability retirement.

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

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

2. MARK ROBBINS, Correctional Deputy II filed 08/11/22 for a service connected disability retirement.

A motion was made by Trustee Williamson, seconded by Trustee Balzarini to grant the application of Mark Robbins, 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

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

III. EXECUTIVE SESSION REPORT OUT

Chair Williams reported that the Board unanimously granted the applications of Daniel Sooy, Correctional Deputy II, and Mark Robbins, Correctional Deputy II, for service connected disability retirements.

IV. REGULAR CALENDAR

A. COLA Discussion

Pursuant to the COLA Policy, CEO Julie Wyne provided the status of the reserves, annual changes in CPI, and estimated cost of a Cost-of-Living Adjustment for 2023 so this information could be communicated to the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors and Sonoma County Association of Retired Employees (SCARE) representatives. Ms. Wyne indicated she was working with Segal on various COLA scenarios in advance of a meeting with County representatives. Bill Robotka provided public comment noting that it would be beneficial if the COLA was structured to allow incremental COLA amounts as opposed to the all or nothing purchasing power design currently in place.

B. Procurement and Service Provider Selection Policy Review

**Recommendation:** Approve amendments to the Procurement and Service Provider Selection Policy.

A motion was made by Trustee Eaton, seconded by Trustee Williamson to approve amendments to the Procurement and Service Provider Selection Policy. 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

C. Actuarial Funding Policy Review

**Recommendation:** Approve amendments to the Actuarial Funding Policy.

Ms. Wyne indicated that in addition to clerical changes, an employer's name was updated and a language change from the actuary was made.

A motion was made by Trustee Williamson, seconded by Trustee Eaton to approve amendments to the Actuarial Funding Policy. 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

D. CEO Performance Review Procedure

**Recommendation:** Approve amendments to the CEO Performance Review Procedure.

A motion was made by Trustee Tambe, seconded by Trustee Williamson to approve amendments to the CEO Performance Review Procedure. 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

E. SACRS Proxy Designation

**Recommendation:** Designate a Voting Proxy for the SACRS Spring Conference.

A motion was made by Trustee Balzarini, seconded by Trustee Williamson to designate Chair Williams as Voting Proxy and Trustee Eaton as the Alternate Voting Proxy. 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

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 General Assembly, March 4 to 7, 2023, Monterey Marriott, Monterey, CA. Trustees Tuscany and Williamson attended and reported that while there were no standout sessions, the conference was good overall. There was interest in the video of a new trustee faced with fiduciary challenges being brought to a future Board meeting or Planning Session as a learning opportunity. In addition, the session on Artificial Intelligence was interesting but Trustees were skeptical of the value of AI at this time.
2. CALAPRS Advanced Principles of Pension Governance for Trustees 2023, March 29 to 31, 2023, UCLA Meyer and Renee Luskin Conference Center, Westwood, CA. Trustee Eaton is attending.
3. The Pension Bridge Annual 2023, April 17 to 19, 2023, The Fairmont Hotel, San Francisco, CA.
4. California Retired County Employees Association (CRCEA), Annual CRCEA Spring Conference, April 23 to 26, 2023, Ontario Airport Hotel, Ontario, CA.
5. CALAPRS Virtual Trustees Roundtable, May 5, 2023.
6. SACRS Spring Conference, May 9 to 12, 2023, Paradise Point Resort & Spa, San Diego, CA. Trustees Eaton and Williams are attending.
7. Arrowstreet Capital 2023 Client Conference, October 3 to 4, 2023, The Mandarin Oriental Hotel, Boston, MA.

G. Communications

1. Service Retirements
2. SACRS March 2023 Legislative Update

Ms. Wyne discussed AB 1020 which was amended to be a disability retirement presumption bill establishing service connection for pneumonia, hernia, Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, tuberculosis, skin cancer for life guards, Lyme disease

and lower back impairment and the different categories of safety member that these presumptions applied to. She indicated that the SACRS Legislative Committee was watching this bill.

3. GFOA Award for 2021 ACFR

Ms. Wyne and the Trustees congratulated Finance and Retiree Services Manager Cheryl Enold and her staff for receipt of the GFOA award on both the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR) and the Popular Annual Financial Report (PAFR) and commended the excellent work done.

4. Quarterly Financial Statements – Periods Ending March, June and September 2022

Ms. Wyne explained that these Quarterly Financial Statements were being provided to bring the plan's internal reporting current and close the loop on the expected Board reporting. She noted that in the future the Board will only see semi-annual financial reports. The Quarterly Financials will still be reviewed by the CEO, but it is not necessary for the Board to review these statements quarterly with that level of detail.

V. 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 Williamson remarked that the March 11 through March 17, 2023, edition of the Economist had an interesting article regarding Taiwan and provided the publication to staff for circulation to the Trustees.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT

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

There were no public comments.

VII. NOTICE OF NEXT MEETINGS

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

Investment Committee  
March 30, 2023  
8:30 a.m.

Disability Committee  
April 20, 2023

8:30 a.m.

Board Meeting

April 20, 2023

9:00 a.m.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to conduct, the meeting adjourned at 10:21 a.m.

IX. APPROVAL

The above minutes from the March 23, 2023, Retirement Board meeting were approved at the Retirement Board meeting on April 20, 2023.

BRIAN WILLIAMS, CHAIR