

**APPROVED**

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF RETIREMENT

LOS ANGELES COUNTY EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION

300 N. LAKE AVENUE, SUITE 810, PASADENA, CA

9:00 A.M., WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2020

This meeting was conducted by the Board of Retirement by teleconference under the Governor's Executive Order No. N-29-20.

PRESENT: Herman Santos, Chair

Vivian H. Gray, Vice Chair

Gina Zapanta, Secretary

JP Harris (Alternate Retired)

Shawn R. Kehoe

Keith Knox

Wayne Moore

Ronald Okum (Arrived at 9:10 a.m.)

William Pryor (Alternate Safety) (Arrived at 9:04 a.m.)

Les Robbins

Thomas Walsh

STAFF ADVISORS AND PARTICIPANTS

Santos H. Kreimann, Chief Executive Officer

John Popowich, Assistant Executive Officer

Jon Grabel, Chief Investments Officer

Steven P. Rice, Chief Counsel

STAFF ADVISORS AND PARTICIPANTS (Continued)

Ted Granger, Interim Chief Financial Officer

Carly Ntoya, Human Resources Division Manager

Roberta Van Nortrick, Training Coordinator

Barry Lew, Legislative Affairs Officer

Kathy Delino, Interim Manager, Systems Division

Klausner, Kaufman, Jensen & Levinson

Robert Klausner, Partner

Adam Levinson, Partner

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Santos at 9:00 a.m. in the Board Room of Gateway Plaza.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of November 4, 2020

Mr. Kehoe made a motion, Mr. Knox seconded, to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of November 4, 2020. The motion passed (roll call) with Messrs. Knox, Walsh, Moore, Kehoe, Robbins, Santos, Ms. Zapanta and Ms. Gray voting yes.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no requests from the public to speak.

IV. OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

A. For Information

1. October 2020 All Stars

#### IV. OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

##### A. For Information (Continued)

Mr. Popowich announced the winners for the month of October: Connie Chan, Donna Hansen, Melissa Slaton, and Debra Rendon.

##### 2. Award Recognitions (Mr. Pryor joined the meeting at 9:04 a.m.)

Mr. Popowich recognized the Benefits Core Training Graduates: Barbara Marin, Jesse Vindiola, Jonathan Tran, Marilyn Hernandez, Ngoc Vu, Simon Gaskill, Jennel Sarian, John Chuang, Kristopher Lundberg, Mercedes Medina, Rebecca Yu, and Stephanie Jimenez. Mr. Popowich also thanked Training Leads Alejandro Ochoa and Henry Gonsalves.

##### 3. Chief Executive Officer's Report (Memo dated November 23, 2020) (Mr. Okum joined the meeting at 9:10 a.m.)

Mr. Kreimann recognized Mr. Alan Bernstein who was appointed to the Board of Retirement by the Board of Supervisors, on a rotational basis from Supervisor Sheila Kuehl. Furthermore, he provided an update to the election process and is in communication with the Board of Supervisor's Executive Office to discuss changes requested for future elections.

In addition, Mr. Kreimann updated the Board on Covid-19 related cases among staff as well as an update on LACERA operations. Lastly, an update on the diversity and inclusion outreach based on the Board's October 7, 2020 action will be presented to the Board in January 2021.

## V. CONSENT ITEMS

Mr. Robbins made a motion, Mr. Knox seconded, to approve the recommendation. The motion passed (roll call) with Messrs. Knox, Walsh, Okum, Moore, Kehoe, Robbins, Santos, Ms. Gray and Ms. Zapanta voting yes.

- A. Ratification of Service Retirement and Survivor Benefit Application Approvals. (Memo dated November 23, 2020)

## VI. NON-CONSENT ITEMS

- A. Recommendation as submitted by Barry W. Lew, Legislative Affairs Officer: That the Board authorize a one-year extension of the current contract 1) With Ackler & Associates and McHugh, Koepke & Associates commencing on January 1, 2021 and ending on December 31, 2021 to provide state legislative advocacy services; and 2) With Williams & Jensen and Doucet Consulting Solutions commencing on February 1, 2021 and ending on January 31, 2022 to provide federal legislative advocacy services. (Memo dated November 20)

Mr. Pryor made a motion, Ms. Gray seconded, to approve the recommendation. The motion passed (roll call) with Messrs. Knox, Walsh, Okum, Kehoe, Moore, Santos, Ms. Gray and Ms. Zapanta voting yes on Item A. 1 and Mr. Robbins voting no.

The motion passed (roll call) with Messrs. Knox, Walsh, Okum, Kehoe, Moore, Robbins, Santos, Ms. Gray and Ms. Zapanta voting yes on Item A. 2.

- B. Recommendation as submitted by Carlos Barrios, Benefits Interim Division Manager: That the Board approve the reciprocal disability retirement for deferred members Glenn G. Bonde, Jeffrey A. Ditsch, Michael J. Ullerich, and Juan Chavez, Jr. who were found to be disabled by the current reciprocal agency for the performance of their duties and have met the burden of proof. (Memo dated November 19, 2020)

Mr. Knox made a motion, Ms. Gray seconded, to approve the recommendation.

VI. NON-CONSENT ITEMS (Continued)

The motion passed (roll call) with Messrs. Knox, Walsh, Okum, Kehoe, Moore, Santos, Robbins, Ms. Gray and Ms. Zapanta voting yes.

- C. Recommendation as submitted by Carlos Barrios, Benefits Interim Division Manager: That the Board approve Lenore Cutler's change of retirement date from August 25, 2018 to March 1, 2018, to conform with Internal Revenue Code (IRC) Section 401(a)(9). (Memo dated November 19, 2020)

Mr. Okum made a motion, Mr. Santos seconded, to approve the recommendation. The motion passed (roll call) with Messrs. Knox, Walsh, Okum, Kehoe, Moore, Santos, Robbins, Ms. Gray and Ms. Zapanta voting yes.

- D. Recommendation as submitted by Santos H. Kreimann: That the Board review the 2021 meeting calendar and consider rescheduling meeting dates that conflict with a holiday and/or the potential of a lack of quorum. (Memo dated November 13, 2020)

Mr. Kehoe made a motion, Mr. Okum seconded, to approve combining the BOR Administrative/Disability meeting for May to May 5, 2021 and the BOR Administrative/Disability meeting for November to November 3, 2021. The motion passed (roll call) with Messrs. Knox, Walsh, Okum, Kehoe, Moore, Santos, Robbins, Ms. Gray and Ms. Zapanta voting yes.

Lastly, the Board provided further direction on hosting the 2021 BOR Offsite in July.

VII. REPORTS

- A. For Information Only as submitted by Barry W. Lew, Legislative Affairs Officer, regarding an Update on Covid-19 Presumption for Disability Retirement. (Memo dated November 13, 2020)

VII. REPORTS (Continued)

Mr. Lew was present to answer questions from the Board.

- B. For Information Only as submitted by Barry W. Lew, Legislative Affairs Officer, regarding an Update on Legislative Proposal: Nonservice-Connected Disability Retirement. (Memo dated November 20, 2020)

Mr. Lew was present to answer questions from the Board.

- C. For Information Only as submitted by Barry W. Lew, Legislative Affairs Officer, regarding the 2020 Year-End Legislative Report. (Memo dated November 23, 2020)

Mr. Lew was present to answer questions from the Board.

- D. For Information Only as submitted by Ted Granger, Interim Chief Financial Officer, regarding the following reports:

Monthly Education and Travel Reports for October 2020

(Public Memo dated November 18, 2020)

(Confidential Memo dated November 18, 2020 – Includes Anticipated Travel)

1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Education and Travel Expenditure Reports

(Memo dated November 18, 2020)

Mr. Granger was present to answer questions from the Board.

- E. For Information Only as submitted by Steven P. Rice, Chief Counsel, regarding the November 2020 Fiduciary Counsel Contact and Billing Report. (Memo dated November 23, 2020) (Privileged and Confidential Attorney-Client Communication/Attorney Work Product)

Mr. Rice was present to answer questions from the Board.

VIII. ITEMS FOR STAFF REVIEW

There were no items to report.

IX. GOOD OF THE ORDER  
(For information purposes only)

Mr. Kreimann shared that LACERA staff member, Freddie Verzosa, is battling leukemia and is need of a bone marrow donor. Further information will be provided to the trustees and County in hopes for a donor. Lastly, he shared the passing of Systems staff, Thomas Sanders who passed away on Thanksgiving.

Before going into Executive Session, Chief Counsel Steven P. Rice stated that Agenda Item X.A relates to two items of potential employment-related litigation.

X. EXECUTIVE SESSION

- A. Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation Significant Exposure to Litigation (Pursuant to Paragraph (2) of Subdivision (d) of California Government Code Section 54956.9)

Number of Cases: 2

The Board met with legal counsel to discuss two pieces of anticipated litigation.

The Board did not take action.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 10:38 a.m.

Green Folder Information (Information provided to the Trustees prior to the meeting)

1. 2021 Board of Retirement Offsite (Memo dated November 30, 2020)

December 2, 2020

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**Signature on File**

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GINA ZAPANTA, SECRETARY

**Signature on File**

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HERMAN SANTOS, CHAIR