



FIREFIIGHTERS' RETIREMENT SYSTEM

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MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES May 2, 2019

A meeting of the Board of Trustees was held on May 2, 2019 at the Firefighters' Retirement System building in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Chairman Stacy Birdwell called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

Mr. Jeselink gave the invocation and Mr. Romero led the pledge of allegiance.

Ms. Poche called the roll. A quorum was not yet present.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr. Stacy Birdwell
Mr. Perry Jeselink
Mr. Afranie Adomako (designee of Commissioner Jay Dardenne)
Mr. John Broussard (designee of Treasurer John Schroder)
Mr. Louis Romero
Mr. Jerry Tarleton

OTHERS PRESENT

Steven Stockstill
Layne McKinney
Denise Poche
Ben Johnson
Brandon Trahan
Jason Starns
Andrew Tufts
David Barnes
Dawn Moeller
Jacob Putnam
Paul Schmidt
Matthew Estes
Ed Meyers
Leon Wechsler
Gregory Kernan

MINUTES

MOTION: Mr. Jeselink moved to approve the minutes of the board meeting held on April 11, 2019. Mr. Tarleton seconded. The motion passed.

APPLICANTS

- New Members

PROCEDURE: The FRS enrollment process, including the completion of the applicant forms, the physical examination, and the completion of any waivers of preexisting conditions, must be completed and all documents received by FRS within six months of the date of employment. If the FRS enrollment process is not completed within six months from the date of employment, the applicant will be a member eligible to begin vesting for regular benefits from the date of employment, but not eligible to begin vesting for disability benefits until the completion of the enrollment process. It is the statutory responsibility of the employer to insure that the enrollment process is timely completed or to provide FRS with notice of noncompliance by the applicant. If a member who has not completed the enrollment process becomes injured in the line of duty and applies for disability benefits, then the member must prove that the disabling condition was not preexisting. Each enrollment application is reviewed by staff to determine eligible job classification, date of hire, employer certification, and medical waiver information. Each application for membership was completed and submitted in accordance with all applicable state laws.

Mr. Starns presented the list of new member applicants. (see attached Exhibit #1) He stated that all applications were in order.

MOTION: Mr. Tarleton moved to approve the new member applicants. Mr. Adomako seconded. The motion passed.

The discussion of this matter was concluded with no further action being needed or taken.

- Retirees

PROCEDURE: To retire, a member must furnish the retirement office with an application for retirement. When the application is received by the retirement office, the member's file is reviewed for proper documentation and to determine that the applicant meets the legal criteria necessary to receive payment in the form of a monthly retirement benefit. Calculations for retirement are performed by the benefit analyst and verified by the system's administrator. All retirement applications were submitted and benefits calculated in accordance with all applicable state laws.

Mr. Starns presented the list of new retirees. (see attached Exhibit #2) He stated that all applications were in order.

MOTION: Mr. Tarleton moved to approve the retiree applicants. Mr. Adomako seconded. The motion passed.

The discussion of this matter was concluded with no further action being needed or taken.

- Disability Conversion Applicants

PROCEDURE: Retirees who apply for conversion from regular retirement to a disability retirement are required to submit detailed medical information as part of the application in support of their claim that the disability was job-related and occurred during active employment as a firefighter, even though the actual physical disability may not have become manifest until after the effective date in DROP or after commencement of service retirement. Once received, the application is reviewed by staff and medical records are forwarded to a State Medical Disability Board doctor to determine if sufficient documentation is present to certify that the retiree's disability occurred during active employment and was a direct result of working as a firefighter. If the medical information submitted is not sufficient for the doctor to determine the date and cause of the disability, then an appointment is scheduled for the applicant to undergo a physical examination. For the applicant to become eligible for conversion, the State Medical Disability Board doctor must furnish a medical report certifying the retiree's disability and that the disability was a direct result of employment as a firefighter. (R.S. 11:2258(B) and Administrative Rule)

[NOTE: By giving advance notice on its posted agenda, the board of trustees reserved its right to enter executive session pursuant to R.S. 42:17(A)(1) for discussion of any privacy protected physical or mental health information related to the disability conversion applicant.]

██████████ - Mr. Starns presented the disability conversion application of ██████████. He advised the board that, pursuant to the statutory appellate procedures, and based on the report by State Medical Disability Board doctor, Dr. Rubin Patel, the two physicians must select a third specialist to conduct an examination and prepare a report for the board of trustees; and Mr. Starns recommended adherence to that statutory procedure.

MOTION: Mr. Tarleton moved to enter executive session to discuss the agenda item shown above. Mr. Romero seconded. The motion passed unanimously. [NOTE: The board lacked a quorum and, for that reason, the Chairman invoked FRS Policy No. 030110 which provides as follows- "[I]n any month in which a quorum of the board is unattainable, there is hereby established an 'Interim Committee' comprised of any five members of the board that is hereby delegated the authority to discuss and take action regarding items set forth in Section I(4) of the duly posted agenda. The authority conferred by this policy shall be limited in nature and shall only encompass the business described as applications for membership, retirement, survivor benefits, and disability benefits[.]"

MOTION: [NOTE: At this time a quorum was established.] Mr. Jeselink moved to resume public session. Mr. Tarleton seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: Mr. Jeselink moved to ratify the previous motion to enter executive session that had been adopted pursuant to FRS Policy No. 030110. Mr. Tarleton seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

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MOTION: Mr. Tarleton moved to accept the staff recommendation regarding [REDACTED]. Mr. Broussard seconded. The motion passed.

The discussion of this matter was concluded with no further action being needed or taken.

MONTHLY FLASH REPORT - APRIL 2019

Due to the date of the board meeting and the timing of the investment data availability, or lack thereof, there was no flash report for the month of April 2019. In lieu thereof, Mr. Barnes presented and explained a chart containing the composite returns for each major asset class. (see attached Exhibit #3)

BLACKROCK

Mr. Stockstill recalled to the board that NEPC had recently placed BlackRock Global Tactical Asset Allocation fund on a *Hold* status, for NEPC's own internal purposes, due to the number of portfolio manager changes for the strategy. Moreover, NEPC recommended that FRS place the BlackRock fund on FRS' *Watch* list. Mr. Stockstill then introduced Mr. Matthew Estes, Director, with BlackRock. Mr. Estes presented a report titled "Global Allocation Portfolio Management Team" which explained the details of the current managers of the BlackRock fund, along with their experience in the field. (see attached Exhibit #4) Mr. Estes answered all questions that arose.

The discussion of this matter was concluded with no action being needed or taken.

LRWL INC

Mr. Leon Wechsler and Mr. Ed Meyers of LRWL Inc. presented the board with a power point presentation of their offerings and solutions as a retirement software consultant and answered all questions that arose. (see attached Exhibit #5)

The discussion of this matter was concluded with no action being needed or taken.

FRS STATEMENT OF PLAN NET ASSETS AND STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN PLAN NET ASSETS, Q3 FY2018-19

Mr. Layne McKinney, FRS CPA, addressed the board. He drew the board's attention to two reports titled "Statement of Changes in Plan Net Assets" and "Statement of Plan Net Assets". (see attached Exhibit #6) He explained each report on a line-by-line basis.

MOTION: Mr. Tarleton moved to accept the staff reports as presented by Mr. McKinney. Mr. Romero seconded. The motion passed.

The discussion of this matter was concluded with no further action being needed or taken.

FRS BUDGET TO ACTUAL COMPARISON - Q3 FY 2018-19

Mr. Ben Johnson, FRS Accountant, addressed the board. He drew the board's attention to a report titled FRS "Budget to Actual Comparison" for the 3rd Quarter of FY 2018-19. (see attached Exhibit #7) He highlighted pertinent line items of the report and explained certain variances related thereto.

MOTION: Mr. Tarleton moved to accept the staff report as presented by Mr. Johnson. Mr. Jeselink seconded. The motion passed.

The discussion of this matter was concluded with no further action being needed or taken.

JUNE BOARD MEETING

Mr. Stockstill stated he and Mr. Birdwell had a scheduling conflict with the June 12-13, 2019 board meeting.

MOTION: Mr. Tarleton moved to reschedule the June board meeting to June 5-6, 2019 contingent on the staff pre-confirming that a quorum of board members will be in attendance. Mr. Romero seconded. The motion passed.

The discussion of this matter was concluded with no further action being needed or taken.

LEGISLATION

Mr. Stockstill advised the board that all of FRS' legislative package had passed through the House Retirement Committee and was not yet scheduled for debate as of that morning but was first on the list of bills scheduled to be debated next week.

The discussion of this matter was concluded with no action being needed or taken.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned due to the loss of a quorum.

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FUTURE MEETINGS

**FRS Budget Committee
3100 Brentwood Drive
Baton Rouge, Louisiana
Wednesday, June 5, 2019 at 2:00 p.m.**

**FRS Investment Committee
3100 Brentwood Drive
Baton Rouge, Louisiana
Wednesday, June 5, 2019 at 3:00 p.m.**

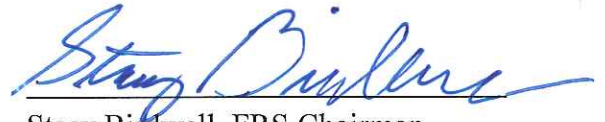
**FRS Board of Trustees
3100 Brentwood Drive
Baton Rouge, Louisiana
Thursday, June 6, 2019 at 8:30 a.m.**

SUBMITTED BY:



Denise Poche, FRS Board Secretary

APPROVED BY:



Stacy Birdwell, FRS Chairman