

**MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
July 11, 2024**

A meeting of the Board of Trustees was held on July 11, 2024, at the Firefighters' Retirement System building in Baton Rouge. Chairman Perry Jeselink called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

Mr. Jeselink gave the invocation and Mayor Monceaux led the pledge of allegiance.

Ms. Vicknair called the roll. A quorum was present.

MEMBERS PRESENT

- Perry Jeselink
- Jerry Tarleton
- Stacy Birdwell
- Brian Fleming (designee of Commissioner Taylor Barras)
- Mayor Darnell Waites
- Louis Romero (via zoom – non-voting for meeting)
- Mayor Chad Monceaux
- Clarence Reese, Jr.

OTHERS PRESENT

- | | |
|------------------|-----------------|
| Barbara Goodson | Terry Stuard |
| Marella Houghton | Chad Duffaut |
| Layne McKinney | Chris Kaufmann |
| Michael Becker | Paul Smith |
| Ashley Vicknair | Dennie Boyt |
| Ben Johnson | Henry Olinde |
| Caitlin Myers | Robert Atkinson |
| Daniel Loper | Diana Kodanov |
| William Hall | |
| David Barnes | |
| Joey David | |
| Greg Curran | |

MINUTES

MOTION: Mr. Birdwell moved to approve the minutes of the board meeting held on June 13, 2024. Mr. Tarleton seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

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

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 ensure 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.

Caitlin Myers presented the list of new member applicants for the month of July 2024. (see attached Exhibit #1) She stated that all applications were in order.

MOTION: Mr. Birdwell moved to approve the new member applicants for the month of July 2024. Mayor Monceaux seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

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.

Ms. Myers presented the list of new retirees for the month of July 2024. (see attached Exhibit #2). She stated that all applications were in order.

MOTION: Mr. Birdwell moved to approve the retiree applicants for the month of July 2024. Mayor Monceaux seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

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

- Survivor Applications

PROCEDURE: Survivors applying for benefits must furnish the retirement office with a notarized application for survivor benefits, a copy of the member's death certificate, a marriage license (if beneficiary is a spouse), and the beneficiary's birth certificate. Once received, the deceased member's records are reviewed by staff to determine survivor benefit eligibility and to determine that the survivor's benefit calculation is completed per all applicable state laws and any merger agreements.

[NOTE: Individuals who retired under another retirement system where FRS is a third-party administering payments as a result of a merger, and where the individual becomes deceased after the merger, the beneficiary or survivor is still required to submit all necessary documents; however, payment is made as set forth in the merger agreement (contract) affecting beneficiaries and survivors.] (R.S. 11:2256 and R.S. 11:2259)

Ms. Myers presented the list of new survivor applicants for the month of July 2024. (see attached Exhibit #3). She stated that all applications were in order.

MOTION: Mr. Birdwell moved to approve the survivor applicants for the month of July 2024. Mayor Monceaux seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

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

- Disability Applicants

PROCEDURE: To obtain disability benefits, a member must furnish the retirement office with an application for disability retirement. For the following applicant(s), the application for disability retirement, current job duties, and all medical records pertaining to the injury or illness were received and reviewed by the retirement office staff. An appointment was scheduled with a State Medical Disability Board doctor specializing in the area of the claimed disability. The doctor submitted a detailed report in laymen's terms of his findings based on the examination performed and the medical records reviewed. Prior to the meeting, the board of trustees was provided with the disability application, job description, State Medical Disability Board doctor's report and all medical records related to each applicant, for their review. (R.S. 11:215, 216, 218, & 2258)

[NOTE: By giving advance notice on its duly posted agenda, the board of trustees reserved the 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 applicants.]

██████████ Ms. Myers presented the disability application of ██████████ Ms. Myers stated that, based on the report by State Medical Disability Board doctor, the staff recommendation is for approval of the Application for a Non-Job-Related Disability Retirement and suspending the requirement of disability recertification. (see attached Exhibit #4)

MOTION: Mr. Birdwell moved to accept the staff recommendation for approval of the Application for a Non-Job-Related Disability Retirement and suspending the requirement of disability recertification. Mr. Tarleton seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

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

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Ms. Houghton explained that the FRS attorney, Henry Olinde, was present to provide the board with a legislative update.

Mr. Tarleton moved to enter executive session. Mr. Birdwell seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Birdwell moved to resume public session. Mr. Tarleton seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Tarleton moved to instruct and authorize the FRS attorney, Henry Olinde, to seek an opinion from the Louisiana Attorney General regarding who the twelfth board member should be (an elected retiree representative or an elected representative of the Louisiana Fire Chiefs Association) in light of Act 537 of 2024 and Act 672 of 2024, which appear to be in conflict. Mr. Birdwell seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

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

RECESS FRS BOARD MEETING

CONVENE FRS-LLC JOINT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

[NOTE: The FRS-LLC Joint Advisory Committee met on July 11, 2024, at the FRS office in Baton Rouge at 8:30 a.m. to discuss the following business set forth in its posted agenda- (i) Discussion and advisory action regarding updates of the following LLC's": FRS-LB, FRS-LB#1, and all related matters. The minutes of that meeting are embedded herein. Committee members present were Ms. Goodson, manager; Mr. Jeselink, Mr. Tarleton, Mr. Birdwell, Mr. Fleming, Mayor Waites, Mr. Romero, Mayor Monceaux, Mr. Reese, Marella Houghton, Layne McKinney, Michael Becker, Ben Johnson, Caitlin Myers, William Hall, Daniel Loper, Ashley Vicknair, David Barnes, Greg Curran, Joey David, Terry Stuard, Chad Duffaut, Chris Kaufmann, and Diana Kodanov.]

- Discussion and advisory action regarding updates of the following LLC's: FRS-LB, FRS-LB#1

Mr. Becker drew the committee's attention to the amendment to purchase and sale agreement regarding the property in Arizona. (see attached Exhibit #5) He explained that the amendment includes a reduction in the up front payment by \$1 million, reducing the original initial payment of \$10.2 million to \$9.2 million, an increase of the deferred balance from \$14.8 million to \$15.8 million, that the buyer is waiving their termination right which would increase the amount of money in escrow from \$250,000 to \$1 million, and the close on the property will be in October 2024.

MOTION: Mr. Birdwell moved to accept Mr. Becker's recommendation with the amendment to the agreement. Mr. Tarleton seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

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

ADJOURN FRS-LLC JOINT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

RECONVENE FRS BOARD MEETING

MONTHLY FLASH REPORT – JUNE 2024

Mr. Barnes, consultant with NEPC, presented the monthly flash report for the month of June 2024. (see attached Exhibit #6) The overall fund was up as follows: 0.6% for the month of June as compared to the allocation index of 1.1%, 5.2% for the calendar year to date as compared to the allocation index of 5.4%, 11.0% for the trailing 12 months as compared to the allocation index of 10.7%; and 2.7% for the trailing 3 years as compared to the allocation index of 2.3%.

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

ACTUARIAL EDUCATION

Mr. Curran addressed the board. He drew their attention to an educational presentation regarding the topics of payroll impacts on funding, demographics and their impact on funding, market return impacts on funding, cost impacts from DROP statutes, issues with a 5-year DROP in FRS and challenges members have in making optimal DROP decisions. (see attached Exhibit #7) Mr. Curran then concluded his presentation and answered questions that arose.

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

FUNDING DEPOSIT ACCOUNT

Mr. Curran explained to the board that there was a policy approved by the Board regarding the funding deposit account a little over a year ago. He recalled to the board that they have a right to

set the employer contribution rate above the actuarial minimum requirement and place the excess funds into the funding deposit account. He added that after discussions with attorneys, he is asking the board to rescind the policy. The policy has not been used since it was approved, but Mr. Curran went on to explain that the system may need some sort of legislation to cover this matter instead of a board policy.

MOTION: Mr. Tarleton moved to accept Mr. Curran's recommendation to rescind policy 03132023 "Definition of Surplus Funds". Mr. Birdwell seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

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

PTG ADMINISTRATION SOFTWARE UPDATE

Ms. Houghton invited Caitlin Myers, FRS Benefits Manager, and Ben Johnson, FRS Accountant, to provide the board with an update regarding the PTG software implementation progress. Ms. Myers explained to the board that while the new software works great, there are still some programming issues that need to be resolved before another data upload. Mr. Johnson added that from the accounting aspect, there are still a few minor issues that need to be resolved.

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

MOTION: Mr. Tarleton moved to adjourn. Mr. Birdwell seconded. The motion passed unanimously.


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

FUTURE MEETINGS

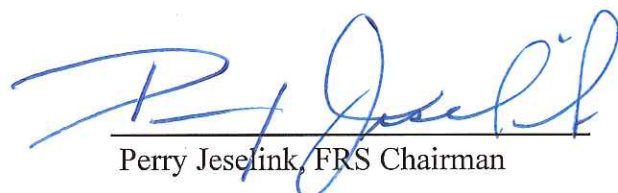
**FRS Board of Trustees
Thursday, August 8, 2024, at 8:30 a.m.
3100 Brentwood Dr. Baton Rouge, LA**

SUBMITTED BY:

APPROVED BY:



Ashley Vicknair, FRS Board Secretary



Perry Jeselink, FRS Chairman