

MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
August 8, 2024

A meeting of the Board of Trustees was held on August 8, 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 Mr. Romero 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)
Louis Romero
Mayor Chad Monceaux

OTHERS PRESENT

Barbara Goodson	David Barnes
Marella Houghton	Greg Curran
Layne McKinney	Joey David
Michael Becker	Terry Stuard
Ashley Vicknair	Chad Duffaut
Ben Johnson	Chris Kaufmann
Caitlin Myers	Diana Kodanov
Daniel Loper	
William Hall	

MINUTES

MOTION: Mr. Birdwell moved to approve the minutes of the board meeting held on July 11, 2024. Mr. Romero 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 August 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 August 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 August 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 August 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 August 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 August 2024. Mayor Monceaux seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

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

MONTHLY FLASH REPORT – JULY 2024 (PRELIMINARY)

Mr. Barnes, consultant with NEPC, presented the preliminary monthly flash report for the month of July 2024. (see attached Exhibit #4)

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

ACTIVE AND PASSIVE INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT

Michael Becker, FRS CIO, and Daniel Loper, FRS Investment Analyst, addressed the board. Mr. Loper presented the board with an educational presentation covering an Active/Passive Review (see attached Exhibit #5). He presented definitions of complex investment terms, explained assumptions and correlations, and recommended three actions. Mr. Loper recommended to adopt the recommended mix of active management and passive indexing and authorize NEPC and staff to perform an index search to consolidate indexes, perform a Global Equity manager search to find complementary manager(s) and rebalance to 100% active in Global Equity at approximately 20% of equity portfolio, perform a SMID cap Equity manager search to find complementary manager(s) and rebalance to approximately 75% active, and for staff to continue to research more effective ways to use active/passive in other areas.

Mr. Barnes addressed the board. He presented the board with an education presentation covering Active/Passive Review (see attached Exhibit #6). He presented a research study, detailed analysis, and recommendations. Mr. Barnes recommended an increase in active management and manager diversification in US SMID Cap Equity and Global Equity and to conduct a review of active manager composition within emerging markets equity asset class.

MOTION: Mr. Tarleton moved to accept the NEPC & FRS staff recommendations. Mr. Birdwell seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

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

FRS POLICIES

- A. No. 09281983(b) – Employee Annual and Sick Leave Policy
- B. No. 01142016 – Family Leave and Family Leave Without Pay

Ms. Goodson asked the chairman to defer these items until next month, since there are more policies to address, and the staff would like to present them to committee before presenting to the full board. The chairman agreed.

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, Ben Johnson, FRS Accountant, and Ashley Vicknair, Employer Liaison, to provide the board with an update regarding the PTG software implementation progress. Ms. Myers explained to the board that while the new software calculations are much faster and more efficient in PTG, there are still some programming issues that need to be resolved before another data upload can be performed. It is anticipated that these programming issues should be resolved within the next few weeks. Mr. Johnson explained that while we are waiting for the programming issues to be resolved, the full go live date will be more likely around October 2024. Ms. Vicknair explained that the operating components of the Employer Reporting Portal work great and there are no issues. She added that the staff has discovered incorrect reporting of salary for certain employees, and that employers are submitting corrections for incorrectly reported salary in one lump sum payment, and this is not allowed in PTG. Ms. Vicknair then added that the staff will need to send a notification out to all employers' payroll and fire chief contacts on how to correctly report corrections for incorrect salary.

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

Ms. Goodson updated the board regarding conferences and staff presentations that will be taking place within the next couple of months. She also notified the board of a retirement notice received from FRS' CFO, Layne McKinney. Mr. McKinney will retire January 3, 2025.

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

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

FUTURE MEETINGS

**FRS System's Recommendation Committee
Wednesday, September 11, 2024, at 1:00 p.m.**

**FRS Investment Committee
Wednesday, September 11, 2024, at the later of 1:15 p.m. or adjournment of the
FRS System's Recommendation Committee**

**FRS Personnel Committee
Wednesday, September 11, 2024, at the later of 2:30 p.m. or adjournment of the
FRS Investment Committee**

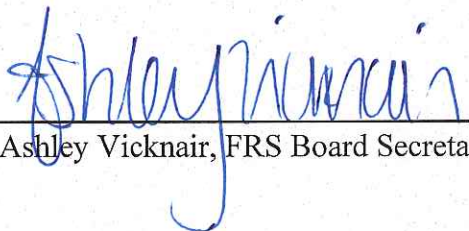
**FRS Policy, Bylaws, and Procedure Committee
Wednesday, September 11, 2024, at the later of 3:00 p.m. or adjournment of the
FRS Personnel Committee**

**FRS Board of Trustees
Thursday, September 12, 2024, at 8:30 a.m.**

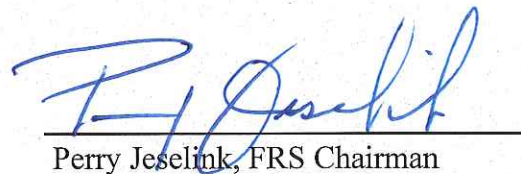
**All meetings to be held at
3100 Brentwood Dr. Baton Rouge, LA**

SUBMITTED BY:

APPROVED BY:



Ashley Vicknair, FRS Board Secretary



Perry Jeselink, FRS Chairman