

MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
November 14, 2024

A meeting of the Board of Trustees was held on November 14, 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
Chief Jerry Tarleton
Stacy Birdwell
Brian Fleming (designee of Commissioner Taylor Barras)
Mayor Darnell Waites
Louis Romero
Chief Clarence Reese

OTHERS PRESENT

Barbara Goodson	Alana Perrin
Marella Houghton	Henry Olinde
Layne McKinney	Bennie Oubre
Michael Becker	Paul Smith
Ben Johnson	Dennie Boyt
Ashley Vicknair	Bernie Piro
Caitlin Myers	Chad Duffaut
William Hall	Terry Stuard
Daniel Loper	Diana Kodanov
Parker Hoshman	Brandon Lee
Tara Petit	Terry Castille
David Barnes	
Greg Curran	

MINUTES

MOTION: Mr. Birdwell moved to approve the minutes of the board meeting held on October 10, 2024. Mr. Romero seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

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

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OLD BUSINESS

Ms. Goodson explained that the FRS attorney was present to discuss legislation.

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

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

MOTION: Mr. Birdwell moved to allow the Executive Director to start the process of the nominations for a new retiree representative on the FRS Board of Trustees for the board to move up from 11 members to 13 members. 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 November 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 November 2024. Mr. Romero 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 November 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 November 2024. Mr. Romero 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 November 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 November 2024. Mr. Romero seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Myers presented an additional survivor application. (see attached Exhibit #4). She explained that the board may want to discuss off the record.

MOTION: Mr. Birdwell moved to enter executive session. Mr. Romero seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: Mr. Birdwell moved to resume public session. Mr. Romero seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: Mr. Birdwell moved to accept the staff recommendation for an in the line of duty survivor benefit for the survivor applicant. Mr. Tarleton 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 November 14, 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, Mr. Reese, Marella Houghton, Layne McKinney, Michael Becker, Ben Johnson, Caitlin Myers, William Hall, Daniel Loper, Ashley Vicknair, Tara Petit, Parker Hoshman, David Barnes, Greg Curran, Paul Smith, Dennie Boyt, Bernie Piro, Bennie Oubre, Brandon Lee, Terry Stuard, Chad Duffaut, and Diana Kodanov.]

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

Mr. Becker updated the advisory committee about the sale of the Arizona property. He explained that the sale occurred, and we closed October 30, 2024. He added that we received the funds as well.

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

ADJOURN FRS-LLC JOINT ADVISORY COMMITTEE**RECONVENE FRS BOARD MEETING****MONTHLY FLASH REPORT – OCTOBER 2024**

Mr. Barnes, consultant with NEPC, presented the monthly flash report for the month of October 2024. (see attached Exhibit #5) The overall fund was up as follows: -2.1% for the month of October as compared to the allocation index of -2.1%, 8.5% for the calendar year to date as compared to the allocation index of 9.4%, 20.3% for the trailing 12 months as compared to the allocation index of 21.3%; and 3.0% for the trailing 3 years as compared to the allocation index of 2.7%.

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

COMMITTEE REPORT - INVESTMENT COMMITTEE

[NOTE: The Investment Committee met November 13, 2024, at the FRS office in Baton Rouge at 1:00 p.m. to discuss the following business set forth in its posted agenda- (i) Hightower Holding majority acquisition of NEPC, (ii) Discussion and action regarding FRS' monthly investment performance results for October 2024, (iii) Global Equity Search Update, and all items related to the foregoing items. The minutes of that meeting are embedded herein. Committee members present were Mr. Tarleton chairman; Mr. Birdwell, Mr. Romero, and Mr. Fleming. Also present were Mr Jeselink,

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Mayor Waites, Barbara Goodson, Marella Houghton, Layne McKinney, Michael Becker, Daniel Loper, Ashley Vicknair, Ben Johnson, Caitlin Myers, William Hall, and David Barnes.]

Mr. Tarleton provided the investment committee report. He explained that Mr. Barnes presented the committee with the flash report for October 2024, see above.

- Hightower Holding majority acquisition of NEPC

Mr. Tarleton explained that Mr. Barnes presented the committee with an update regarding NEPC. (see attached Exhibit #6) He added that Mr. Barnes explained to the committee that Hightower Advisors, held by Lee Equities, assumed an 80% ownership of NEPC, with the remaining 20% owned by NEPC. Mr. Tarleton added that Mr. Barnes signed a contract to stay with NEPC and this event should not cause disruptions with any of FRS' investments. There was no action needed.

- Global Equity Search Update

Mr. Tarleton explained that Mr. Barnes presented the committee with an update of the Global Equity Search. He added that Mr. Barnes explained to the committee that NEPC received 68 responses for the search and these candidates' performances were put through a screening process. Mr. Tarleton then added that Mr. Barnes explained to the committee that he will bring 6-8 of the candidates to the committee meeting in January 2025. There was no action needed.

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

That concluded the Investment Committee report.

ACTUARIAL VALUATION - FY 2023-24

Greg Curran, FRS Actuary, addressed the board. He drew the board's attention to the FRS Annual Valuation for FY 2023-24. (see attached Exhibit #7) Mr. Curran then highlighted certain portions of the valuation, including the schedules. He explained the Summary Results by indicating that, since last year, FRS has - (i) Increased its funding percentage from 80.71% to 81.86%, (ii) Decreased its UAL by \$34 million, and (iii) Decreased the employer contribution rate by 1.25%.

MOTION: Mr. Birdwell moved to accept the Valuation report as presented by Mr. Curran. Mr. Romero seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

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

FINANCIAL REPORTING

Greg Curran drew the board's attention to a report titled "Information for Financial Reporting as of June 30, 2024" (see attached Exhibit #8) He highlighted certain portions of the report and answered questions from the board.

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MOTION: Mr. Reese moved to accept the report as presented by Mr. Curran. Mr. Romero seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

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

EXPERIENCE STUDY

Greg Curran drew the board's attention to a letter sent to Ms. Goodson regarding the Experience Study for 2025. (see attached Exhibit #9) He explained that this study should be done every five years, and the next study is expected to be complete by March 2025.

MOTION: Mr. Birdwell moved to accept the Experience Study proposal presented by Mr. Curran. Mayor Waites seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

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

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN FIDUCIARY NET POSITION - PRELIMINARY AND STATEMENT OF FIDUCIARY NET POSITION - PRELIMINARY FOR FIRST QUARTER OF FY2024-25

Ben Johnson, FRS Accountant, addressed the board. He drew the board's attention to two reports titled "Statement of Changes in Fiduciary Net Position-Preliminary " (see attached Exhibit #10) and "Statement of Fiduciary Net Position-Preliminary for first quarter of FY2024-25". (see attached Exhibit #11) He explained each report on a line-by-line basis.

MOTION: Mr. Birdwell moved to accept the Statement of Changes in Fiduciary Net Position - Preliminary the Statement of Fiduciary Net Position-Preliminary for the first quarter of FY2024-25 as presented by Mr. Johnson. Mr. Fleming seconded. The motion passed.

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

FRS BUDGET TO ACTUAL COMPARISON FY2024-25

Mr. Johnson addressed the board. He drew the board's attention to the FRS FY2024-25 Annual/Quarterly Budget to Actual Comparison. (see attached Exhibit #12) In explaining some of the line items of the report, he highlighted certain variances.

MOTION: Mr. Birdwell moved to accept the staff report as presented by Mr. Johnson. Mayor Waites seconded. The motion passed.

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

COMMITTEE REPORT – PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

[NOTE: The Personnel Committee met November 13, 2024, at the FRS office in Baton Rouge at 2:30 p.m. to discuss the following business set forth in its posted agenda- (i) Discussion and action regarding promotion recommendations, and all items related to the foregoing items. The minutes of that meeting

are embedded herein. Committee members present were Mr. Romero, chairman; Mayor Waites, Mr. Birdwell, and Mr. Fleming. Also present were Perry Jeselink, Jerry Tarleton, Barbara Goodson, Marella Houghton, Ashley Vicknair and Michael Becker.]

Mr. Romero provided the system's recommendation committee report. He explained that the committee discussed the one item on the agenda resulting in a recommendation to the full board to allow the Executive Director to promote Investment Analyst, Daniel Loper, from an Investment Analyst I to an Investment Analyst II.

MOTION: Mr. Romero moved to accept the personnel committee's recommendation to allow the Executive Director to promote the Investment Analyst I to an Investment Analyst II. Mayor Waites seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

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

That concluded the Personnel Committee report.

PTG ADMINISTRATION SOFTWARE UPDATE

Caitlin Myers, FRS Benefits Manager, and Ben Johnson, FRS accountant, provided the board with an update regarding the PTG software implementation progress. Ms. Myers explained to the board that the staff ran another month of payroll through the new system as a test and there were no errors. She added that the staff will run a final third payroll this week. Ms. Myers explained that due to the portfolio interest being posted mid-December, FRS will not be able to go live in the new system until February 1, 2025. Mr. Johnson explained that there were no new issues on the accounting side.

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

OTHER BUSINESS

Ms. Houghton explained to the board that FRS CFO, Layne McKinney, will be retiring January 3, 2025. She stated that Mr. McKinney has been with FRS for the past 12 years and thanked him for his service. She further added that after the December board meeting, everyone is invited to join us for a retirement luncheon for Mr. McKinney. The staff and board then congratulated Mr. McKinney.

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

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

FUTURE MEETINGS

**FRS Policy, Bylaws & Procedure Committee Meeting
Wednesday, December 11, 2024, at 1:00 p.m.**

**FRS Investment Committee Meeting
Wednesday, December 11, 2024,
at the later of 1:30 p.m. or adjournment of
the FRS Policy, Bylaws & Procedure Committee**

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

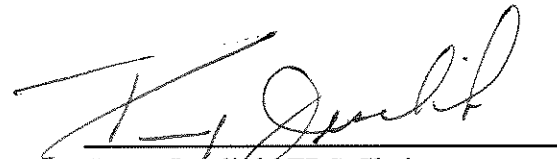
**All meetings to be held at
3100 Brentwood Dr. Baton Rouge, LA**

SUBMITTED BY:



Ashley Vicknair, FRS Board Secretary

APPROVED BY:



Perry Jeselink, FRS Chairman