

MEDICAL EXAMINING BOARD for DISABILITY RETIREMENT



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
RETIREMENT SERVICES DIVISION
OFFICE of the STATE COMPTROLLER
165 Capitol Ave.
Hartford, CT 06106

PHONE: (860) 702-3480 | EMAIL: OSC.RSD@CT.GOV

DRAFT STATE OF CONNECTICUT STATE EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT COMMISSION

A regular meeting of the State Employees Retirement Commission (the "Commission") was held on January 21, 2021 in the 3rd Floor Conference Room at 165 Capitol Ave. Hartford, CT; however, the building was closed to the public due to COVID-19 and the meeting was held electronically via Zoom. The meeting convened at 9:00 a.m. and the following members of the Commission were present:

- Peter Adomeit, Chairman
- Michael Bailey, Trustee
- Sandra Fae Brown Brewton, Trustee
- Karen Buffkin, Trustee
- Michael Carey, Trustee
- Martha Carlson, Deputy Comptroller, Ex Officio Member
- Carl Chisem, Trustee
- Robert D. Coffey, Trustee
- Paul Fortier, Trustee
- Sal Luciano, Trustee
- Karen Nolen, Trustee
- Claude Poulin, Trustee
- Angel Quiros, Trustee
- Timothy Ryor, Trustee
- Mark Sciota, Municipal Liaison

The following members of the Commission were absent:

- Janet Andrews, Trustee
- John Flores, General Counsel Office of the Treasurer, Ex Officio Member

Also present were:

- Bruce Barth, Tax Counsel to the Commission, Robinson & Cole
- Cindy Cieslak, General Counsel to the Commission, Rose Kallor
- John Herrington, Director, Retirement Services Division
- Colin Newman, Assistant Director, Retirement Services Division
- Michael Rose, General Counsel to the Commission, Rose Kallor
- Alisha Sullivan, Tax Counsel to the Commission, Robinson & Cole

Call to Order



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Chairman Adomeit called the meeting to order at 9:06 a.m. Attorney Cieslak identified those in attendance.

Chairman's Report

At 9:08 a.m., the Chairman provided his report. The Chairman recognized the Division's work over the last several months.

Division Director's Report

At 9:09 a.m., Mr. Herrington provided the Division Director's Report.

Division Director Report (1/21/2021)

I. Disability Retirements

- **A.** Pending Disability Applications for the Initial Review by the Medical Examining Board: The Division is in the process of adding additional meetings for 2021 in attempt to reduce the wait period. Currently scheduling into May 2021.
 - There are 114 Disability Retirement Applications pending of which:
 - o 18 New applications received for December 2020 and January 2021
 - 94 Applications have been scheduled for MEB hearings through May 2021
 - 20 Applications are awaiting additional medical documentation

	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
2021	114											
2020	291	232	226	197	162	140	117	114	97	86	83	108

B. Twenty-Four Month Reviews

144 Cases are due for a 24-month review.

- o O Cases are receiving SSD benefits (Expedited Approvals Process)
- 144 Cases Retiree does not appear to be receiving SSD benefits.
 - 38 have retirement dates beyond 24 months old.





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C. Disability Files Processed:

	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
2021	60											
2020	19	93	103	48	29	53	43	38	38	44	35	39

D. <u>Disability Backlog</u>:

	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
2021	1527											
2020	1992	1868	1777	1729	1765	1739	1732	1687	1687	1675	1625	1596

II. Normal Retirement Audits:

	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
2021	243												
2020	178	166	149	268	149	140	170	226	198	219	101	92	2056
10-YR Avg	164	142	124	234	119	192	251	166	167	226	107	91	1982

At 9:18 a.m., Ms. Carlson provided an update regarding operations within the Division.

At 9:36 a.m., Mr. Poulin moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to amend the agenda to add the following three items to the agenda as Items 18, 19, and 20 under New Matters:

1. Commission Acceptance of the Valuation Report for the Connecticut Municipal Employees Retirement System prepared as of June 30, 2020.



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- 2. Commission Acceptance of the Valuation Report for the Connecticut Policemen and Firemen Survivors' Benefit Fund prepared as of June 30, 2020.
- 3. Commission Acceptance of the Revised Valuation Report for State Employees Retirement System prepared as of June 30, 2020.

The Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote. The Commission voted unanimously in favor to amend the agenda.

New Matters

- 1. Request Commission Approval of the December 17, 2020 minutes.
 - i. At 9:36 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to approve the December 17, 2020 minutes.
 - ii. Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote.
- iii. The Commission voted unanimously in favor to approve the December 17, 2020 minutes.
- 2. Request Commission Approval of the State Employees Retirement Commission Chairman's Per Diem Expenses.
 - i. At 9:37 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to approve the State Employees Retirement Commission Chairman's Per Diem Expenses
 - ii. Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote.
- iii. The Commission voted unanimously in favor to approve the State Employees Retirement Commission Chairman's Per Diem Expenses.
- 3. Request Commission Approval of the State Employees Retirement Commission Union Trustee Claude Poulin's Per Diem and Travel Expenses Reimbursement.
 - i. At 9:37 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to approve the State Employees Retirement Commission Union Trustee Claude Poulin's Per Diem and Travel Expenses Reimbursement.
- ii. Mr. Poulin abstained.
- iii. Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote.
- iv. The Commission voted unanimously in favor, with Mr. Poulin abstaining, to approve the State Employees Retirement Commission Union Trustee Claude Poulin's Per Diem and Travel Expenses Reimbursement.
- 4. Request Commission Approval of the State Employees Retirement Commission Management Trustee Timothy A. Ryor's Per Diem Expenses.



MEDICAL EXAMINING BOARD for DISABILITY RETIREMENT



STATE OF CONNECTICUT RETIREMENT SERVICES DIVISION OFFICE of the STATE COMPTROLLER 165 Capitol Ave. Hartford, CT 06106

- i. At 9:37 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to approve the State Employees Retirement Commission Management Trustee Timothy A. Ryor's Per Diem Expenses.
- ii. Mr. Ryor abstained.
- iii. Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote.
- iv. The Commission voted unanimously in favor, with Mr. Ryor abstaining, to approve the State Employees Retirement Commission Management Trustee Timothy A. Ryor's Per Diem Expenses.
- 5. Request Commission Acceptance of the Invoices from Robinson and Cole for Federal Tax Matters rendered for the month of December.
 - i. At 9:38 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to accept the invoices from Robinson and Cole for Federal Tax Matters rendered for the month of December.
 - ii. Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote.
- iii. The Commission voted unanimously in favor to accept the invoices from Robinson and Cole for Federal Tax Matters rendered for the month of December.
- 6. Request Commission Acceptance of the Invoices from Rose Kallor rendered for the month of December.
 - i. At 9:38 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to accept the invoices from Rose Kallor rendered for the month of December.
 - ii. Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a
- iii. The Commission voted unanimously in favor to accept the invoices from Rose Kallor rendered for the month of December.
- 7. Request Commission Approval of the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Service Retirements for the Month of December 2020.
 - i. At 9:38 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to approve the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Service Retirements for the Month of December 2020.
 - ii. Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote.
- iii. The Commission voted unanimously in favor to approve the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Service Retirements for the Month of December 2020.
- 8. Request Commission Approval of the Connecticut State Employees System Voluntary Pending Retirements for the Month of December 2020.



MEDICAL EXAMINING BOARD for DISABILITY RETIREMENT



STATE OF CONNECTICUT RETIREMENT SERVICES DIVISION OFFICE of the STATE COMPTROLLER 165 Capitol Ave. Hartford, CT 06106

- i. At 9:38 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to approve the Connecticut State Employees System Voluntary Pending Retirements for the Month of December 2020.
- ii. Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote.
- iii. The Commission voted unanimously in favor to approve the Connecticut State Employees System Voluntary Pending Retirements for the Month of December 2020.
- 9. Request Commission Approval of the Connecticut State Employees System Retroactive Retirements for the Month of December 2020.
 - i. At 9:38 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to approve the Connecticut State Employees System Retroactive Retirements for the Month of December 2020.
 - ii. Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote.
- iii. The Commission voted unanimously in favor to approve the Connecticut State Employees System Retroactive Retirements for the Month of December 2020.
- 10. Request Commission Approval of the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Municipal Employees Retirements for the Month of December 2020.
 - i. At 9:38 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to approve the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Municipal Employees Retirements for the Month of December 2020.
 - ii. Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote
- iii. The Commission voted unanimously in favor to approve the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Municipal Employees Retirements for the Month of December 2020.
- 11. Request Commission Approval of the Municipal Retirement System Disability Retirements Denials.
 - i. At 9:38 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to approve the Municipal Retirement System Disability Retirements Denials.
 - ii. Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote.
- iii. The Commission voted unanimously in favor to approve the Municipal Retirement System Disability Retirements Denials.
- 12. Request Commission Acceptance of the Recommendations by the Medical Examining Board for the Continued Entitlement Tabled and Denials.



MEDICAL EXAMINING BOARD for DISABILITY RETIREMENT



STATE OF CONNECTICUT RETIREMENT SERVICES DIVISION OFFICE of the STATE COMPTROLLER 165 Capitol Ave. Hartford, CT 06106

- i. At 9:39 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to accept the Recommendations by the Medical Examining Board for the Continued Entitlement Tabled and Denials.
- ii. Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote.
- iii. The Commission voted unanimously in favor to accept the Recommendations by the Medical Examining Board for the Continued Entitlement Tabled and Denials.
- 13. Request Commission Acceptance of the Recommendations by the Medical Examining Board for the Continued Entitlement Approvals.
 - i. At 9:39 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to accept the Recommendations by the Medical Examining Board for the Continued Entitlement Approvals.
 - ii. Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote.
- iii. The Commission voted unanimously in favor to accept the Recommendations by the Medical Examining Board for the Continued Entitlement Approvals.
- 14. Request Commission Approval of the Connecticut Probate Judges and Employees Retirement System.
 - i. At 9:39 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to approve the Connecticut Probate Judges and Employees Retirement System.
 - ii. Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote.
- iii. The Commission voted unanimously in favor to approve the Connecticut Probate Judges and Employees Retirement System.
- 15. Request Commission Approval of the Probate Judges and Employees Retirement Fund Personnel Expenses for the Pay Period November 6, 2020 through December 17, 2020.
 - i. At 9:39 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to approve the Probate Judges and Employees Retirement Fund Personnel Expenses for the Pay Period November 6, 2020 through December 17, 2020.
 - ii. Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote.
- iii. The Commission voted unanimously in favor to approve the Probate Judges and Employees Retirement Fund Personnel Expenses for the Pay Period November 6, 2020 through December 17, 2020.
- 16. Request Commission Approval of the Recommendation from the Hazardous Duty Subcommittee Meeting held on January 5, 2021.



MEDICAL EXAMINING BOARD for DISABILITY RETIREMENT



STATE OF CONNECTICUT RETIREMENT SERVICES DIVISION OFFICE of the STATE COMPTROLLER 165 Capitol Ave. Hartford, CT 06106

- i. At 9:39 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to approve the recommendation from the Hazardous Duty Subcommittee meeting held on January 5, 2021.
- ii. Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote.
- iii. The Commission voted unanimously in favor to approve the recommendation from the Hazardous Duty Subcommittee meeting held on January 5, 2021.
- 17. Consideration of Revision to Goalmaker Program to add supplemental model portfolios to accommodate needs of retirees and younger workers.
 - i. At 9:40 a.m., Mr. Luciano called for discussion on Item 17. Mr. Carey provided a summary of the Investment Subcommittee's review and discussion.
- ii. At 9:42 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Carey, to approve the revision to the Goalmaker Program to add supplemental model portfolios to accommodate needs of retirees and younger workers.
- iii. Chairman asked if there was any further discussion. There being no further discussion he called for a vote.
- iv. The Commission voted unanimously in favor to approve the revision to the Goalmaker Program to add supplemental model portfolios to accommodate needs of retirees and younger workers.
- 18. Request Commission Acceptance of the Valuation Report for the Connecticut Municipal Employees Retirement System prepared as of June 30, 2020.
 - i. At 9:43 a.m., Mr. Luciano called for discussion on Item 18.
 - ii. Mr. Poulin provided a summary of the Valuation Report for the Connecticut Municipal Employees Retirement System prepared as of June 30, 2020.
- iii. At 9:45 a.m., Mr. Poulin moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to accept the Valuation Report for the Connecticut Municipal Employees Retirement System prepared as of June 30, 2020.
- iv. Chairman asked if there was any further discussion. There being no further discussion he called for a vote.
- v. The Commission voted unanimously in favor to accept the Valuation Report for the Connecticut Municipal Employees Retirement System prepared as of June 30, 2020.
- 19. Request Commission Acceptance of the Valuation Report for the Connecticut Policemen and Firemen Survivors' Benefit Fund prepared as of June 30, 2020.
 - i. At 9:45 a.m., Mr. Poulin moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to accept the Valuation Report for the Connecticut Policemen and Firemen Survivors' Benefit Fund prepared as of June 30, 2020.



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- ii. Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote.
- iii. The Commission voted unanimously in favor to accept the Valuation Report for the Connecticut Policemen and Firemen Survivors' Benefit Fund prepared as of June 30, 2020.
- 20. Request Commission Acceptance of the Revised Valuation Report for State Employees Retirement System prepared as of June 30, 2020.
 - i. At 9:45 a.m., Mr. Poulin moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to accept the Revised Valuation Report for State Employees Retirement System prepared as of June 30, 2020.
 - ii. Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote.
- iii. The Commission voted unanimously in favor to accept the Revised Valuation Report for State Employees Retirement System prepared as of June 30, 2020.

Executive Session – Discussion and Possible Action

- 1. Amendment to ARP Plan written legal opinion.
- 2. Albert Horvath appeal written legal opinion.
- 3. Hartford Housing Authority written legal opinion.
- 4. Ronald Johnson v. SERC pending claim/pending litigation.
- 5. Ralph Tedesco v. SERC pending litigation.
- 6. Thomas Giarratona v. CMERS pending litigation.
- 7. Request for MEB doctors' email addresses written legal opinion.
- 8. Cynthia Dabbs-Lindenberger appeal written legal opinion.
- 9. Catherine Crandle v. SERC pending litigation.
- 10. Marianna Grzeszczyk v. SERC pending litigation.
- 11. Brian Comerford v. SERC pending litigation.

At 9:46 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to suspend the regular meeting and go into executive session for the purposes of discussing Item 1. Attorney Barth, Attorney Cieslak, John Herrington, Colin Newman, Attorney Rose, and Attorney Sullivan were invited by the Commission to stay for executive session. The Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote. The Commission voted unanimously in favor to enter executive session to discuss Item 1.

At 9:48 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to exit executive session. The Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote. The Commission voted unanimously to exit executive session.



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At 9:48 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to go into executive session for purposes of discussing Item 2. Attorney Barth, Attorney Cieslak, John Herrington, Colin Newman, Attorney Rose, and Attorney Sullivan were invited by the Commission to stay for executive session. The Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote. The Commission voted unanimously in favor to enter executive session to discuss Item 2.

At 9:51 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Quiros to exit executive session. The Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote. The Commission voted unanimously to exit executive session.

At 9:51 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to go into executive session for purposes of discussing Item 3. Attorney Barth, Attorney Cieslak, John Herrington, Colin Newman, Attorney Rose, and Attorney Sullivan were invited by the Commission to stay for executive session. The Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote. The Commission voted unanimously in favor to enter executive session to discuss Item 3.

At 9:52 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to exit executive session. The Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote. The Commission voted unanimously to exit executive session.

At 9:53 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to go into executive session for purposes of discussing Item 4. Attorney Barth, Attorney Cieslak, John Herrington, Colin Newman, Attorney Rose, and Attorney Sullivan were invited by the Commission to stay for executive session. The Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote. The Commission voted unanimously in favor to enter executive session to discuss Item 4.

At 9:56 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to exit executive session. The Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote. The Commission voted unanimously to exit executive session.

At 9:57 a.m., Attorney Barth and Attorney Sullivan exited the meeting.

At 9:57 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to go into executive session for purposes of discussing Item 5. Attorney Cieslak, John Herrington, Colin Newman, and Attorney Rose were invited by the Commission to stay for executive session. The Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote. The Commission voted unanimously in favor to enter executive session to discuss Item 5.



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At 9:57 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to exit executive session. The Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote. The Commission voted unanimously to exit executive session.

At 9:58 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to go into executive session for purposes of discussing Item 6. Attorney Cieslak, John Herrington, Colin Newman, and Attorney Rose were invited by the Commission to stay for executive session. The Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote. The Commission voted unanimously in favor to enter executive session to discuss Item 6.

At 9:59 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to exit executive session. The Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote. The Commission voted unanimously to exit executive session.

At 9:59 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to go into executive session for purposes of discussing Item 7. Attorney Cieslak, John Herrington, Colin Newman, and Attorney Rose were invited by the Commission to stay for executive session. The Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote. The Commission voted unanimously in favor to enter executive session to discuss Item 7.

At 10:01 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to exit executive session. The Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote. The Commission voted unanimously to exit executive session.

At 10:01 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to go into executive session for purposes of discussing Item 8. Attorney Cieslak, John Herrington, Colin Newman, and Attorney Rose invited by the Commission to stay for executive session. The Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote. The Commission voted unanimously in favor to enter executive session to discuss Item 8.

At 10:16 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to exit executive session. The Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote. The Commission voted unanimously to exit executive session.

At 10:16 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to go into executive session for purposes of discussing Item 9. Attorney Cieslak, John Herrington, Colin Newman, and Attorney Rose invited by the Commission to stay for executive session. The Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote. The Commission voted unanimously in favor to enter executive session to discuss Item 9.



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At 10:19 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to exit executive session. The Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote. The Commission voted unanimously to exit executive session.

At 10:19 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to go into executive session for purposes of discussing Item 10. Attorney Cieslak, John Herrington, Colin Newman, and Attorney Rose invited by the Commission to stay for executive session. The Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote. The Commission voted unanimously in favor to enter executive session to discuss Item 10.

At 10:22 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to exit executive session. The Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote. The Commission voted unanimously to exit executive session.

At 10:22 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to go into executive session for purposes of discussing Item 11. Attorney Cieslak, John Herrington, Colin Newman, and Attorney Rose invited by the Commission to stay for executive session. The Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote. The Commission voted unanimously in favor to enter executive session to discuss Item 11.

At 10:24 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to exit executive session. The Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote. The Commission voted unanimously to exit executive session.

Public Session

At 10:24 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to approve the amendment to the ARP plan as described. The Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote. The Commission voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

At 10:24 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to deny Mr. Horvath's appeal. The Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote. The Commission voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

At 10:25 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to deny the request for the MEB doctor's emails with an explanation as to the reason therefor. The Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote. The Commission voted unanimously in favor of the motion.



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At 10:25 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to deny Ms. Dabbs-Lindenberger's appeal, provided however, she will receive relief because her pension benefit will be effective the month after she submitted her retirement application.

Adjournment

With no further business before the Commission, Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to adjourn at 10:26 a.m. The Commission voted unanimously to adjourn.

Respectfully Submitted by:	
Peter Adomeit, Chairman	-
Prepared by John Herrington Director Retirement Services Division	