

APPROVED

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF RETIREMENT
LOS ANGELES COUNTY EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION**

300 N. LAKE AVENUE, SUITE 810, PASADENA, CA 91101

9:00 A.M., WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2024

This meeting was conducted by the Board of Retirement both in person and by teleconference under California Government Code Section 54953(b), (f).

TRUSTEES PRESENT:

Shawn R. Kehoe, Chair (Alternate Safety)

Les Robbins, Vice Chair

Ronald Okum, Secretary
(Teleconference Due to Emergency pursuant to Government Code
Section 54954.2 (b)(2))

Nancy Durazo (Joined the meeting at 9:17 a.m.)

Jason E. Green (Joined the meeting at 9:30 a.m.)

Wayne Moore

Keith Knox

David Ryu (Teleconference under 54953(b))

Antonio Sanchez

TRUSTEES ABSENT:

Vivian H. Gray

JP Harris (Alternate Retired)

STAFF ADVISORS AND PARTICIPANTS

Santos H. Kreimann, Chief Executive Officer

Luis A. Lugo, Deputy Chief Executive Officer

STAFF ADVISORS AND PARTICIPANTS (Continued)

JJ Popowich, Assistant Executive Officer

Laura Guglielmo, Assistant Executive Officer

Jonathan Grabel, Chief Investment Officer

Steven P. Rice, Chief Counsel

Francis J. Boyd, Senior Staff Counsel

Jasmine Bath, Senior Staff Counsel

Louis Gittens, Benefits Division Manager

Cassandra Smith, Retiree Healthcare Director

Dr. Glenn Ehresmann, Medical Advisor

Vincent Lim, Disability Litigation Manager

Allison Barrett, Senior Staff Counsel

Chaitanya Errande, Information Security Officer

Tatiana Bayer, Member Services Division Manager

Barry W. Lew, Legislative Affairs Officer

Carly Ntoya, Human Resources Director

Tamara Caldwell, Disability Retirement Manager

Vickie Neely, Disability Retirement Specialist Supervisor

Kerri Wilson, Disability Retirement Specialist Supervisor

Hernan Barrientos, Disability Retirement Specialist Supervisor

Ricardo Salinas, Disability Retirement Specialist Supervisor

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair Kehoe at 9:08 a.m. in the Board Room of Gateway Plaza.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Trustee Moore led the Trustees and staff in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. PROCEDURE FOR TELECONFERENCE MEETING ATTENDANCE UNDER AB 2449, California Government Code Section 54953 (f)

A. Just Cause

B. Action on Emergency Circumstance Requests

C. Statement of Persons Present at AB 2449 Teleconference Locations

A physical quorum was present at the noticed meeting location. There were no requests from Trustees for Just Cause (A) or Emergency Circumstances (B).

The Governor of California signed a proclamation for Los Angeles County declaring a state of emergency due to heavy rains. On a motion by Trustee Kehoe, seconded by Trustee Okum, to approve an urgency item Government Code Section 54954.2(b)(2) and a state of emergency pursuant to Government Code Section 54953(e) for purposes of teleconference attendance at this meeting.

The motion passed by the following roll call vote:

Yes: Kehoe, Knox, Moore, Okum, Robbins, Ryu, Sanchez

Absent: Durazo, Green

IV. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

A. Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of January 3, 2024

Trustee Knox made a motion, Trustee Okum seconded, to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of January 3, 2024. The motion passed by the following roll call vote:

IV. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES (Continued)

Yes: Kehoe, Knox, Moore, Okum, Robbins, Ryu, Sanchez

Absent: Durazo, Green, PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no requests made by the public.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no requests from the public to speak.

VI. EXECUTIVE UPDATE

A. LACERA All Stars

Mr. Popowich announced the winners for the month: Frank Staten, Bill Lindstrom, Mike Romero, and Margaret Chwa. The Web Watcher was Maria Calderon and there were no winners for Rideshare.

B. Member Spotlight

Mr. Popowich recognized LACERA member, Gloria Holder.

C. Chief Executive Officer's Report (Trustee Durazo joined the meeting at 9:17 a.m. and Trustee Green joined the meeting at 9:30 a.m.)

Mr. Kreimann provided a brief presentation on the Chief Executive Officer's Report and answered questions from the Board.

VII. DISABILITY RETIREMENT APPLICATIONS ON CONSENT CALENDAR

Safety Law Enforcement

Service-Connected Disability Applications

On a motion by Trustee Kehoe, seconded by Trustee Green, the Board of Retirement approved a service-connected disability retirement for the following named employees who were found to be disabled for the performance of their duties and have met the burden of proof.

APPLICATION NO.
279E

NAME
KALASSAY, SCOTT E.

VII. DISABILITY RETIREMENT APPLICATIONS ON CONSENT CALENDAR

Safety Law Enforcement (Continued)

Service-Connected Disability Applications

<u>APPLICATION NO.</u>	<u>NAME</u>
280E*	CELAYA, CARLOS J.
281E	ROBINSON, DANNY L.
282E*	SUAREZ, CHERYL
283E	ZOLLO, WILLIAM M., II
284E	VELASCO, RICARDO E.
285E	MEYER, ELIZABETH
286E	FORD, DAVID E.
287E	HEINRICH, GLEN P.
288E	RICHARDSON, MARC M.
289E	HAST, DARRYL M.
290E	SULLIVAN, MELISSA A.
291E**	CHENG, JONATHAN C.
292E	LOMELI-CONANT, MARIA
293E	QUIROZ, ARTURO
294E*	HASELRIG, LAJUANA J.
295E	HUDSON, BRIAN L.
296E	TERRY, IRA M.
297E	MITRY, NABEEL S.
298E***	ARNWINE, LAWRENCE L.
299E	HARRIS, TODD A.
300E	DAILY, RONALD J.
301E	SNAPPER, JOHN R.
302E*	ESCALANTE, WILBERT M.
303E	KERBER, JONATHAN R.
304E	ALFORD, LAKEESHA R.
305E	ALOISE, RICHARD D.
306E	CLARK, GREGORY W.

The motion passed by the following roll call vote:

Yes: Durazo, Green, Kehoe, Knox, Moore, Okum, Robbins, Ryu, Sanchez

*Granted SCD – Retroactive

**Granted SCD – Employer Cannot Accommodate

***Granted SCD – Retroactive Employer Cannot Accommodate

VII. DISABILITY RETIREMENT APPLICATIONS ON CONSENT CALENDAR

Safety Fire, Lifeguards

Service-Connected Disability Applications

On a motion by Trustee Green, seconded by Trustee Okum, the Board of Retirement approved a service-connected disability retirement for the following named employees who were found to be disabled for the performance of their duties and have met the burden of proof.

<u>APPLICATION NO.</u>	<u>NAME</u>
1780B	YBARRA, DAMIAN A.
1781B*	BUSH, KENNETH
1782B	BROWN, MITCHELL C.
1783B	DELANEY, LELAND M.
1784B	TORRES, VICTOR S.
1785B	GARCIA, ARTHUR E.
1786B	BRUNNER, RORY D.
1787B	SWEENEY, PETER A.
1788B	CARRION, ARMANDO, JR.
1789B	TOSHACK, JASON G.
1790B	LOPEZ, RANDOLPH M.
1791B	BUSH, ERIC E.
1792B	LORACK, MARK W.
1793B	SCHUTZE, CURT K.
1794B*	OATES, SHAUN C.
1795B	BOWIE, STEVE A.
1796B	SEGURA, JASMINE

The motion passed by the following roll call vote:

Yes: Durazo, Green, Kehoe, Knox, Moore, Okum, Robbins, Ryu, Sanchez

*Granted SCD – Retroactive

VII. DISABILITY RETIREMENT APPLICATIONS ON CONSENT CALENDAR

General Members

Service-Connected Disability Applications

On a motion by Trustee Okum, seconded by Trustee Knox, the Board of Retirement made a motion to approve a service-connected disability retirement for the following named employees who were found to be disabled for the performance of their duties and have met the burden of proof.

<u>APPLICATION NO.</u>	<u>NAME</u>
2695C	THOMAS, SHELLEY D.
2696C*	GIRON, MARIO
2697C	OLIVARES DE MENDEZ, MARIA DE LOURDE
2698C**	SOTO, EDGAR (DEC'D)
2699C***	YOUNG, TAMMY L.
2700C	GADALLA, EZZAT N.
2701C*	DIAZ, MELISSA M.
2702C	SMITH, TIFFANY S.
2704C*	HILLIARD, ALVIN G.
2705C****	PRADO, DARLENE M.
2706C	WALKER-WITHERS, LOLITA
2707C	RAMIREZ, CLAUDIA
2708C	TOMPKINS, ROGER P., JR.
2709C	CARTER, CECILIA L.

The motion passed by the following roll call vote:

Yes: Durazo, Green, Kehoe, Knox, Moore, Okum, Robbins, Ryu, Sanchez

*Granted SCD – Retroactive Employer Cannot Accommodate

**Granted SCD - Survivor Benefit

***Granted SCD – Retroactive

****Granted SCD – Employer Cannot Accommodate

VII. DISABILITY RETIREMENT APPLICATIONS ON CONSENT CALENDAR

General Members

Nonservice-Connected Disability Applications

On a motion by Trustee Knox, seconded by Trustee Okum, the Board of Retirement made a motion to approve a nonservice-connected disability retirement for the following named employee who was found to be disabled for the performance of her duties and has met the burden of proof.

APPLICATION NO.
4502

NAME
SANCHEZ, DORA I.

The motion passed by the following roll call vote:

Yes: Durazo, Green, Kehoe, Knox, Moore, Okum, Robbins, Ryu, Sanchez

VIII. CONSENT ITEMS

Trustee Knox made a motion, Trustee Sanchez seconded, to approve consent items A-D. The motion passed by the following roll call vote:

The motion passed by the following roll call vote:

Yes: Durazo, Green, Kehoe, Knox, Moore, Okum, Robbins, Ryu, Sanchez

A. Ratification of Service Retirement and Survivor Benefit Application Approvals

Recommendation that the Board approve the service retirements and survivor benefit applications received as of January 30, 2024, along with any retirement rescissions and/or changes approved at last month's Board meeting. (Memo dated January 30, 2024)

B. Compensation Earnable and Pensionable Compensation

Recommendation as submitted by Jean Kim, Senior Staff Counsel and Elaine K. Salon, Staff Counsel: That the Board 1) Adopt Resolutions No. 2024-BR001 and 2024-BR2002, specifying pay items as included and excluded from the definitions of "compensation earnable" and

VIII. CONSENT ITEMS (Continued)

“pensionable compensation.”; and 2) Instruct staff to coordinate with the Auditor-Controller to establish the necessary reporting mechanism and procedures to permit LACERA to include or exclude these items when calculating final compensation. (Memo dated January 18, 2024)

C. **Appeal(s) for the Board of Retirement's Meeting of February 7, 2024**

Recommendation as submitted by Tamara Caldwell, Division Manager, Disability Retirement Services: That the Board grant the appeal(s) and request(s) for administrative hearing received from the following member(s) and direct the Disability Retirement Services Manager to refer each case to a referee: Yolonda D. Freeman, Tania Velasco, Shakeh Hovsepian. (Memo dated January 25, 2024)

D. **Dismiss with Prejudice the Appeal of La'keyta Parker**

Recommendation as submitted by Tamara Caldwell, Division Manager, Disability Retirement Services: That the Board dismiss with prejudice La'keyta Parker's appeal for an earlier effective date. (Memo dated January 30, 2024)

IX. EXCLUDED FROM CONSENT ITEMS

There were no items excluded from Consent items.

X. NON-CONSENT ITEMS

A. **LACERA 2024 Election of Third Member: Approval of Statement of Powers and Duties of Board of Retirement Trustees**

Recommendation as submitted by Steven P. Rice, Chief Counsel: That the Board approve the attached document entitled “Powers and Duties of Board of Retirement Trustees,” which will be included with the ballot materials for the 2024 election of the Third Member of the Board of Retirement and posted on lacera.com. (Memo dated January 31, 2024)

Trustee Knox made a motion, Trustee Kehoe seconded, to approve staff's recommendation.

X. NON-CONSENT ITEMS (Continued)

The motion passed by the following roll call vote:

Yes: Durazo, Green, Kehoe, Knox, Moore, Okum, Robbins, Ryu, Sanchez

B. **Cost-of-Living Adjustment Effective April 1, 2024**

Recommendation as submitted by Ted Granger, Chief Financial Officer: That the Board determine, for the year ended December 2023, the Consumer Price Index changed by 3.5% (or when rounded to the nearest one-half of 1.0% as the COLA benefit rules require, 3.5%: the LACERA 2024 COLA Award), and approve cost-of-living adjustments and respective COLA Accumulation changes for retired LACERA members and beneficiaries, based on retirement plan and date of retirement or death, to become effective April 1, 2024, in accordance with applicable California Government Code Sections. (Memo dated January 22, 2024)

Trustee Kehoe made a motion, Trustee Knox seconded, to approve staff's recommendation. The motion passed by the following roll call vote:

Yes: Durazo, Green, Kehoe, Knox, Moore, Okum, Robbins, Ryu, Sanchez

C. **Disability Case Review CPI Increase in Compensation Effective April 1, 2024**

Recommendation as submitted by Ted Granger, Chief Financial Officer: That the Board determine the Consumer Price Index changed by 8.6% for the last two calendar years ended December 2023 and adjust the compensation for the review and analysis of disability retirement cases to a maximum of \$147 per day, to be prorated for less than eight hours in a single day at the hourly rate of \$18.38, effective April 1, 2024. (Memo dated January 25, 2024)

Trustee Kehoe made a motion, Trustee Knox seconded, to approve staff's recommendation. The motion passed by the following roll call vote:

X. NON-CONSENT ITEMS (Continued)

Yes: Durazo, Green, Kehoe, Knox, Moore, Okum, Robbins, Ryu, Sanchez

D. **Application of Valerie McCoy-Mayfield for Reinstatement to Active Membership**

Recommendation as submitted by Louis Gittens, Benefits Division Manager: That the Board 1) Determine, based upon the medical evaluation conducted January 17, 2024, that Valerie J. McCoy-Mayfield is not incapacitated for the duties assigned to her in the position of Children's Social Worker (CWS) II; and 2) Grant the application of Valerie J. McCoy-Mayfield for reinstatement to active membership: memo date January 22, 2024

(Memo dated January 22, 2024)

Trustee Kehoe made a motion, Trustee Sanchez seconded, to approve staff's recommendation. The motion passed by the following roll call vote:

Yes: Durazo, Green, Kehoe, Knox, Moore, Okum, Robbins, Ryu, Sanchez

E. **Application of Aline T. Bourgeois for Reinstatement to Active Membership**

Recommendation as submitted by Louis Gittens, Benefits Division Manager: That the Board 1) Determine, based upon the medical evaluation conducted January 18, 2024, that Aline T. Bourgeois is not incapacitated for the duties assigned to her in the position of Children's Social Worker Trainee (CWST); and 2) Grant the application of Aline T. Bourgeois for reinstatement to active membership.

(Memo dated January 22, 2024)

Trustee Knox made a motion, Trustee Robbins seconded, to approve staff's recommendation. The motion passed by the following roll call vote:

Yes: Durazo, Green, Kehoe, Knox, Moore, Okum, Robbins, Ryu, Sanchez

XI. REPORTS

A. **Board of Retirement's Role Administering Disability Retirement Applications & Legal Standards for Permanent Incapacity and Service Connection**

Frank Boyd, Senior Staff Counsel
(Presentation)

This Item has been rescheduled and agendized for the next meeting.

B. **Federal and State Legislative Advocates' Self-Evaluations**

Barry W. Lew, Legislative Affairs Officer
(For Information Only) (Memo dated January 25, 2024)

This item was received and filed.

C. **Board of Investments Board Officers – 2024 Calendar Year**

Santos H. Kreimann, Chief Executive Officer
(For Information Only) (Memo dated December 26, 2023)

This item was received and filed.

D. **Report on Compensation Earnable and Pensionable Compensation**

Jean Kim, Senior Staff Counsel
Elaine Salon, Staff Counsel
(For Information Only) (Memo dated January 19, 2024)

This item was received and filed.

E. **Application Processing Time Snapshot Reports**

Tamara Caldwell, Division Manager, Disability Retirement Services
(For Information Only) (Memo dated January 29, 2024)

This item was received and filed.

F. **Monthly Trustee Travel & Education Reports – December 2023**

Ted Granger, Chief Financial Officer
(Public memo dated January 24, 2024) (Confidential memo dated January 24, 2024 - Includes Pending Travel)

XI. REPORTS (Continued)

This item was received and filed.

G. **2024 Quarterly Reports of Paid Invoices**

Tamara Caldwell, Division Manager, Disability Retirement Services
(For Information Only) (Memo dated January 16, 2024) (Attachment is Confidential)

This item was received and filed.

H. **January 2024 Fiduciary Counsel Contract and Billing Report**

Steven P. Rice, Chief Counsel
(For Information Only) (Memo dated January 29, 2024)
(Privileged and Confidential/Attorney-Client Communication/Attorney Work Product)

This item was received and filed.

XII. ITEMS FOR STAFF REVIEW

There were no items to report.

XIII. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

There were no items to report.

XIV. GOOD OF THE ORDER
(For Information Purposes Only)

Trustees congratulated Chief Financial Officer, Ted Granger on his promotion.

XV. DISABILITY RETIREMENT CASES TO BE HELD IN CLOSED SESSION

A. Applications for Disability

APPLICATION NO. & NAME AND BOARD ACTION

5407B – PUENTES, NORMA A.

XV. DISABILITY RETIREMENT CASES TO BE HELD IN CLOSED SESSION

A. Applications for Disability (Continued)

APPLICATION NO. & NAME AND BOARD ACTION

5407B – PUENTES, NORMA A. (Continued)

Trustee Knox made a motion, Trustee Sanchez seconded, to grant a nonservice-connected disability retirement with an option of an earlier effective date pursuant to Government Code Sections 31720 and 31724 since the employer cannot accommodate. The motion passed by the following roll call vote:

Yes: Durazo, Green, Kehoe, Knox, Moore, Okum, Robbins, Ryu, Sanchez

5408B – GREGORY L. KANE*

Trustee Knox made a motion, Trustee Okum seconded, to deny a service-connected disability retirement since the applicant is ineligible. The motion passed by the following roll call vote:

Yes: Durazo, Green, Kehoe, Knox, Moore, Okum, Robbins, Ryu, Sanchez

5409B – MICHAEL L. PALENCIA

Trustee Kehoe made a motion, Trustee Green seconded, to deny a service-connected disability retirement since the employer can accommodate. The motion passed by the following roll call vote:

Yes: Durazo, Green, Kehoe, Knox, Moore, Okum, Robbins, Ryu, Sanchez

*Applicant and/or attorney present

XV. DISABILITY RETIREMENT CASES TO BE HELD IN CLOSED SESSION

A. Applications for Disability (Continued)

APPLICATION NO. & NAME AND BOARD ACTION

5311B – ERICA RODRIGUEZ

Trustee Knox made a motion, Trustee Okum seconded, to continue a nonservice-connected disability retirement pursuant to Government Code Section 31720. The motion passed by the following roll call vote:

Yes: Durazo, Green, Kehoe, Knox, Moore, Okum, Robbins, Ryu, Sanchez

5331B – CRAIG R. YOCKEY

On a motion by Trustee Kehoe, seconded by Trustee Green, to grant a service-connected disability retirement pursuant to Government Code Section 31720. The motion passed by the following roll call vote:

Yes: Durazo, Green, Kehoe, Knox, Moore, Okum, Robbins, Ryu, Sanchez

B. Disability Retirement Appeals

APPLICATION NO. & NAME AND BOARD ACTION

CHERYL A. WISE – Thomas J. Wicke for the Applicant
Eugenia W. Der for the Respondent

Trustee Kehoe made a substitute motion, Trustee Moore seconded, to refer back to staff for further information. The motion passed by the following roll call vote:

Yes: Durazo, Green, Kehoe, Knox, Moore, Okum, Robbins, Ryu, Sanchez

XV. DISABILITY RETIREMENT CASES TO BE HELD IN CLOSED SESSION

C. Staff Recommendations

1. Recommendation as submitted by Francis J. Boyd, Senior Staff Counsel: That the Board 1) Correct, under Government Code Section 31541, an error in processing John M. Rossi's disability - retirement application; and 2) Grant John M. Rossi a service-connected disability retirement with the option of an earlier-effective date under Government Code Sections 31720 and 31724.

(Memo dated January 22, 2024)

Trustee Robbins made a motion, Trustee Sanchez seconded, to approve staff's recommendation. The motion passed by the following roll call vote:

Yes: Durazo, Green, Kehoe, Knox, Moore, Okum, Robbins, Ryu, Sanchez

XVI. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 10:35 a.m.


RONALD OKUM, SECRETARY


SHAWN R. KEHOE, CHAIR