



MINUTES

RETIREMENT BOARD MEETING MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING

May 9, 2018  
9:00 a.m.

Retirement Board Conference Room  
The Willows Office Park  
1355 Willow Way, Suite 221  
Concord, California

Present: Candace Andersen, Scott Gordon, Jerry Holcombe, Louie Kroll, Jay Kwon, David MacDonald, John Phillips, William Pigeon, Gabe Rodrigues, Todd Smithey, Jerry Telles and Russell Watts

Absent: None

Staff: Gail Strohl, Chief Executive Officer; Christina Dunn, Deputy Chief Executive Officer; Timothy Price, Chief Investment Officer; Karen Levy, General Counsel; Wrally Dutkiewicz, Compliance Officer; Henry Gudino, Accounting Manager; Tim Hoppe, Retirement Services Manager; and Colin Bishop, Member Services Manager

Outside Professional Support: None  
Representing:

1. **Pledge of Allegiance**

The Board, staff and audience joined in the *Pledge of Allegiance*.

2. **Accept comments from the public**

No member of the public offered comment.

3. **Approval of Minutes**

A revised copy of the March 28, 2018 minutes was distributed with a correction to Item 3, Approval of Minutes, changing the date in the first sentence to February 28, 2018.

It was M/S/C to approve the revised March 28, 2018 meeting minutes and the April 11, 2018 meeting minutes. (Yes: Gordon, Holcombe, Kwon, MacDonald, Phillips, Rodrigues, Smithey, Telles and Watts).

4. **Routine Items**

It was M/S/C to approve the routine items of the May 9, 2018 meeting. (Yes: Gordon, Holcombe, Kwon, MacDonald, Phillips, Rodrigues, Smithey, Telles and Watts)

Andersen and Pigeon were present for subsequent discussion and voting.

**CLOSED SESSION**

The Board moved into closed session pursuant to Govt. Code Section 54957.6 and 54956.9(d)(1).

The Board moved into open session.

5. There was no reportable action related to Govt. Code Section 54957.6.
6. There was no reportable action related to Govt. Code Section 54956.9(d)(1).
7. **Consider and take possible action to authorize the CEO to execute contracts with Nossaman LLP; The Law Office of Vivian Shultz; and Laughlin, Falbo, Levy & Moresi LLP for legal services relating to disability retirement and non-disability hearing matters**

Strohl reviewed the background on issuing the RFP for Disability Retirement Legal Services noting that a staff committee interviewed five of the seven firms that submitted proposals. She stated the staff committee is recommending three firms. The three finalist firms were present to provide background on their firms and to answer any questions the Board may have.

Vivian Shultz, The Law Office of Vivian Shultz, stated she is the principal attorney in an office based in San Diego. She has been practicing disability law for 14 years. She reviewed her background on disability cases noting the majority of her practice is CERL disability cases.

John Kennedy, Nossaman LLP, stated he is a partner in the firm and works out of the Sacramento office. Allison Callahan stated she has been working with Kennedy for three years. In response to questions regarding their hourly rate, Kennedy stated their practice knows about the retirement industry and brings a global knowledge of CCCERA's type of system. He stated they know they are more expensive but they have created a system that is more efficient and they continue to adjust their system which leads to a total less cost. They also conduct writ and appellate work and have experience with administrative hearings.

Susan Hastings, Laughlin, Falbo, Levy & Moresi, LLP, stated they have 11 offices statewide and work primarily on workers' compensation cases and supplement them with disability cases which are centered primarily on public agencies. She stated she has worked with CCCERA on their disability cases for the past 4 years. She briefly reviewed the status of CCCERA's current cases.

After discussion, it was M/S/C to 1) establish engagements with The Law Office of Vivian Shultz and Nossaman LLP to create a pool of disability legal counsel firms; 2) Continue CCCERA's existing engagement with Laughlin, Falbo, Levy & Moresi LLP; and 3) Authorize the CEO to execute contracts with Nossaman LLP, The Law Office of Vivian Shultz and Laughlin, Falbo, Levy & Moresi LLP and to authorize staff to assign disability retirement legal work and non-disability hearing matters to any of the firms on an as-needed basis. (Yes: Andersen, Gordon, Holcombe, MacDonald, Phillips, Pigeon, Smithey, Telles and Watts)

**8. Consider authorizing the attendance of Board:**

- a. It was M/S/C to authorize the attendance of 3 Board members at the Trustees' Round Table, California Association of Public Retirement Systems, June 8, 2018, Oakland, CA. (Yes: Andersen, Gordon, Holcombe, MacDonald, Phillips, Pigeon, Smithey, Telles and Watts) Note: The agenda for the Trustees' Round Table was distributed.
- b. There was no action taken on this item. Certificate of Achievement in Public Plan Policy (CAPPP) Parts I and II Consecutively, International Foundation of Employee Benefit Plans, June 12-15, 2018, Chicago, IL.
- c. There was no action taken on this item. Alternative Investment Strategies, International Foundation of Employee Benefit Plans, July 30-August 1, 2018, San Francisco, CA.

9. Miscellaneous

(a) Staff Report –

Strohl reported there will be a report on the Liquidity Sub-portfolio at the next meeting and there will be an education on risk parity.

Price reminded the Trustees that the RVK report will be available at the SACRS Spring Conference next week.

Dunn reported the Member Services Department and Retirement Services Department provided two employer educational presentations for new members at the Sheriff's Office and noted the surveys for both presentations came back very positive. Trustee Rodrigues commented that he heard it went very well and the feedback was good.

(b) Outside Professionals' Report -

None


(c) Trustees' comments –

Gordon reported on the Siguler Guff 2018 Annual Conference noting he came away with a very high comfort level of how they handle our investments and recommended Trustees attend one if they can.

Rodrigues reported on the DFA Annual Institutional Symposium he attended noting that it was done very well and also recommended Trustees attend one if they can.

It was **M/S/C** to adjourn the meeting. (Yes: Andersen, Gordon, Holcombe, MacDonald, Phillips, Pigeon, Smithey, Telles and Watts)

  
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Todd Smithey, Chairman

  
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David MacDonald, Secretary