

**CHELSEA RETIREMENT BOARD MEETING**  
**500 Broadway, Chelsea MA, Conference Room of the Chelsea City Council**  
**Minutes from the Meeting held on Thursday, June 16, 2022 at 9:00AM**

**Present Were: Board Chairman, Mr. Joseph M. Siewko, Mr. Edward Dunn, Ms. Carolyn Russo, Ms. Cheryl Watson Fisher and Mr. Richard Carroccino**

**Also Present: Mr. Michael Nicolazzo, Executive Director, Mrs. Cindy Donarumo, Assistant Director and Mr. Brian P. Monahan, Esq., Board Counsel**

At 9:04 AM Chairman Siewko called the meeting to order.

At 9:05 AM Ms. Russo made a motion seconded by Ms. Fisher to enter Executive Session under Purposes 1 and 7 of the Open Meeting Law to discuss protected medical information relating to Renata Cowhig's Application for Disability Retirement. The votes were as follows: Chairman Siewko:Yea Mr. Dunn:Yea Ms. Russo:Yea Ms. Watson Fisher:Yea Mr. Carroccino: Yea.

At 9:10 AM the Board returned to Regular Session.

At 9:10 AM Ms. Fisher made a motion seconded by Ms. Russo to table Renata Cowhig's Application for Disability Retirement so that the Board can obtain additional information from the City of Chelsea. The votes were as follows: The votes were as follows: Chairman Siewko:Yea Mr. Dunn:Yea Ms. Russo:Yea Ms. Watson Fisher:Yea Mr. Carroccino: Yea

**Retirement Deductions/Regular Compensation**

- Pensionability of "Acting" wages- Board Counsel stated that after having a discussion with the Executive Director regarding "Acting Wages", he contacted DALA for a status update on the Jeffrey Dudley vs. Leominster Board of Retirement case. DALA did confirm that the case was heard back in April, 2022 and the case remains open for Post Hearing Memorandum. Once the Memorandum is submitted, DALA will issue their decision.
- Pensionability of wage adjustment to Assistant Director's pay while acting as Director
- Pensionability of Substitute Teaching wages.

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At 9:27 AM Ms. Fisher made a motion seconded by Mr. Carroccino that substitute teacher wages not be included in regular compensation. The votes were as follows: Chairman Siewko:Yea Mr. Dunn:Yea Ms. Russo:Yea Ms. Watson Fisher:Yea Mr. Carroccino: Yea

At 9:38 AM Mr. Carroccino made a motion seconded by Ms. Fisher to table Service Purchases involving liability from other retirement systems until further information is received to make a determination. The votes were as follows: The votes were as follows: Chairman Siewko:Yea Mr. Dunn:Yea Ms. Russo:Yea Ms. Watson Fisher:Yea Mr. Carroccino: Yea

Review of the draft Employment Policies. Chairman Siewko asked the Assistant Director to email the draft to the Board members so that they can review the policy and add or make any necessary changes.

At 9:39 AM Ms. Fisher made a motion seconded by Ms. Russo to approve the Regular Session Minutes of the May 19, 2022 Retirement Board meeting. The votes were as follows: Chairman Siewko:Yea Mr. Dunn:Yea Ms. Russo:Yea Ms. Watson Fisher:Yea Mr. Carroccino: Yea

At 9:40 AM Ms. Fisher made a motion seconded by Mr. Carroccino to approve the Executive Session Minutes of the May 19, 2022 Retirement Board Meeting as amended. The votes were as follows: Chairman Siewko:Yea Mr. Dunn:Yea Ms. Russo:Yea Ms. Watson Fisher:Yea Mr. Carroccino: Yea

The following members have submitted an application for voluntary superannuation retirement benefits pursuant to M.G.L. c. 32 §5:

Name/Title/Group	DOR	Age	Years of Service	Estimated 3 Yr. Average
Susan Ferrante/Teacher to Paraprofessional/1	6/30/2022	59	29.5000	82,025.29
John Faulstich/Plumber-Mechanic/1	8/31/2022	59	27.5000	*154,141.92

At 9:42 AM Mr. Carroccino made a motion seconded by Mr. Dunn to approve the above retirements after review of John Faulstich's estimated high 3 year average. The votes were as follows: Chairman Siewko:Yea Mr. Dunn:Yea Ms. Russo:Yea Ms. Watson Fisher:Yea Mr. Carroccino: Yea

The following Retirement System has requested the transfer of funds for the following member:

Name/Title/Group	Board Requesting Transfer	Accumulated Deductions	Total Service Credit / 3(8)c Liability	10/12 Month Basis
Michael C. Poulin/Probationary Dispatcher/1	Reading	1,567.59	0.3333	12
America Portillo/Teacher/1	MTRS	48,621.88	16.5833	12

At 9:43 AM Ms. Fisher made a motion seconded by Mr. Carroccino to approve the above transfers. The votes were as follows: Chairman Siewko:Yea Mr. Dunn:Yea Ms. Russo:Yea Ms. Watson Fisher:Yea Mr. Carroccino: Yea

The following members have requested a refund of their accumulated deductions:

Name/Title/Group	Accumulated Deductions	Age	Service Credit	Taxes Withheld
Hector Pagan/BCBA/1	26,465.80	31	3.3333	Yes
Yoscairy Raymond/Youth Service Worker/1	8,370.83	29	1.9167	Yes

At 9:44 AM Ms. Fisher made a motion seconded by Ms. Russo to approve the above refunds. The votes were as follows: Chairman Siewko:Yea Mr. Dunn:Yea Ms. Russo:Yea Ms. Watson Fisher:Yea Mr. Carroccino: Yea

Attorney's Report:

- Attorney Sacco and Attorney Boumil's Memorandums were received. Attorney Boumil renewed his Motion to Recuse the Board from hearing the McLaughlin matter as it relates to Count Three, but it wasn't filed as a Motion, it was attached as Addendum C to his Memorandum of Law. Board Counsel urged the Board to schedule a special hearing for Count Three at the July Board meeting.
- Qualified DRO – Board Counsel strongly suggests that the Retirement Office accept a DRO for review purposes only to see if it's in compliance with Chapter 32. Board Counsel stated that if the Retirement Office receives a settlement agreement, it should be returned to the member with a letter stating that the Retirement Office does not accept settlement agreements.

Assistant Director's Report:

PRIM is requesting to meet with the Board to give an update at the July or August Board meeting. The Board decided to meet with PRIM at their August Board meeting.

June 2022 Cash Disbursements Warrant was approved

Retiree payroll and Staff payrolls were approved.

Distribution of:

- January 2022 Cashbooks, Bank Statement, Bank Reconciliation, PRIT Balance Sheet
- PERAC Memo #12/2022
- PERAC Memo #13/2022
- PERAC Memo #14/2022 – Ms. Russo suggested that the Retirement Office notify City payroll departments, Human Resources for both the city and school as well as the Auditing Department of the Supreme Judicial Court Decision Regarding Worker's Compensation.

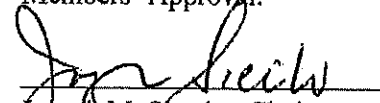
At 10:16 AM Mr. Carroccino made a motion seconded by Ms. Fisher to adjourn. The votes were as follows: Chairman Siewko:Yea Mr. Dunn:Yea Ms. Russo:Yea Ms. Watson Fisher:Yea Mr. Carroccino: Yea

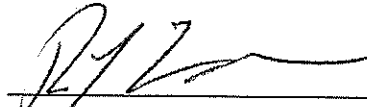
Respectfully submitted,


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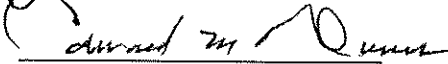
Cindy Donarumo  
Assistant Director

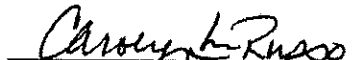
Members' Approval:

  
Joseph M. Siewko, Chairman

  
Richard Carroccino

  
Cheryl Watson Fisher

  
Edward M. Dunn, Ex Officio

  
Carolyn M. Russo

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