
September 25, 2024 Board of Retirement Regular Meeting

Santa Barbara County Employees' Retirement System
SBCERS Board Room, 130 Robin Hill Road, Goleta, CA 93117

The Santa Barbara County Employees' Retirement System is committed to:

- *fulfilling its fiduciary responsibility by providing the highest quality of service to all members and plan sponsors;*
 - *and protecting promised benefits through prudent investing;*
 - *and ensuring reasonable expenses of administration.*

Minutes

Roll Call at 9:02 a.m.

Members Present: Bianchi, Cholmondeley, Daly, Dodgin, Hagen, Lavagnino, Lee, Uhl, Vidal

Alternates Absent: Blair, Tan

Counsel Present: Rodriguez

Clerk Present: Couture

Trustee Blair arrived at 9:23 a.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Comment

No public comment.

Approval of the Minutes

Approve Minutes of the August 28, 2024 Regular Board meeting.

MOTION: Approve Minutes of the August 28, 2024 Regular Board meeting.

Motion moved by Dodgin and motion seconded by Bianchi.

Yes: Bianchi, Cholmondeley, Daly, Dodgin, Lavagnino, Lee, Hagen, Uhl, Vidal.

1. Consent

1.1. Retirement Report for August 2024

Approve August 2024 Retirement Report.

1.2. Trustee Training Opportunities

Authorize the attendance of interested trustees at upcoming training events requiring Board pre-approval, as requested.

1.3. Transaction Cost Analysis Reports

Receive and file Transaction Cost Analysis and Foreign Exchange Reports.

DISCUSSION: SBCERS Director of Member Services Rebekah Bardakos and Clerk of the Board Dani Couture responded to questions from the Board.

MOTION: Approve items 1.1 through 1.3.

Motion moved by Cholmondeley and motion seconded by Dodgin.

Yes: Bianchi, Cholmondeley, Daly, Dodgin, Lavagnino, Lee, Hagen, Uhl, Vidal.

2. Disability Retirement – Closed Session

2.1. Kathy Torres, Applicant for Service-Connected Disability Retirement

DISCUSSION: Disability Retirement Analyst Danielle Azoury presented the item.

MOTION: Adopt the proposed Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Decision granting Kathy Torres a service-connected disability retirement.

Motion moved by Daly and motion seconded by Bianchi.

Yes: Bianchi, Cholmondeley, Daly, Dodgin, Lavagnino, Lee, Hagen, Uhl, Vidal.

2.2. Gena Valentine, Applicant for Service-Connected Disability Retirement.

DISCUSSION: Disability Retirement Analyst Katrina Peña presented the item. The Applicant was present.

MOTION: Adopt the proposed Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Decision granting Gena Valentine a service-connected disability retirement.

Motion moved by Vidal and motion seconded by Bianchi.

Yes: Bianchi, Cholmondeley, Daly, Dodgin, Lavagnino, Lee, Hagen, Uhl, Vidal.

2.3. Gustav Roepke, Applicant for Non-Service-Connected Disability Retirement.

DISCUSSION: SBCERS Disability Retirement Analyst Katrina Peña presented the item.

MOTION: Grant the application of Gustav Roepke for non-service-connected disability retirement, subject to timely requested hearing by an interested party.

Motion moved by Cholmondeley and motion seconded by Daly.

Yes: Bianchi, Cholmondeley, Daly, Dodgin, Lavagnino, Lee, Hagen, Uhl, Vidal.

2.4. Receive and file Disability Retirement Monthly Status Report.

SBCERS Disability Retirement Analyst Katrina Peña presented the item.

The Board took no action.

3. Open Session

CEO Greg Levin announced the Board met in Closed Session to discuss items 2.1 through 2.4. With regard to items 2.1 through 2.3, the Board took action consistent with staff recommendation. The Board took no action on item 2.4.

Board

3.1. CEO Operations Report

Presentation by Gregory Levin, SBCERS CEO, on significant operational activities of SBCERS.

DISCUSSION: Greg Levin presented the item and responded to questions from the Board.

The Board took no action.

3.2. Retiree Extra Help Appointment

Presentation by Rebekah Bardakos, SBCERS Director of Member Services, on the appointment of a Retiree Extra Help appointment.

DISCUSSION: Rebekah Bardakos presented the item and responded to questions from the Board.

MOTION: In accordance with California Government Code Section 7522.56(f), certify that the appointment of retiring SBCERS employee Cindy Menegon, Department Business Specialist II, is necessary to fill a critical need in the Member Services Division, before 180 days have passed from the date of her pending retirement; and

Approve and authorize the appointment of Cindy Menegon, as an Extra Help employee to provide training of new staff, service purchase calculations, final average salary computations, and reciprocity eligibility processing, and recruitment and training of her successor, on a part time basis not to exceed 960 hours in a fiscal year pursuant to Section 7522.56(d), with an appointment effective date of October 14, 2024.

Motion moved by Cholmondeley and motion seconded by Hagen.

Yes: Bianchi, Cholmondeley, Daly, Dodgin, Lavagnino, Lee, Hagen, Uhl, Vidal.

3.3. Approval of Earning Codes: SPB, IPD, and TRI

Presentation by Rebekah Bardakos, SBCERS Member Services Director, on new earning codes created by Santa Barbara County for SPB (Special Duty Pay), IPD (DITA and POST Incentive Pay), and TRI (Trilingual Pay).

DISCUSSION: Rebekah Bardakos presented the item and responded to questions from the Board.

MOTION: Approve Resolution 2024-04 adding earnings codes SPB, IPD, and TRI to the schedule of earnings codes with classification as either included or excluded as items of compensation earnable pursuant to Government Code Section 31461 and pensionable compensation pursuant to Government Code Section 7522.34 as set forth in the accompanying resolution.

Motion moved by Hagen and motion seconded by Cholmondeley.

Yes: Bianchi, Cholmondeley, Daly, Dodgin, Lavagnino, Lee, Hagen, Uhl, Vidal.

3.4. Approval of Earning Codes: SDP, SDS, and SDL

Presentation by Rebekah Bardakos, SBCERS Member Services Director, on new earning codes created by Santa Barbara County for a SDP (Special Duty Presidential Election 15%), SDS (Special Duty State and County Elections 10%), and SDL (Special Duty Local District Elections 5%).

DISCUSSION: SBCERS CEO Greg Levin announced Trustee Daly will be recusing himself for this item. Rebekah Bardakos presented the item and responded to questions from the Board.

MOTION: Approve Resolution 2024-05 adding earnings codes SDP, SDS, and SDL to the schedule of earnings codes with classification as either included or excluded as items of compensation earnable pursuant to Government Code Section 31461 and pensionable compensation pursuant to Government Code Section 7522.34 as set forth in the accompanying resolution.

Motion moved by Vidal and motion seconded by Cholmondeley.

Yes: Bianchi, Cholmondeley, Dodgin, Lavagnino, Lee, Hagen, Uhl, Vidal.

Abstain: Daly.

Investments

3.5. Market Update and August 31, 2024 Performance Analysis

Presentation by RVK, Inc. Principals Matthias Bauer, CFA, and Joe Ledgerwood, CFA, on the Monthly Investment Performance Review for the period ended August 31, 2024.

DISCUSSION: Matthias Bauer and Joe Ledgerwood presented the item and responded to questions from the Board.

The Board took no action.

3.6. CLOSED SESSION: Conference with Staff, Consultants, and Investment Manager to Consider the Purchase of a Particular, Specific Fund Investment

*Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.81
(VPC ASSET BACKED OPPORTUNISTIC CREDIT FUND II-R)*

Open Session

Counsel Rodriguez announced the Board met in Closed Session to discuss item 3.5 Conference with Staff, Consultants, and Investment Manager to Consider the Purchase of a Particular, Specific Fund Investment and voted 7-2 to authorize the CEO to negotiate and execute a written agreement with Victory Park Capital for a \$25 million investment into the VPC Asset Backed Opportunistic Credit Fund II.

3.7. Consultant Oversight Review

Presentation by Rebecca M. Valdez, SBCERS Investment Officer on the Investment Consultant Oversight Review for the year ending June 30, 2024.

DISCUSSION: Rebecca Valdez presented the item and responded to questions from the Board.

The Board took no action.

3.8. Board Education - U.S. Economic Update

Presentation by Chief Economist & Macro Strategist Vincent Reinhart and Business Development Specialist Alexander Bird of Mellon Investments.

DISCUSSION: Vincent Reinhart and Alexander Bird presented the item and responded to questions from the Board.

The Board took no action.

Meeting adjourned at 12:36 p.m.

Clerk

Chair

Secretary