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Gregory E. Levin, CPA
Chief Executive Officer

BOARD OF RETIREMENT

Chair-Steve Lavagnino
Vice Chair-Michael Daly
Secretary-Harry E. Hagen
Robert Bianchi
Zandra Cholmondeley
Dustin Dodgin
Laurie Lee
Paul Uhl
Michael Vidal

Alternates

Gary Blair
Frederick Tan

February 28, 2024 Board of Retirement Regular Meeting Minutes

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.*

Roll Call at 9:10 a.m.

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

Members Absent: Lavagnino, Vidal

Alternate Present: Blair

Alternate Absent: Tan

Clerk: Couture

Counsel: Rodriguez

Trustee Daly served as Chair. Trustee Vidal arrived at 9:20 a.m. Counsel Blakeboro arrived at 9:33 a.m.

Public Comment

Former Trustee Trent Benedetti addressed the Board and SBCERS CEO Greg Levin thanked Benedetti for his service on the Board.

Oath of Office

Trustee Hagen swore in Trustees Dodgin and Bianchi to three-year terms ending December 31, 2026.

Approval of the Minutes

Approve Minutes of the January 24, 2024 Regular Meeting.

MOTION: Approve Minutes of the January 24, 2028

Motion moved by Hagen and motion seconded by Lee. Approved by voice vote.

Yes: Cholmondeley, Daly, Hagen, Lee, Uhl.

Abstain: Bianchi, Dodgin.

Absent: Vidal, Lavagnino.

Appointment of Operations Committee

Chair pro tem Daly appointed Trustees Cholmondeley (Chair), Hagen, Lavagnino, and Daly (alternate) to the Operations Committee.

Appointment of Real Property Management Committee

Chair pro tem Daly appointed Trustees Vidal (Chair), Blair, Uhl, and Dodgin (alternate) to the Real Property Management Committee.

1. Consent

1.1. Retirement Report

Adopt January 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. Quarterly OPEB Report

Report for the quarter ending December 31, 2023 on the investment results, contributions and expenditures of the County of Santa Barbara 401(h) Retiree Healthcare Subsidy fund.

1.4. Market Update and January 30, 2024 Performance Review

Report by RVK, Inc. on World Market Activities and January 31, 2024 performance.

MOTION: Approve items C-1 through C-4.

Motion moved by Bianchi and motion seconded by Dodgin. Approved by voice vote.

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

Absent: Lavagnino.

2. Closed Session - Disability Retirement

2.1. John Brenner, Applicant for Service-Connected Disability Retirement

Consider the Findings of Fact and Recommendation of Referee Irene Ayala, along with any timely filed objections and deny the application for service-connected disability retirement of John Brenner due to lack of permanence.

DISCUSSION: Disability Retirement Analyst Katrina Pena presented the item. The Applicant and his counsel Jane Oatman were present and addressed the Board. SBCERS Counsel Christ Kroes was present and addressed the Board.

MOTION: Deny the application for service-connected disability retirement of John Brenner due to lack of permanence.

Motion moved by Vidal and motion seconded by Bianchi. Approved by voice vote.

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

No: Uhl.

Absent: Lavagnino.

2.2. Receive and file Disability Retirement Monthly Status Report.

DISCUSSION: Disability Retirement Analyst Katrina Pena presented the item.

The Board took no action.

3. Open Session

Deputy General Counsel Rodriguez announced the Board met in Closed Session to discuss items 2.1 and 2.2. With regard to item 2.1, the Board took action consistent with staff recommendation. The Board took no action on item 2.2.

Investments

3.1. Education: Benchmarks

Educational presentation on investment benchmarks by SBCERS Investment Officer Rebecca M. Valdez.

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

The Board took no action.

3.2. Quarterly Private Equity, Private Real Return, and Private Real Estate Portfolio Review

Presentation by Principals Natalie Fitch and Elizabeth Bell of Hamilton Lane on the status and activity of the Fund's Private Equity, Private Real Return, and Private Real Estate portfolios for the quarter ended September 30, 2023.

DISCUSSION: Natalie Fitch and Elizabeth Bell presented the item and responded to questions from the Board.

The Board took no action.

3.3. 2024 Private Equity, Private Real Return, and Private Real Estate Annual Strategic Plans

Presentation by Principals Natalie Fitch and Elizabeth Bell of Hamilton Lane on the 2024 Private Equity, Private Real Return, and Private Real Estate Annual Strategic Plans.

DISCUSSION: Natalie Fitch and Elizabeth Bell presented the item and responded to questions from the Board. SBCERS Investment Officer Rebecca Valdez also responded to questions from the Board.

MOTION: Receive and approve the 2024 Private Equity, Private Real Return and Private Real Estate Strategic Plans presented by Principals Natalie Fitch and Elizabeth Bell of Hamilton Lane.

Motion moved by Dodgin and motion seconded by Bianchi. Approved by voice vote.
Yes: Bianchi, Cholmondeley, Dodgin, Daly, Hagen, Lee, Uhl.
Absent: Lavagnino, Vidal.

3.4. Board Education – Private Market Valuation

Educational presentation by Hamilton Lane Principal Natalie Fitch on Private Market Valuations.

DISCUSSION: Natalie Fitch presented the item and responded to questions from the Board.

The Board took no action.

3.5. Quarterly Public Markets Portfolio Review

Presentation by Principals Marcia Beard and Matthias Bauer of RVK, Inc. on the quarter ending December 31, 2023.

DISCUSSION: Matthias Bauer and Marcia Beard presented the item and responded to questions from the Board.

The Board took no action.

3.6. PanAgora Vehicle Change Recommendation

Presentation by Principals and Co-Lead Consultants Marcia Beard and Matthias Bauer, CFA of RVK, Inc. on a proposed PanAgora strategy change.

DISCUSSION: Matthias Bauer presented the item and along with CEO Greg Levin, responded to questions from the Board.

MOTION: Approve the recommendation to move the PanAgora strategy from a Separate account (SA) to a Collective Investment Trust (CIT) and authorize the SBCERS CEO to negotiate and execute a written agreement with PanAgora.

Motion moved by Cholmondeley and motion seconded by Vidal. Approved by voice vote.
Yes: Bianchi, Cholmondeley, Dodgin, Daly, Hagen, Lee, Uhl, Vidal.
Absent: Lavagnino.

Board

3.7. CEO Operations Report

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

DISCUSSION: Gregory Levin and Cristal Rodriguez presented the item, and along with General Counsel Alan Blakeboro and Member Services Director Rebekah Bardakos, responded to questions from the Board.

The Board took no action.

3.8. Annual Cost-of-Living Adjustment Rate Approval

Presentation by Rico Pardo, SBCERS Controller, on Cheiron’s calculation of the Cost-of Living Adjustment (“COLA”) to take effect April 1, 2024 (May 1, 2024 Benefit Payment), for existing retirees and beneficiaries.

DISCUSSION: Rico Pardo presented the item and responded to questions from the Board. CEO Gregory Levin also responded to questions from the Board.

MOTION: Receive and accept Cheiron’s report presented by Staff and adopt the rate (3%) and COLA bank increases (0.5% or 1.5%, depending on plan) set forth in Cheiron’s Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) report as of April 1, 2024.

Motion moved by Dodgin and motion seconded by Cholmondeley. Approved by voice vote.

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

Meeting adjourned at 1:46 p.m.

Clerk

Chair

Secretary