

**SONOMA COUNTY EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION
RETIREMENT BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

Thursday, June 19, 2025

9:01 a.m.

Presiding: Travis Balzarini, Chair

Present: Trustees Neil Baker (Alternate – Retiree), Chris Coursey (left at 10:27 a.m.), Amos Eaton, Jared Gonce, Greg Jahn (left at 10:25 a.m.), Erick Roeser, Joe Tambe, Mark Walsh (Vice Chair), and Bob Williamson; Chief Executive Officer Julie Wyne, Finance and Retiree Services Manager Cheryl Enold, Member Services Manager Wendy Serrano, and Administrative Aide Julia Smith; Emily Klare and Todd Tauzer (of Segal)

Public comments were solicited prior to the meeting by emailing Julia.Smith@sonoma-county.org. Members of the public that joined the Zoom meeting via the app or dial in were provided opportunity to submit live public comment for each agenda item after the Board and staff provided their comments.

Chair Balzarini confirmed with Administrative Aide Julia Smith that SCERA had not received any public comment prior to the meeting.

I. CONSENT CALENDAR

All agenda items on the Consent calendar will be approved in a single motion unless a Trustee, staff member or member of the public requests separate action on a specific item.

A. Meeting Minutes

1. May 22, 2025 – Board Meeting

Recommendation: Approve the Retirement Board Meeting Minutes of May 22, 2025.

A motion was made by Trustee Eaton, seconded by Trustee Williamson, to approve the Retirement Board Meeting Minutes from May 22, 2025. The motion carried 9-0-0-0 with voting as follows:

Mr. Balzarini	Aye
Mr. Coursey	Aye
Mr. Eaton	Aye
Mr. Gonce	Aye
Mr. Jahn	Aye
Mr. Roeser	Aye
Mr. Tambe	Aye
Mr. Walsh	Aye
Mr. Williamson	Aye

The Board of Retirement moved into Executive Session and closed the meeting to all attendees who were not necessary for the determination of a disability retirement. Those attendees physically exited the Board room and/or were placed in the virtual Zoom lobby by the host and neither heard nor saw the meeting. All meeting attendees were re-admitted to the meeting when the Board returned to open session.

II. EXECUTIVE SESSION

- A. Executive Session. Meeting closed pursuant to Government Code section 54957(b) to consider the employment status and evaluation of performance of a SCERA member or members as concerns eligibility for a disability retirement.

Disability Committee Chair reported on recommendations made by the Committee at the June 19, 2025, meeting:

Disability Applications:

1. JASON PASERO, Deputy Sheriff II filed 12/12/24 for a service-connected disability retirement.

A motion was made by Trustee Jahn, seconded by Trustee Williamson, to grant the application of Jason Pasero, Deputy Sheriff II, for a service-connected disability retirement. The motion carried 9-0-0-0 with voting as follows:

Mr. Balzarini	Aye
Mr. Coursey	Aye
Mr. Eaton	Aye
Mr. Gonce	Aye
Mr. Jahn	Aye
Mr. Roeser	Aye
Mr. Tambe	Aye
Mr. Walsh	Aye
Mr. Williamson	Aye

2. BRIAN WILLIAMS, Correctional Deputy II filed 1/16/25 for a service-connected disability retirement.

A motion was made by Trustee Gonce, seconded by Trustee Williamson, to grant the application of Brian Williams, Correctional Deputy II, for a service-connected disability retirement. The motion carried 9-0-0-0 with voting as follows:

Mr. Balzarini	Aye
Mr. Coursey	Aye
Mr. Eaton	Aye
Mr. Gonce	Aye

Mr. Jahn	Aye
Mr. Roeser	Aye
Mr. Tambe	Aye
Mr. Walsh	Aye
Mr. Williamson	Aye

The Board of Retirement moved out of Executive Session and reopened the meeting to all attendees that were placed in the lobby during the closed session period.

III. EXECUTIVE SESSION REPORT OUT

Chair Balzarini reported the Board unanimously granted the service-connected disability retirement applications of Jason Pasero, Deputy Sheriff II, and Brian Williams, Correctional Deputy II.

IV. REGULAR CALENDAR

A. Actuarial Risk Assessment Report for the Plan year ended December 31, 2024.

Segal actuaries Todd Tauzer and Emily Klare presented the Actuarial Risk Assessment Report for the Plan year ended December 31, 2024, and noted that the report is an open template, and if the Board desires different risks to be assessed Segal will accommodate their request. Trustees asked about SCERA's risks profile and how SCERA compares to other CERL systems. Mr. Tauzer indicated that SCERA has a lower risk profile because, in part, our funding policy has resulted in paying down the unfunded liability. He further noted that Segal measures the plan's sensitivity of inputs, like receiving contributions less than the actuarially determined contributions and negative demographic and/or economic experience, against our actuarial funding model and the report contains the risks associated with these scenarios.

Recommendation: Accept the Actuarial Risk Assessment Report

A motion was made by Trustee Roeser, seconded by Trustee Gonce to accept the Actuarial Risk Report for the Plan Year ended December 31, 2024. The motion carried 9-0-0-0 with voting as follows:

Mr. Balzarini	Aye
Mr. Coursey	Aye
Mr. Eaton	Aye
Mr. Gonce	Aye
Mr. Jahn	Aye
Mr. Roeser	Aye
Mr. Tambe	Aye
Mr. Walsh	Aye

Mr. Williamson Aye

B. Audit Committee Recommendations

1. Annual Audit for year ended December 31, 2024

Finance & Retiree Services Manager Cheryl Enold informed the Board that the Audit Committee heard a presentation from Ashley Green of Brown Armstrong summarizing the annual financial audit and that SCERA received an unmodified (clean) audit opinion for its December 31, 2024 basic financial statements. Ms. Enold also noted that a new general ledger accounting system has been implemented along with new internal controls.

Recommendation: Accept the Annual Audit for the plan year ended December 31, 2024, or take appropriate action.

A motion was made by Trustee Walsh, seconded by Trustee Tambe, to accept the Annual Audit for the plan year ended December 31, 2024. The motion carried 7-0-0-2 with voting as follows:

Mr. Balzarini	Aye
Mr. Coursey	Absent
Mr. Eaton	Aye
Mr. Gonce	Aye
Mr. Jahn	Absent
Mr. Roeser	Aye
Mr. Tambe	Aye
Mr. Walsh	Aye
Mr. Williamson	Aye

2. Annual Comprehensive Financial Report for the plan year ended December 31, 2024.

Recommendation: Accept the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report for the plan year ended December 31, 2024.

A motion was made by Trustee Roeser, seconded by Trustee Williamson, to accept the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report for the plan year ended December 31, 2024. The motion carried 7-0-0-2 with voting as follows:

Mr. Balzarini	Aye
Mr. Coursey	Absent
Mr. Eaton	Aye
Mr. Gonce	Aye
Mr. Jahn	Absent
Mr. Roeser	Aye

Mr. Tambe	Aye
Mr. Walsh	Aye
Mr. Williamson	Aye

C. Internal Revenue Code section 401(a)(9) Regulation review

Ms. Wyne summarized the proposed changes to the Internal Revenue Code section 401(a)(9) Regulation to comply with changes to the Treasury regulations and Secure Act 1.0 and 2.0 changes.

Recommendation: Approve amendments to the Internal Revenue Code section 401(a)(9) Regulation.

A motion was made by Trustee Gonce, seconded by Trustee Eaton, to approve amendments to the Internal Revenue Code section 401(a)(9) Regulation. The motion carried 7-0-0-2 with voting as follows:

Mr. Balzarini	Aye
Mr. Coursey	Absent
Mr. Eaton	Aye
Mr. Gonce	Aye
Mr. Jahn	Absent
Mr. Roeser	Aye
Mr. Tambe	Aye
Mr. Walsh	Aye
Mr. Williamson	Aye

D. Bylaws Review

Ms. Wyne summarized the proposed Bylaws amendments consisting of clarifications made to the withdrawal section as it relates to deferred members, clarification to the employer's responsibility to make the plan whole and minor grammatical changes.

Recommendation: Approve amendments to the Bylaws.

A motion was made by Trustee Williamson, seconded by Trustee Gonce, to approve amendments to the Bylaws. The motion carried 7-0-0-2 with voting as follows:

Mr. Balzarini	Aye
Mr. Coursey	Absent
Mr. Eaton	Aye
Mr. Gonce	Aye
Mr. Jahn	Absent
Mr. Roeser	Aye
Mr. Tambe	Aye

Mr. Walsh Aye
Mr. Williamson Aye

E. Conflict of Interest Policy review – no recommended changes

F. Communications

1. SACRS June 2025 Legislative Report
2. Service Retirements June 2025
3. 2024 Actuarial Valuation Key Findings
4. Mid-year Business Plan Update

Ms. Wyne highlighted the amount of work completed by SCERA staff in the first half of the year including processing 87 applications for service retirement 111 direct deposit changes, 132 address changes, and over 30,000 direct deposit pension payments.

5. Letter to Board of Supervisors regarding retiree COLA
6. Retiree COLA public comments to Board of Supervisors
7. Ashton, Adam, “ Unions want to chip away at Jerry Brown’s pension law. He has something to say about that”. Press Democrat, June 10, 2025.

V. Trustee/Staff Training & Conferences

Notify Julia Smith if you plan to attend any future event. Please note, if out of state travel to attend a conference is not approved in the Budget separate approval from the Board must be obtained prior to attending the conference.

- A. CALAPRS Virtual Trustee Roundtable – Risk the Big Bad Wolf, May 30, 2025. Trustee Eaton attended and reported that he has a renewed appreciation for liquidity planning and cash management. Systemic risk from the housing bubble and great recession, as two examples, were discussed in terms to how risk is mitigated, and the Markowitz model for investing, which is 75 years old, and rationale for continuing to follow it were addressed.
- B. SACRS UC Berkeley Program, July 13 to 16, 2025, UC Berkeley Haas School of Business, Berkeley, CA. Trustee Eaton is planning to attend.
- C. Nossaman 2025 Fiduciaries’ Forum, August 21, 2025, evening to August 22, 2025, Kimpton Sawyer Hotel, Sacramento, CA.

VI. GENERAL DISCUSSION ITEMS

Opportunity was given to advise the Board of new matters and for Trustees to ask questions for clarification, provide information to staff, request staff to report back on a matter or direct staff to place a matter on a subsequent agenda.

Trustee Williamson asked if there were any updates or feedback to share regarding COLA discussions with the County Board of Supervisors. Ms. Wyne reported the Supervisors supported moving forward acknowledging that a legislative fix might be necessary to accomplish the goals of tailoring the solution. To that end, Ms. Wyne met with the County's Legislative Analyst to discuss including COLA on the County's Legislative Platform.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENT

Opportunity was given for public comment on non-agenda items within the jurisdiction of the Retirement Board.

There were no public comments.

VIII. NOTICE OF NEXT MEETINGS

All meetings are held at SCERA in the Board Room at 433 Aviation Boulevard, Suite 100, Santa Rosa, CA, and broadcast via Zoom unless otherwise noted.

Investment Committee
June 26, 2025
8:30 a.m.

Disability Committee
July 24, 2025
8:30 a.m.

Retirement Board
July 24, 2025
9:00 a.m.

Investment Committee
July 31, 2025
8:30 a.m.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to conduct, the meeting adjourned at 11:07 a.m.

X. APPROVAL

The above minutes from the June 19, 2025, Retirement Board meeting were approved at the Retirement Board meeting on July 24, 2025.

TRAVIS BALZARINI, CHAIR