

Berkshire County Retirement Board Meeting  
April 27, 2016

**The meeting of the Berkshire County Retirement Board was called to order a 9:00 A.M. in the Retirement Office, 29 Dunham Mall, Pittsfield, MA. Present at the meeting, Patricia Carlino, Elected Member, Paul A. Lisi, Jr., Advisory Board Member, Peter Menard, Elected Member and Gerald Doyle Jr., Appointed Member. Michael Ovitt, Chairman, by phone.**

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Members of the public have the opportunity to address the Retirement Board. *No comments.*

**MINUTES:**

1.) The Board minutes of the meeting held March 30, 2016, were signed and approved.  
**Voted to** approve minutes.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

2.) The Board approved a 3% Cost of Living Allowance for the retirees of the Berkshire County Retirement System who retired on or before June 30, 2015. The COLA will be on the first \$14,000 and will be effective July 1, 2016.  
**Voted to** approve 3% COLA for retirees.

**INVESTMENTS:**

3.) The Board received from PRIT a statement of performance for March 2016. The PRIT Fund returned 4.46% for the month of March.  
**Voted to** note the record.

**BANK STATEMENTS:**

4.) The Board received the bank statements for March 2016. The Board also received the budget for April 2016.  
**Voted to** note the record.

**MONTHLY WARRANTS:**

5.) The Board approved payment vouchers:

|          |              |
|----------|--------------|
| 04-01-16 | \$4733.96    |
| 04-02-16 | \$18163.39   |
| 04-03-16 | \$143254.07  |
| 04-04-16 | \$1438.11    |
| 04-05-16 | \$1126360.57 |
| 04-06-16 | \$3358.65    |

**Voted to** approve payments as presented.

**REQUESTS FOR RETIREMENT:**

6.) The Board approved the application for superannuation retirement from Antonette Furcinite, Lenox School Dept., Paraprofessional, Group 1, age 68 with 37 years and 8 months of creditable service and chose Option B. The retirement will be effective 6/30/16.

The Board approved the application for superannuation retirement from Susan Berger, Clarksburg, Cafeteria Manager, Group 1, age 65 with 26 years and 9 months of creditable service and chose Option B. The retirement will be effective June 30, 2016.

**Voted to** approve retirements as presented.

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**REQUEST FOR SERVICE BUYBACK:**

7.) The Board approved the notice of transfer of the account of Peter Ebling, a member in Savoy to the Teacher's Retirement Board. The Berkshire County Retirement Board will accept liability for 9 months of creditable service. The amount of the transfer is \$1495.31.

The Board approved the notice of transfer of the account of Lina Grillon, a member in BHRSD to the Teacher's Retirement Board. The Berkshire County Retirement Board will accept liability for 1 month of creditable service. The amount of the transfer is \$406.13.

The Board approved the notice of transfer of the account of Matthew Kerwood, a member in Richmond to the Pittsfield Retirement Board. The Berkshire County Retirement Board will accept liability for 7 years of creditable service. The amount of the transfer is \$79038.12.

The Board approved the notice of transfer of the account of Jacquelyn Mason, a member in Florida to the Barnstable County Retirement Board. The Berkshire County Retirement Board will accept liability for 3 months of creditable service. The amount of the transfer is \$317.82.

The Board approved the notice of transfer of the account of Paul Oleskiewicz, a member in Williamstown to the State Retirement Board. The Berkshire County Retirement Board will accept liability for 14 years and 9 months of creditable service. The amount of the transfer is \$45322.98.

**Voted** to approve buybacks as presented.

**MEMBER TRANSFERS OUT OF SYSTEM:**

8.) Karen Yvon, a member in FRRSD, is eligible to buyback 1 year of prior creditable service. If Ms. Yvon pays \$2174.26 into the annuity savings fund by May 31, 2016, the Board will grant 1 year of creditable service.

Michael Bohlin, a member in Lenox, is eligible to buyback 4 years and 9 months of prior creditable service. If Mr. Bohlin pays \$20005.90 into the annuity savings fund by May 31, 2016, the Board will grant 4 years and 9 months of creditable service.

Amy Novitsky, a member in Lenox, is eligible to buyback 1 year and 6 months of prior creditable service. If Ms. Novitsky pays \$2960.03 into the annuity savings fund by May 31, 2016, the Board will grant 1 year and 6 months of creditable service.

Sandy Balayan, a member in Sheffield, is eligible to buyback 1 year and 7 months of prior creditable service. If Ms. Balayan pays \$3227.64 into the annuity savings fund by May 31, 2016, the Board will grant 1 year and 7 months of creditable service.

**Voted** to approve transfers as presented.

**REQUESTS FOR REFUNDS:**

9.) The Board approved the applications for refunds from the following members: (Pending approval from Dept. of Revenue- child support division)

|                 |       |           |
|-----------------|-------|-----------|
| Robert Fuore    | Lenox | \$8139.56 |
| Meredith Haider | Lenox | \$1349.63 |

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Refund of deductions for member who died in service:

|                                  |          |           |
|----------------------------------|----------|-----------|
| Brian Miller                     | Hinsdale | \$1150.49 |
| <b>Beneficiary</b> Justin Miller |          |           |

Refund of deductions taken in error:

|               |             |          |
|---------------|-------------|----------|
| Jordan Arnold | Sandisfield | \$66.85  |
| Adam Gonska   | Sandisfield | \$150.92 |
| David McCuin  | Sandisfield | \$11.55  |
| William Perry | Sandisfield | \$11.55  |

**Voted** to approve refunds as presented.

**INJURY REPORTS:**

10.) There are no injury reports in the month of April.

**NEW MEMBER APPLICATIONS:**

11.) The Board approved for membership in the Berkshire County Retirement System the following members:

|      |                  |               |           |               |   |
|------|------------------|---------------|-----------|---------------|---|
| 6601 | CHRISTINE JOSLIN | CLARKSBURG    | 3/1/2016  | SPED 1:1      | 1 |
| 6604 | ANGELA M PEVZNER | BHRSD         | 3/31/2016 | PARA          | 1 |
| 6605 | KAYLA M WENDLING | BCRHA         | 2/21/2016 | HOUSING COUNS | 1 |
| 6608 | JOHN P JANGROW   | GT Barrington | 4/4/2016  | HIGHWAY       | 1 |

**Voted** to approve new members as presented.

**RETIREMENT ALLOWANCE APPROVALS:**

12.) The Board received approval from PERAC to grant a retirement allowance to Donna Navarino, as of January 22, 2016. Lenox

|         | <b>Member</b> | <b>Beneficiary</b> |
|---------|---------------|--------------------|
| Annuity | \$2395.44     |                    |
| Pension | \$4835.28     |                    |
| Yearly  | \$7230.72     |                    |
| Monthly | \$602.56      |                    |

The Board received approval from PERAC to grant a retirement allowance to Peter Paoli, as of January 27, 2016. Lenox

|         | <b>Member</b> | <b>Beneficiary</b> |
|---------|---------------|--------------------|
| Annuity | \$8677.08     | \$5784.72          |
| Pension | \$28215.36    | \$18810.24         |
| Yearly  | \$36892.44    | \$24594.96         |
| Monthly | \$3074.37     |                    |

The Board received approval from PERAC to grant a retirement allowance to Michael Steuerwald, as of January 29, 2016. Lenox

|         | <b>Member</b> | <b>Beneficiary</b> |
|---------|---------------|--------------------|
| Annuity | \$7289.28     | \$4859.52          |
| Pension | \$16783.56    | \$11189.04         |
| Yearly  | \$24072.84    | \$16048.56         |
| Monthly | \$2006.07     |                    |

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The Board received approval from PERAC to grant a retirement allowance to Barbara Duffy, as of February 18, 2016. Dalton Fire District

|         | <b>Member</b> | <b>Beneficiary</b> |
|---------|---------------|--------------------|
| Annuity | \$2974.32     | \$1982.88          |
| Pension | \$6659.64     | \$4439.76          |
| Yearly  | \$9633.96     | \$6422.64          |
| Monthly | \$802.83      |                    |

**Voted to** note the record.

**3(8)c REIMBURSEMENTS:**

13.) The Board received a letter from PERAC ordering the Berkshire County Retirement Board through the provisions of MGL Sec 3(8)(c) to reimburse the State Retirement Board \$465.80 a year toward the retirement allowance of James Boyle.

**Voted to** note the record.

**PERAC CORRESPONDENCE:**

14.) The Board received from PERAC the following memorandums:

- #14/2016 Mandatory Retirement Board Training 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter 2016
- #15/2016 Disability Regulations and Signed Transmittals

Note: copies of memorandums and letters given to each Board member

15.) The Board is in receipt of a letter from PERAC indicating that Joseph T. Evangelisto is still unable to perform the essential duties of his job and remains disabled.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

16.) The Board considered a proposal for audit services from MelansonHeath. The proposal is a 2 year audit commitment at \$17000 per year for calendar years 2015-2016. The Board approved the MelansonHeath proposal 2 years @ \$17000 per year (\$34,000 total). Michael Ovitt asked that the Board review the letter of engagement for year 2 of the audit cycle just in case the scope of the audit contains any substantial changes that may be required by PERAC. Patricia Carlino made a motion to approve second Paul A. Lisi, Jr., Unanimous.

**Voted to** approve proposal for audit services.

*Sheila LaBarbera spoke with Pat Squillante from MelansonHeath and the letter of engagement will include the language for Board review before audit begins in year 2 of the audit cycle.*

**MISCELLANEOUS CORRESPONDENCE:**

- a.) PERAC reminder that Statement of Financial Interest is due May 2016.
- b.) DALA sent a copy of the Appeal from William Bartini
- c.) MIIA Conference Pittsfield Crowne Plaza 5/11/2016.
- d.) MIIA Frontline Supervisor Spring 2016
- e.) PERAC Board education credits thru 04/20/2016
- f.) Thank you letters from Lawrence Lamarre and Ernest Therrien. Letters will be placed on file.

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The next regular board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 25, 2016 at 9:00am.

**Voted to Adjourn.** Meeting adjourned at 9:35 am.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

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Sheila LaBarbera, Executive Director

APPROVED BY:

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Michael Ovitt, Chairman

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Patricia Carlino, Elected Member

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Peter Menard, Elected Member

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Paul A. Lisi, Jr., Advisory Council Member

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Gerald Doyle, Jr., Appointed Member