

Minutes of the Meeting of January 31, 2025

of the

MASSACHUSETTS TEACHERS' RETIREMENT BOARD

I. Regular Matters of Business

In attendance at this regular meeting of the Massachusetts Teachers' Retirement Board ("the Board") were Chair Iraidá J. Álvarez, Vice Chair Jacqueline A. Gorrie, Alison K. Eggers, Michael Leung-Tat, Richard L. Liston, Dennis J. Naughton, Anne Wass, Executive Director Jonathan Osimo, Assistant Executive Director and Chief Benefits Officer Richard Grzembski, Chief Financial Officer Alison Malone, Chief Human Resources and Legal/Legislative Affairs Officer Robert G. Fabino, General Counsel and Chief Legal Officer James O'Leary, Senior Legal Counsel Salvatore Coco, and Executive Assistant Sarah Burns..

Chair Álvarez congratulated Ms. Eggers on her recent appointment as the Treasurer's designee succeeding Sarah Kim.

Mr. Osimo introduced Mr. Grzembski, Mr. Fabino, and Ms. Malone and congratulated them on their recent appointments to their respective positions. Mr. Osimo noted that they have a combined seventy-one years of service with the Massachusetts Teachers' Retirement System.

The meeting was called to order at 9:02 a.m.

The Chair stated that in accordance with Section 4 of Chapter 107 of the Acts of 2022, all Board members and Board staff were participating remotely via videoconferencing. The MTRS Executive Director and Executive Assistant, were in the Board room at the main MTRS office in Charlestown, which was open to the public. In addition, the meeting was made available to the public via a teleconference line. Any individual with a matter before the Board who chose to participate was participating remotely in the same manner as the Board and staff. Chair Álvarez asked for all Board members to state their names for the record before speaking and stated that all votes would be conducted via roll call.

The minutes of the previous Board meeting, held on December 20, 2024, were reviewed and approved as submitted on a motion made by Ms. Gorrie and seconded by Mr. Liston. On roll call, the vote was as follows:

VOTED: Vice Chair Jacqueline A. Gorrie	Yes
Alison K. Eggers	Yes
Michael Leung-Tat	Yes
Richard L. Liston	Abstained
Dennis J. Naughton	Yes
Anne Wass	Yes
Chair Iraida J. Álvarez	Yes

Experiencing technical difficulties, Ms. Wass left the meeting temporarily and reconnected at 9:11 a.m. confirming the issue was resolved.

II. Executive Session

A motion was made by Mr. Liston and seconded by Ms. Wass to enter Executive Session to consider applications for disability retirement. On roll call, the vote was as follows:

VOTED: Vice Chair Jacqueline A. Gorrie	Yes
Alison K. Eggers	Yes
Michael Leung-Tat	Yes
Richard L. Liston	Yes
Dennis J. Naughton	Yes
Anne Wass	Yes
Chair Iraida J. Álvarez	Yes

At 9:11 a.m. the Board went into Executive Session. The Chair stated that the Board would return to Open Session.

At 9:22 a.m. the Board reconvened in Open Session.

III.

A. PERIODIC REVIEW OF EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES PURSUANT TO M.G.L. c. 30A, § 22(g)(1)

Pursuant to M.G.L. c. 30A, § 22(g)(1), which requires the Board to periodically review their executive session minutes to determine whether continued non-disclosure is warranted, Mr. O’Leary explained that he had examined the Board’s approved executive session minutes for the period from September 2023 through November 2024. After review, Mr. O’Leary recommended disclosure of the executive session minutes containing discussion of preparations for negotiations with non-union personnel (Executive Director position). Mr. O’Leary also recommended non-disclosure of one forfeiture case for which the member did not seek judicial review, as well as 36 disability cases and 10 suspension of disability benefit cases in which the members had come into reporting compliance.

Mr. Naughton inquired about the time period to appeal the Board’s decision in the forfeiture case. Mr. Coco confirmed that 30 days is the standard period to appeal, which had passed.

The periodic review of Executive Session minutes and Mr. O’Leary’s recommended disclosures were reviewed and approved as submitted on a motion made by Ms. Wass and seconded by Ms. Gorrie. On roll call, the vote was as follows:

VOTED: Vice Chair Jacqueline A. Gorrie	Yes
Alison K. Eggers	Yes
Michael Leung-Tat	Yes
Richard L. Liston	Yes
Anne Wass	Yes
Dennis J. Naughton	Yes
Chair Iraida J. Álvarez	Yes

B. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

1. Mr. Osimo reported that Massachusetts Governor Maura Healey had released her FY2026 budget proposal on January 22, 2025, which included \$4.933 billion towards its pension liability for FY 2026, which was a \$433 million increase over the FY 2025 contribution.
2. Mr. Osimo updated the Board on the status of a Retirement Plus (R+) bill which was unsuccessful in the 2023 – 2024 legislative session but had been refiled in the House by Rep. Alice Peisch on January 17, 2025. This bill would reopen the opportunity for members who did not previously elect into R+ originally in 2001. The Board requested that MTRS staff provide suggested edits to legislative staff regarding the assignment of actuarial interest (7%) to make-up contributions.
3. Mr. Osimo updated the Board on the status of the Social Security Fairness Act, which passed. He explained that the information related to the repeal of Social Security's WEP/GPO was added to the MTRS's website for members and retirees to access. The Social Security Administration posted on their website that due to a lack of funding and the current hiring freeze within their agency, delays of additional benefits could be up to one year.
4. Mr. Osimo reported that the Office of the State's Auditor's audit of the MTRS website, including site accessibility, was still in progress, and the Information Technology portion was soon to be finished. No major issues were reported. PERAC's audit of FY 2018 – FY 2022 was completed. The exit interview and report have not been finalized yet.
5. Mr. Osimo notified the Board that Benefit Verification Forms have been sent to out-of-state retirees, totaling approximately 14,000 mailings. Approximately 79,000 1099-R's for calendar year 2024 were mailed to all benefit recipients. Due to federal tax withholding changes for calendar year 2025, benefit recipients are expected to see a \$4 single-tax-filer increase or a \$9 married-tax-filer increase in their monthly net amount this year.
6. Mr. Osimo reported that the MTRS received the Municipal Cybersecurity Awareness grant for 2025, which is the second consecutive year.

7. Mr. Osimo addressed the Board regarding the email they received through the new MTRS Board email address from MTRS member Matthew Scheffler, titled “A Letter to My Fiduciaries: MassPRIM’s Systematic Risk to MTRS.” Mr. Osimo and Mr. O’Leary drafted a response to Mr. Scheffler, and requested input from the Board on suggestions, edits, and approaches to their response.

Mr. Naughton, a PRIM Board member and MTRS’s representative, agreed with the letter directing Mr. Scheffler to PRIM, as the Board has no responsibility for the questions being raised.

A motion was made by Mr. Naughton and seconded by Ms. Gorrie to formally add the Board’s fiduciary responsibility related to PRIM’s investments on the February Board meeting agenda. On roll call, the vote was as follows:

VOTED:	Vice Chair Jacqueline A. Gorrie	Yes
	Alison K. Eggers	Yes
	Michael Leung-Tat	Yes
	Richard L. Liston	Yes
	Dennis J. Naughton	Yes
	Anne Wass	Yes
	Chair Iraida J. Álvarez	Yes

8. Mr. Osimo reported that there is a continued effort to reduce the backlogs of Creditable Service Estimate Requests and Service Credit Purchases. The current turnaround time is well under one year. *Ready for Retirement* educational initiatives ended in December, but another seminar is scheduled to take place remotely over February school break.

Multiple members of the Board expressed interest in attending the next *Ready for Retirement* webinar. Mr. Liston conveyed how informative the seminars he has attended in the past have been.

Mr. Osimo stated that he will send the Microsoft Teams invitation for the February Ready *for Retirement* webinar to the MTRS Board email address when it is created so that Board members can observe.

9. Finally, noting that this was the first Board meeting in his new position, Mr. Osimo thanked the Board for the honor and privilege to be the Executive Director. Mr. Osimo expressed his gratitude for their support and patience as he adjusts to his new role.

A motion was made by Ms. Wass and seconded by Mr. Liston to adjourn at 9:51 a.m. On roll call, the vote was as follows:

VOTED:	Vice Chair Jacqueline A. Gorrie	Yes
	Alison K. Eggers	Yes
	Michael Leung-Tat	Yes
	Richard L. Liston	Yes
	Dennis J. Naughton	Yes
	Anne Wass	Yes
	Chair Iraidia J. Álvarez	Yes

Respectfully submitted,

Jonathan M. Osimo,
Executive Director

Date

Documents used in MTRS Board meeting of January 31, 2025

- Agenda for January 31, 2025 MTRS Board meeting
- Cover letter from Executive Director
- Open and Executive session minutes of MTRS December 20, 2024 Board meeting
- Correspondence – Meeting of January 31, 2025