



**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA RETIREMENT BOARD  
MEETING MINUTES  
DECEMBER 19, 2019  
1:00 P.M.**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Joseph W. Clark, Chair  
Lyle M. Blanchard  
Joseph M. Bress  
Mary A. Collins  
Denise D. Daniels  
Gary W. Hankins  
Tracy S. Harris  
Greggory J. Pemberton  
Edward C. Smith\*  
Thomas N. Tippet  
Michael J. Warren

\*via telephone.

**MEMBERS NOT PRESENT**

Janice M. Adams  
Bruno Fernandes

**DCRB STAFF PRESENT**

Sheila Morgan-Johnson  
Erie Sampson  
Anthony Shelborne  
Joan Passerino  
Patrick Sahn  
Daniel Hernandez  
Ram Murthy  
Akiko Kawashima  
Leslie King  
Adina Dorch  
Vernon Valentine  
Sharon Graham-Keith  
Deborah Reaves  
Johniece Harris  
Wukyanos Gebremeskel

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Chief Peter Newsham, DC Metropolitan Police  
Department  
Thomas Lowman, Bolton  
Ann Sturner, Bolton  
Thomas Vicente, Bolton

**ROLL CALL**

Chair Clark called the meeting to order at 1:55 p.m. and Ms. Deborah Reaves called the roll.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Chair Clark introduced a motion to approve the November 21, 2019 Board Meeting minutes.

**Motion #1:** To approve the Board Meeting Minutes for the November 21, 2019 meeting.

The motion was moved by Trustee Hankins and properly seconded by Trustee Harris. The motion was approved (11-0). (*See Tally #1*)

## **CHAIRMAN’S REPORT**

Chair Clark referred Trustees to his written report and welcomed DC Metropolitan Police Chief Peter Newsham to the meeting. He thanked Trustee Pemberton for working with the Chief’s office to arrange this visit, and turned the meeting over to Chief Newsham, who provided the following remarks:

## **REMARKS BY DC POLICE CHIEF PETER NEWSHAM**

Chief Newsham began his remarks with some personal background information. He indicated that he has 30 years of service with the DC Metropolitan Police Department (MPD), having joined MPD in 1989, and that he became the Police Chief in 2017. He said that when he joined the force, it was understaffed, significantly lacking in resources, and criticized for some of its policing methods. Now, he is proud to say that it is one of the most respected police departments in the country. He said that moving forward, he has three specific goals: 1) to build trust and legitimacy, 2) to reduce violent crime, and 3) to make sure that MPD is a place where people want to work. He stated that the focus today is on gun-related violence, recruitment, and training. In closing, he encouraged greater interaction between MPD and DCRB regarding pre-retirement counseling, especially for plan members who are the closest to retirement.

Following Chief Newsham’s remarks, Board Chair Clark provided these additional comments:

### **Retired Firefighter Election**

The election for the Retired Firefighter Trustee is complete. A notice from DCRB’s election official, Election-America, Inc., was sent to DCRB’s Executive Director reporting the results of the election and providing information on the ballots cast. The purpose of the following motion is to certify that election.

**Motion #2:** To certify Thomas N. Tippett as the winner of the 2019 Retired Firefighter election.

The motion was moved by Trustee Hankins and properly seconded by Trustee Harris. The motion was approved (11-0). (*See Tally #2*)

A notice of the election results will be published in the DC Register. Following the publication date, there is a 30-day period during which candidates may contest the results. The new term will begin on January 28, 2020 and will continue until January 27, 2024.

### **Cybersecurity Training**

The District’s mandatory Cybersecurity Training for all DC Government employees, contractors, and DCRB Trustees is now available, and is required to be completed by December 26, 2019. This year’s scenario-based training course is designed to help identify and avoid some of the most common threats.

## **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT**

Executive Director, Sheila Morgan-Johnson, referred Trustees to her written report and commented on the following topics:

### **FY 2019 FOIA Report**

On December 12, 2019, DCRB submitted its FY 2019 Annual FOIA Report to the District’s

Office of the Secretary. As noted, DCRB received 17 FOIA requests over the past fiscal year.

### **Fall Newsletter**

On December 6, 2019, DCRB's fall newsletter was emailed to active police officers, firefighters, and teachers, and to those retired members for whom DCRB has email addresses. Paper copies were mailed to all retired police officers, firefighters, and teachers during the week of December 9, 2019. The newsletter includes information for retirees on year-end matters (tax withholdings, 1099-Rs, address changes), the healthcare open enrollment, and a message from the Board Chair that includes comments about FY 2019 investment results, benefit statements, recent improvements, awards, and the ongoing strategic planning project

### **Healthcare Open Enrollment**

The 2020 Healthcare Open Enrollment for Federal and District health plans ended on December 9, 2019. DCRB received over 260 changes from annuitants and hosted three (3) open enrollment sessions at DCRB, where over 40 members were provided with one-on-one counseling.

### **Equalization Increases**

Equalization increases were completed for 377 District union and non-union Tier I MPD and Fire and Emergency Medical Services (FEMS) members who retired before February 15, 1980. Eligible members began receiving their increases with their December 1, 2019 annuity payments.

### **Retro Police/Fire Increases**

Recalculations for retired FEMS Police/Fire Plan members, resulting from retroactive contract provisions, have been completed; those for retired MPD members are expected to be finished within the next few payroll periods.

### **Teachers Retirement Workshop**

DCRB Benefits managers Jacqueline Oliver and Sylvia Treadwell worked with DC Public Schools (DCPS) HR staff on a Teachers Retirement Workshop that was held at DCPS on December 5, 2019. The Workshop included information on Teachers' Plan provisions, the retirement process, and other important topics, such as, purchases of service, post-retirement healthcare, and Medicare.

### **Pay Scale Modification**

Consistent with past practices, DCRB is adjusting its pay scale to keep pace with the District's announced increase to the Excepted Service pay schedule (3% for FY 2020, effective October 13, 2019). The DCRB pay scale modification will increase the current pay scale's maximum pay points by 3% but will not impact other pay points on the scale.

### **INVESTMENT COMMITTEE REPORT**

Chair Clark stated that the Investment Committee met this morning, but there are no action items. He noted that the next meeting will be held on January 16, 2019.

### **OPERATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT**

Chair Clark indicated that the Operations Committee met this morning and announced the following presentations and related motions:

**FY 2019 Actuarial Valuation Results** *(presented by Ann Sturner of Bolton)*.

Ms. Sturner directed Trustees to page 4 of the presentation, which indicated the funded status of the Plans. She noted that based on the actuarial value of assets, the funded status was 91.1% for the Teachers' Plan and 111.9% for the Police/Fire Plan (105.5% in the aggregate). Based on the market value of assets, the funded status was 90.8% for the Teachers' Plan and 111.6% for the Police/Fire Plan (105.2% in the aggregate). She remarked that the Plans are both very well-funded and very strong compared with the plans of other large cities.

With respect to the FY 2021 employer contribution, Ms. Sturner pointed to page 5 of the presentation and stated that the contribution of \$180.4 reflected an increase from the \$151.9 million for FY 2020. She noted that the increase resulted primarily from retroactive pay increases for police officers, and the addition of a large number of new Teachers' Plan members.

There followed a short discussion related to the gain/loss analysis, the funded level of both Plans, the demographic data, and the risk assessments.

Operations Committee Vice Chair Bress then made the following motion:

**Motion #3:** To accept and approve the Report on the Actuarial Valuations of the District of Columbia Teachers' Retirement Plan and the District of Columbia Police Officers and Firefighters' Retirement Plan, prepared as of October 1, 2019, for FY 2021.

The motion was moved by Vice Chair Bress and properly seconded by Trustee Tippet. The motion was approved (11-0). *(See Tally #3)*

**FY 2021 Operating Budget** *(presented by Anthony Shelborne, DCRB's Chief Financial Officer)*

Mr. Shelborne pointed Trustees to page 10 of the presentation, which reflected a total operating budget for FY 2021 of \$44.1 million, compared to \$42.8 million for FY 2020. He indicated that there were increases of \$614 thousand for Personal Services and \$649 thousand for Non-Personal Services and remarked that approved full-time positions remain at 75.

Trustee Tippet noted that there had been a lengthy discussion in the Operations Committee earlier in the day regarding the various line items and staffing levels. He indicated that there had been many good questions asked and many good answers provided.

Following the presentation, Vice Chair Bress made the following motion:

**Motion #4:** To approve the FY 2021 Operating Budget of \$44.1 million and 75 total FTEs.

The motion was moved by Vice Chair Bress and properly seconded by Trustee Harris. The motion was approved (11-0). *(See Tally #4)*

**BENEFITS COMMITTEE REPORT**

Committee Chair Collins stated that there was no meeting of the Benefits Committee this month, so there is no report. She noted, however, that a meeting is being scheduled for January 15, 2020.

## **LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT**

Committee Chair Blanchard stated that there was no Legislative Committee meeting this month, so there is no report. However, he did note the following up-coming hearings:

### **Performance and Budget Hearings**

The annual performance oversight hearing is scheduled for Thursday, February 27, 2020, and the Agency budget oversight hearing is scheduled for Monday, March 23, 2020, before Chairman Mendelson, Chair of the Committee of the Whole.

## **AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT**

Committee Chair Hankins stated that there was no Audit Committee meeting this month, so there is no report. He noted, however, that a meeting is being scheduled for January 15, 2020.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

None.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Board, Chair Clark then introduced a motion to adjourn the meeting.

**Motion #5:** To adjourn the meeting at 3:14 p.m.

The motion was moved by Trustee Harris and properly seconded by Trustee Bress. The motion was approved (11-0). (*See Tally #5*)

**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA RETIREMENT BOARD  
RECORD OF OFFICIAL BOARD ACTIONS**

Tally #1:		Date: December 19, 2019			
To approve the Board Meeting Minutes for the November 21, 2019 meeting.					
Members	Aye	Nay/ Oppose	No Vote/ Abstain	No Vote/ Recuse	Absent
Clark, Joseph W., Chair	√				
Adams, Janice M.					√
Blanchard, Lyle M.	√				
Bress, Joseph M.	√				
Collins, Mary A.	√				
Daniels, Denise D.	√				
Hankins, Gary W.	√				
Harris, Tracy S.	√				
Pemberton, Gregory J.	√				
Smith, Edward C.	√				
Tippett, Thomas N.	√				
Warren, Michael J.	√				

Tally #2:		Date: December 19, 2019			
To certify Thomas N. Tippett as the winner of the 2019 Retired Firefighter election.					
Members	Aye	Nay/ Oppose	No Vote/ Abstain	No Vote/ Recuse	Absent
Clark, Joseph W., Chair	√				
Adams, Janice M.					√
Blanchard, Lyle M.	√				
Bress, Joseph M.	√				
Collins, Mary A.	√				
Daniels, Denise D.	√				
Hankins, Gary W.	√				
Harris, Tracy S.	√				
Pemberton, Gregory J.	√				
Smith, Edward C.	√				
Tippett, Thomas N.	√				
Warren, Michael J.	√				

Tally #3		Date: December 19, 2019			
To accept and approve the Report on the Actuarial Valuation of the District of Columbia Teachers' Retirement Plan and the District of Columbia Police Officers and Firefighters' Retirement Plan, prepared as of October 1, 2019, for Fiscal Year 2021.					
Members	Aye	Nay/ Oppose	No Vote/ Abstain	No Vote/ Recuse	Absent
Clark, Joseph W., Chair	√				
Adams, Janice M.					√
Blanchard, Lyle M.	√				
Bress, Joseph M.	√				
Collins, Mary A.	√				
Daniels, Denise D.	√				
Hankins, Gary W.	√				
Harris, Tracy S.	√				
Pemberton, Gregory J.	√				
Smith, Edward C.	√				
Tippett, Thomas N.	√				
Warren, Michael J.	√				

Tally #4		Date: December 19, 2019			
To approve the FY 2021 Operating Budget of \$44.1 million and 75 total FTEs.					
Members	Aye	Nay/ Oppose	No Vote/ Abstain	No Vote/ Recuse	Absent
Clark, Joseph W., Chair	√				
Adams, Janice M.					√
Blanchard, Lyle M.	√				
Bress, Joseph M.	√				
Collins, Mary A.	√				
Daniels, Denise D.	√				
Hankins, Gary W.	√				
Harris, Tracy S.	√				
Pemberton, Gregory J.	√				
Smith, Edward C.	√				
Tippett, Thomas N.	√				
Warren, Michael J.	√				

Tally #5:		Date: December 19, 2019			
To adjourn the meeting at 3:14 p.m.					
Members	Aye	Nay/ Oppose	No Vote/ Abstain	No Vote/ Recuse	Absent
Clark, Joseph W., Chair	√				
Adams, Janice M.					√
Blanchard, Lyle M.	√				
Bress, Joseph M.	√				
Collins, Mary A.	√				
Daniels, Denise D.	√				
Hankins, Gary W.	√				
Harris, Tracy S.	√				
Pemberton, Gregory J.	√				
Smith, Edward C.	√				
Tippett, Thomas N.	√				
Warren, Michael J.	√				

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