



**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA RETIREMENT BOARD (DCRB)
OPEN BOARD MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY, July 17, 2025
1:30 P.M. via WebEx**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Chair, Danny Gregg
Lyle M. Blanchard
Joseph M. Bress
Joseph W. Clark@1:35 pm
Mary A. Collins
Christopher Finelli
Geoffrey Grambo
Tracy S. Harris
Nathan A.
Saunders@1:44 pm
Adam Weers
Carmen Pigler, Ex Officio

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT

Greggory Pemberton

DCRB STAFF PRESENT

Gianpiero “JP” Balestrieri, Executive Director
Kate Robinson
Violeta Curiel Gonzalez
Patrick Sahn
Paul Gormley
Samantha Van der Bunt
Ram Murthy
Daniel Hernandez
Vernon Valentine
Lauren Smith
Lori Morgan
Leslie West
David Mobley
Jaininne Edwards
Wukyanos Gebremeskel
Johniece Harris, Board Liaison

OTHERS PRESENT

Gar Chung, Financial News
Joe Ebisa, WithIntelligence

ROLL CALL

Chair Danny Gregg called the meeting to order at 1:31 p.m. and Ms. Johniece Harris called the roll.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chair Gregg introduced a motion to approve the open session Board meeting minutes.

Motion#1: To approve the May 15, 2025, Open Board meeting minutes.

The motion was moved by Trustee Gregg and properly seconded by Trustee Weers.
The motion was approved by unanimous vote (8-0). (See Tally #1)

Tally #1		Date: July 17, 2025			
Motion #1: To approve the May 15, 2025, Open Board meeting minutes.					
Members	Aye	Nay/ Oppose	No Vote/ Abstain	No Vote/ Recuse	Absent
Gregg, Danny C., Chair	√				
Blanchard, Lyle M.	√				
Bress, Joseph M.	√				
Clark, Joseph W.				√	
Collins, Mary A.	√				
Finelli, Christopher	√				
Grambo, Geoffrey P.	√				
Harris, Tracy S.	√				
Pemberton, Gregory J.					√
Saunders, Nathan A.				√	
Weers, Adam	√				

Motion#2: To approve the June 5, 2025, Special Open Board meeting minutes.

The motion was moved by Trustee Gregg and properly seconded by Trustee Bress.
The motion was approved by unanimous vote (8-0). (See Tally #2)

Tally #2		Date: July 17, 2025			
Motion #2: To approve the June 5, 2025, Special Open Board meeting minutes.					
Members	Aye	Nay/ Oppose	No Vote/ Abstain	No Vote/ Recuse	Absent
Gregg, Danny C., Chair	√				
Blanchard, Lyle M.	√				
Bress, Joseph M.	√				
Clark, Joseph W.	√				
Collins, Mary A.			√		
Finelli, Christopher	√				
Grambo, Geoffrey P.	√				
Harris, Tracy S.	√				
Pemberton, Gregory J.					√
Saunders, Nathan A.				√	
Weers, Adam	√				

CHAIR REPORT

Chair Gregg referred the trustees to his written report and commented on the following topics:

- **In-Person Board Attendance:**

Board meetings will continue virtually and in person. Those who want to meet in the Board room are welcome to do so, please let staff know.

- **Board Etiquette:**

Decorum- professionalism – 1) civility; 2) mutual respect and courtesy toward others and 3) preparation, i.e., thoroughly read briefing materials, test links to access meeting before the actual meeting, 4) be on time – meetings will begin once a quorum is met.

Agenda – out of respect for other trustees and staff please plan to arrive on time and remain focused exclusively on the agenda items. Once a meeting is convened, other matters aside from the prepared Agenda may be addressed during “Other Business.”

Computer Camera - please turn on your camera and mute your audio until you intend to speak.

- **Board Governance**

Delegation of Authority – Board governance focuses on setting the overall direction, strategy, and policies for DCRB, while management focuses on the day-to-day operations and implementation of those policies. Trustees must refrain from getting into the weeds. Trustees and the ED will create the vision for DCRB and it’s the duty of the paid professional staff to help us achieve that vision through the development of operational programs and policies and procedures.

Complaints/Concerns – refer complaints to the responsible department head with a courtesy notification to the Executive Director. DCRB staff will address the issue and contact the complainant with findings and any resolution that addresses the concern. The originating trustee will be kept informed.

Investments– the Executive Director and chairman of the Investment Committee will update us on the performance of the Fund.

Standing Committees-Standing Committees Chairs/Vice Chairs:

- Investment Committee of the Whole–Chair Adam Weers/Vice Chair Tracy Harris
- Audit Committee – Chair Tracy Harris/Vice Chair Mary Collins
- Benefits Committee – Chair Geoff Grambo/Vice Chair Nathan Saunders
- Legislative Committee – Chair Lyle Blanchard/Vice Chair Mary Collins
- Operations Committee - Chair Chris Finelli/Vice Chair Gregory Pemberton

- **Scheduled Meetings- Schedule of Board of Trustees Meetings:**

Trustee meetings are every other month. A schedule is posted at DCRB website with dates and times.

Committee meetings shall be held during the months that a Board meeting is not scheduled.

August – no meetings

Training sessions for all Trustees will be held prior to the investment committee meeting in the months the Board of trustees meet. All Trustees are encouraged to seek out knowledge-based and skills-based training opportunities to better serve Plan participants.

- **Rules of Professional Behavior for Board Meetings:** I would like to ask that Trustees and Staff please observe the following rules of professional behavior for Board and Committee meetings:
 1. Board and Committee meetings must start and end on time in accordance with the schedule set forth in the meeting agenda.
 2. Trustees and Staff must treat each other with respect and professionalism.
 3. Each Trustee is also asked to be respectful of their peers.
 4. Please turn your camera on and mute your audio until you are asked to speak.
- **DCRB iPads and Laptops :** The DCRB issued iPads and Laptops should be frequently powered on and used so that security patches can be installed when released. Doing this at least once a week will secure the device and that it runs properly. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact DCRB.ComputerIssues@dc.gov for further assistance.
- **Trustee Elections Timetable:** As mentioned in the May Board meeting, the elections for a Retired Teacher Representative on the Board of Trustees will commence on August 1, 2025. The four-year term will begin January 28, 2026, and end January 27, 2030. The Notice of Election and Request for Nominations, including the Statement of Candidacy Forms, are tentatively scheduled to be sent to eligible members on September 05, 2025.
- **Next Board Meeting:** The next meeting will be held on September 18, 2025.
- **Board Motions:** As a reminder, when voting on Board motions and resolutions, individual voice votes are required.
- **Member Complaints:** Trustees who receive questions or complaints from members on issues administered by DCRB should contact the Executive Director and the Department Chief who is responsible for issue resolution.

Trustees moved to the next item on the agenda

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Executive Director, Gianpiero "JP" Balestrieri, gave an update on the following topics:

1. Staffing Update

- a. **New & Pending Hires**
- b. **Current Vacancies to Fill**

2. Fiscal Year 2024 Fund Performance and Investment Update (As of 5/14/2025)

- a. **Total Market Value of the Fund:** is at \$12.9 billion
- b. **Firm Fund Liquidity:** Currently, the Fund holds approximately \$150 million in cash vs. monthly benefit payments of approximately \$30mn.
- c. **Net Returns to the Fund:**

- i. Calendar YTD 2025: 7.5%
- ii. Fiscal YTD 2025: 6.0%
- iii. Last twenty (20) Years Average: the net return has averaged +6.3% per annum

3. Asset Allocation & Rebalancing Update

The DCRB investment team monitors the portfolio's asset allocation daily to ensure the asset allocation stays in line with targets and that there is sufficient liquidity to meet benefit payments, capital calls, and other operational needs.

- a. **Since the last board meeting:** the investment team has completed another 14 rebalancing transactions valued at about \$275 million.
- b. **FY 25 to date:** the investment team has completed 84 rebalancing transactions valued at approximately \$4.613 billion in FY 2025 to date.

4. Closings Since last Board Meeting

DCRB closed an investment of \$100mn in Avance Investment Partners on June 20, 2025, an investment manager focused on US middle market buyouts.

5. Updated Investment Policy

The updated investment policy serves as the governing document for the investment of the assets of the retirement funds as well as for the planning and implementation of DCRB's investment program, outlining DCRB's investment philosophy, practices, policies, and objectives and defining the roles, duties and responsibilities of the individuals and entities involved in the investment process. The Investment Policy was approved by the Investment Committee and the Board on June 5th, 2025.

6. Custodial Banking Services RFP

The Finance and Investments teams worked with the procurement department to conduct an RFP process for a new custodial banking services recommendation for review and approval by the Operations Committee in June 2025. The board will review and approve the recommendation at today's board meeting.

7. RFP Process for Independent Audit Services Provider

The Finance team worked with the procurement department to conduct an RFP process for a new independent audit services provider recommendation that was presented at the Audit Committee meeting in June 2025. The contract award is pending approval by the Board today.

8. Stakeholder Outreach: Trainings and Workshops

The Benefits team continues to lead a very proactive stakeholder outreach program to kick off calendar year 2025 focused on training and workshops with employer agencies.

- a. May 7, 2025: Washington Teachers Appreciation Attendance Meeting
- b. June 11, 2025: FEMS Retirement Workshop

9. Benefits Administration Pension System (BAPS) RFP Process

DCRB management presented an education session on the options reviewed to date for the Benefits Administration Pension System (BAPS) at the June 2025 operations committee prior to moving forward with the RFP procurement process for BAPS. DCRB management intends to conduct and complete the RFP process for review and approval by the trustees in the first quarter of FY 2026.

Trustees moved to the next item on the agenda

LEGAL DEPARTMENT REPORT

Kate Robinson, Interim General Counsel, reported to the Board on new developments since the May Board meeting and that DCRB’s Legal Department continues to make progress on our goals and projects for fiscal year 2025.

Litigation Update: The District of Columbia Court of Appeals affirmed the dismissal of Erie Sampson’s complaint under the DC Whistleblower Protection Act on June 30, 2025.

Trustee Saunders asked if there are any other outstanding issues with regards to Erie Sampson. The Executive Director responded that the whistle blower claims are the last of the seven claims that were filed by the former employee against DCRB back in 2022. The only outstanding claim is the one with the Office of Employee Appeals (OEA), which will be resolved in the appellate court.

Trustees moved to the next item on the agenda

INVESTMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

Committee Chair Weers reported that the Investment Committee met on July 17, 2025. The official actions taken at this meeting are presented below for ratification by the full Board.

Motion #3: To approve a commitment of up to \$100 million to “Fund AH”*, a private equity fund, pending legal review and final due diligence. The commitment is in line with DCRB’s investment policy statement and asset allocation.

The motion was moved by Chair Weers and properly seconded by Trustee Finelli. The motion was approved unanimous vote (9-0). (See Tally #3)

ally #3			Date: July 17, 2025		
Motion #: To approve a commitment of up to \$100 million to “Fund AH”*, a private equity fund, pending legal review and final due diligence. The commitment is in line with DCRB’s investment policy statement and asset allocation.					
Members	Aye	Nay/ Oppose	No Vote/ Abstain	No Vote/ Recuse	Absent
Gregg, Danny C., Chair	√				
Blanchard, Lyle M.	√				
Bress, Joseph M.	√				
Clark, Joseph W.	√				
Collins, Mary A.			√		
Finelli, Christopher	√				

Grambo, Geoffrey P.	√				
Harris, Tracy S.	√				
Pemberton, Gregory J.					√
Saunders, Nathan A.	√				
Weers, Adam	√				

Motion #4: To approve a commitment of up to €150mn (or the equivalent in U.S. dollars) to “**Fund AI**”*, a private credit fund, pending legal review and final due diligence. The commitment is in line with DCRB’s investment policy statement and asset allocation.

The motion was moved by Trustee Weers and properly seconded by Trustee Harris. The motion was approved unanimous vote (9-0). (See Tally #4)

Tally #4		Date: July 17, 2025			
Motion #3: To approve a commitment of up to €150mn (or the equivalent in U.S. dollars) to “ Fund AI ”*, a private credit fund, pending legal review and final due diligence. The commitment is in line with DCRB’s investment policy statement and asset allocation.					
Members	Aye	Nay/ Oppose	No Vote/ Abstain	No Vote/ Recuse	Absent
Gregg, Danny C., Chair	√				
Blanchard, Lyle M.	√				
Bress, Joseph M	√				
Clark, Joseph W.	√				
Collins, Mary A.			√		
Finelli, Christopher	√				
Grambo, Geoffrey P.	√				
Harris, Tracy S.	√				
Pemberton, Gregory J.					√
Saunders, Nathan A.	√				
Weers, Adam	√				

In addition, DCRB completed the following new investments since the last Investment Committee meeting:

1. A \$100 million commitment to **Avance Investment Partners II**, a private equity fund, closed on June 20, 2025.

Trustees moved to the next item on the agenda.

OPERATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

Committee Chair Finelli reported on June 15, 2025, with an agenda that included three items:

- The approval of minutes from its February 18th, 2025, meeting.
- A briefing on DCRB’s global custody services contract; and
- An update on the Benefits Administration Pension System (BAPS).

The first item, *Global Custody Services Selection*, included a presentation, followed by an action item requiring a Committee vote. The second item—*Benefits Administration Pension System (BAPS)*—provided

an informational update: no Committee action was required. For your reference, copies of each of these presentations are available in Diligent.

Regarding BAPS: DCRB has moved forward with its review and assessment of various technology options for proving the most viable pension system for future benefits administration. The Committee was updated that two options merited further consideration (a cloud-based model, and the District’s PeopleSoft pension module). Major next steps include the publishing of an RFP (in August 2025), followed by vendor selection, presentation for review and approval by the Operations Committee (in December 2025), and final Board approval in January 2026.

Regarding global custody services: DCRB’s contract (currently with Northern Trust) expires on November 30, 2025. Accordingly, DCRB recently issued a formal Request for Information (RFI), to determine whether Northern Trust should continue as the agency’s service provider—or, if other providers might offer superior capabilities, service levels, or value. Following discussion during and after the presentation, the Committee approved moving forward with a motion for full Board review and vote.

The motion to be voted on is as follows:

Motion #5: To authorize the Executive Director to enter a contract with Norther Trust to provide DCRB with Global custody services under the following items:

- A base contract term of seven (7) years, with up to three (3) additional one-year option periods, for a total potential contract term of ten (10) years.
- The total contract value shall not exceed \$6,051,000 subject to final contract negotiations, legal review and approvals.

The motion was moved by Trustee Finelli and properly seconded by Trustee Harris. The motion was approved unanimous vote (10-0). (See Tally #5)

Tally #5		Date: July 17, 2025			
Motion #5: To authorize the Executive Director to enter a contract with Norther Trust to provide DCRB with Global custody services under the following items: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A base contract term of seven (7) years, with up to three (3) additional one-year option periods, for a total potential contract term of ten (10) years. • The total contract value shall not exceed \$6,051,000, subject to final contract negotiations, legal review and approvals. 					
Members	Aye	Nay/ Oppose	No Vote/ Abstain	No Vote/ Recuse	Absent
Gregg, Danny C., Chair	√				
Blanchard, Lyle M.	√				
Bress, Joseph M	√				
Clark, Joseph W.	√				
Collins, Mary A.	√				
Finelli, Christopher	√				
Grambo, Geoffrey P.	√				
Harris, Tracy S.	√				
Pemberton, Gregory J.					√
Saunders, Nathan A.	√				
Weers, Adam	√				

The next Operations Committee is scheduled to be held on Tuesday, October 21st, at 1pm. This concludes my report.

Trustees moved to the next item on the agenda.

AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT

Committee Chair Harris reported that the Audit Committee met on June 17, 2025, and the following items were presented:

- The Budget vs Actual report as of May 31, 2025:
 - o 57% of the original FY 25 budget was available for spending.
- Internal Auditor Report:
 - o The Internal Audit Director provided an update on the internal audit plan:
 - Dashboard - The dashboard remains a key tool for monitoring prior audits and their associated findings. Recent updates include the incorporation of seven upcoming audits that are currently in the planning phase.
 - Active Audit – An update on the revision of the record retention policy by the Legal Team was provided. Ms. Robinson and her team are collecting information from each Department about their individual records and retention practices. The task is projected to be completed by September 30th.
 - Future Audits – Additional audits are currently in development. These upcoming audits will focus on operational due diligence within Investments and assess the design and effectiveness of the internal controls in the new FMS system. Other audits will examine documentation related to cybersecurity internal controls and review incoming calls to the Benefit Team to verify adherence to customer service standards.
- Audit Services Contract:
 - o Following a presentation by the CFO, the Committee approved the associated motion to bring forward to the full Board.

Motion #6: To authorize the Executive Director to enter into a contract with Watson Rice to provide auditing services for a one-year base period for \$84,016 and four 1- year option periods, for a total contract amount not to exceed \$438,937 subject to contract negotiations.

The motion was moved by Trustee Finelli and properly seconded by Trustee Saunders. The motion was approved unanimous vote (10-0). (See Tally #6)

Tally #6		Date: July 17, 2025			
Motion #6: To authorize the Executive Director to enter into a contract with Watson Rice to provide auditing services for a one-year base period for \$84,016 and four 1- year option periods, for a total contract amount not to exceed \$438,937 subject to contract negotiations.					
Members	Aye	Nay/ Oppose	No Vote/ Abstain	No Vote/ Recuse	Absent
Gregg, Danny C., Chair	√				
Blanchard, Lyle M.	√				
Bress, Joseph M	√				

Clark, Joseph W.	√				
Collins, Mary A.	√				
Finelli, Christopher	√				
Grambo, Geoffrey P.	√				
Harris, Tracy S.	√				
Pemberton, Gregory J.					√
Saunders, Nathan A.	√				
Weers, Adam	√				

The next Audit Committee meeting is scheduled for October 21, 2025, at 10 am.

Trustees moved to the next item on the agenda.

BENEFITS COMMITTEE REPORT

Committee Chair Grambo reported that the Benefits Committee met on June 18, 2025, and the following items were presented.

Updates on Benefits Operations

- Stakeholder Engagement and Collaborations
- Certified Public Manager Program
- MPD Lateral Service Project
- Current Retirements
- Member Services
- Upcoming and Ongoing Activities
- Technology Projects
- Compliance Projects
- OPEB Updates

New Online Videos

- There was a demonstration of new videos developed in-house with the use of the AI program HeyGen. This program will help the Benefits department create educational content videos for members and staff with the use of avatars. The program will also streamline video production, and it reduces the need for traditional filming and editing. The first video links on specific topics are available <https://dcrb.dc.gov/page/retired-members-resource-library>

Overpayment Limit Recommended Increase

- IRS regulation (IRS Revenue Procedure 2021-30) has increased the overpayment limit from \$100 to \$250. This policy was already adopted by Treasury for any member Federal overpayments and DCRB is recommending to do the same for District overpayments. The Executive Director still has the authority to compromise, suspend, or terminate recovery activity on an overpayment that cannot be fully recovered.

The Benefits Committee was presented with the updated policy, changing the amount and updating the legal citations. Please see attached Motion:

Motion #7: To accept and approve DCRB’s Policy Guidelines for Correcting Benefit Overpayment/Underpayment Errors, as revised to change to *de minimis* threshold from \$100 to \$250 in accordance with IRS guidance.

The motion was moved by Trustee Finelli and properly seconded by Trustee Saunders. The motion was approved unanimous vote (10-0). (See Tally #7)

Tally #7			Date: July 17, 2025		
Motion #6: To accept and approve DCRB’s Policy Guidelines for Correcting Benefit Overpayment/Underpayment Errors, as revised to change to <i>de minimis</i> threshold from \$100 to \$250 in accordance with IRS guidance.					
Members	Aye	Nay/ Oppose	No Vote/ Abstain	No Vote/ Recuse	Absent
Gregg, Danny C., Chair	√				
Blanchard, Lyle M.	√				
Bress, Joseph M	√				
Clark, Joseph W.	√				
Collins, Mary A.	√				
Finelli, Christopher	√				
Grambo, Geoffrey P.	√				
Harris, Tracy S.	√				
Pemberton, Gregory J.					√
Saunders, Nathan A.	√				
Weers, Adam	√				

Daniel Hernandez, Pension Administrator, provided a brief overview of the HeyGen application and its benefits for the agency. There was an extensive discussion of how the overpayment/underpayment motion reads, and for clarification, the trustees decided to amend the language.

Trustees moved to the next item on the agenda.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

Committee Chair Blanchard reported on the following report reflects activities of interest since the May 15, 2025, Board Meeting:

COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Legislation:

- **Marion S. Barry Summer Youth Employment Program Creditable Service Benefit Amendment Act of 2025 (B26-43).** The Council is considering a bill to provide that participation in the Marion Barry Youth Employment Program constitutes creditable service under the District’s retirement programs if the individual is employed as a District employee after completing the program. The Council held a hearing on the proposed legislation on May 14, 2025. The legislation is not expected to impact service crediting under the District of Columbia Police Officers and Firefighters or Teachers’ Retirement Plans.

- **Early Childhood Educator Pay Scales Amendment Act of 2025 (B26-0176).** The Council is considering a bill to permanently revise early childhood assistant and lead teacher compensation scales to those recommended by the Early Childhood Equitable Educator Compensation Task Force. The bill seeks to balance the limits of the pay equity fund with the compensation and benefits of pre-k and kindergarten teachers employed at the District of Columbia Public Schools and District public charter schools. A hearing was held on Wednesday, June 4th, 2025, in conjunction with the Office of the State Superintendent Fiscal Year 2026 proposed budget hearing. The bill does not directly impact on the administration of the District of Columbia Teachers’ Retirement Plan (the “Plan”), but the salary increases will impact the calculation of teachers’ benefits under the Plan.

- **Peace DC Omnibus Amendment Act of 2025 (B26-187).** This bill was approved by the Committee on the Judiciary and Public Safety on June 9, 2025. The legislation amends the District of Columbia Police Officers and Firefighters’ Retirement Plan (the “Plan”) to provide line of duty death benefits to Fire and Emergency Medical Services (FEMS) members and former members who die within five years of retirement from performance-of-duty illness or injury under the District's presumptive disability from cancer statute. As a result of the amendment, widows, widowers, and children of members or former members who die from performance-of-duty illness will be eligible for a lump-sum payment and survivor annuity equal to 100% of the member's or former member's pay (up from the 40% survivor annuity currently provided under the Plan). The bill is effective January 1, 2024.

Other:

Notice of Reprogramming Request (26-0046). The Council published notice of a request to reprogram of \$281,764 from the Department of General Services to the Metropolitan Police Department (“MPD”). The reprogramming request was filed in the Office of Secretary on June 18, 2025.

Trustees moved to the next item on the agenda.

There being no further business to come before the Board of Trustees, Chair Gregg introduced a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Motion #8: To adjourn the meeting at 2:53 pm.

The motion was moved by Chair Gregg and properly seconded by Trustee Grambo. The motion was approved by unanimous vote (10-0). (See Tally #8)

Tally #8			Date: July 17, 2025		
<u>Motion #8</u> To adjourn the meeting at 2:53 pm.					
Members	Aye	Nay/ Oppose	No Vote/ Abstain	No Vote/ Recuse	Absent
Gregg, Danny C., Chair	√				
Blanchard, Lyle M.	√				
Bress, Joseph M.	√				
Clark, Joseph W.	√				
Collins, Mary A.	√				
Finelli, Christopher	√				
Grambo, Geoffrey P.	√				
Harris, Tracy S.	√				
Pemberton, Gregory J.					√
Saunders, Nathan A.	√				
Weers, Adam	√				