

SERS Retirement Board Meeting Minutes

June 15, 2023

The nine hundredth and sixtieth meeting of the Retirement Board of the School Employees Retirement System was held in the boardroom at 300 E. Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio, and streamed via Zoom videoconferencing on Thursday, June 15, 2023.

Pledge of Allegiance

The SERS Retirement Board meeting convened at 8:35 a.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, the roll call was as follows: Jeffrey DeLeone, Frank Weglarz, Hugh Garside, James Haller, Matthew King, Catherine Moss, Barbra Phillips, and Daniel Wilson. Absent: James Rossler. Also attending in person was Lisa Reid, representative of the Ohio Attorney General's Office and various members of the SERS staff. Several SERS staff members and members of the public attended virtually.

Board Member Proclamation

The Retirement Board of the School Employees Retirement System of Ohio adopted the following resolution on June 15, 2023 to honor Hugh W. Garside, Jr.

Whereas, the School Employees Retirement System of Ohio provides pension benefits to more than 236,000 active and retired non-teaching public school employees; and

Whereas, Mr. Garside dedicated six exceptional years of service to the members and retirees of the School Employees Retirement System of Ohio as a Trustee on the Retirement Board; and

Whereas, Mr. Garside provided extraordinary leadership as Chair and Vice-Chair of the SERS Retirement Board during the 2019-2021 sustainability sessions that were necessary to keep SERS financially strong long into the future; and

Whereas, Mr. Garside always displayed a calm yet determined demeanor during Board and Committee discussions, and his preparation and thoughtfulness were instrumental in keeping those discussions focused and informative; and

Whereas, Mr. Garside has been a trusted and dependable liaison for SERS during interactions with OASBO and a regular participant at SERS' annual advocacy roundtable; and

Whereas, Mr. Garside regularly voiced support for and encouragement to staff in all departments whose innovations and daily work benefits the members and retirees; and

Whereas, Mr. Garside's integrity, dedication, and fortitude have made an unforgettable impression on all who have attended a SERS Board meeting during his tenure; now therefore;

Be it resolved that the Retirement Board of the School Employees Retirement System of Ohio applauds and recognizes Mr. Hugh W. Garside, Jr. for his stewardship, service, and devotion to the retirement security of Ohio's non-teaching public school employees.

The board thanked Mr. Garside for his many years of service and wished him well in his future endeavors.

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Approval of Out-of-State Board Travel

Barbra Phillips moved and Frank Weglarz seconded the motion that the travel request by a Board Member to travel and receive reimbursement for the following out-of-state conference and meeting be approved.

Conference	Attendee	Conference Date(s)	Conference Location	Estimate of Expenses
NCPERS 2023 Public Pension Funding Forum	Catherine Moss	August 20 - 22, 2023	Chicago, IL	\$2645.00

Upon roll call, the vote was as follows: Yea: Frank Weglarz, Hugh Garside, James Haller, Matthew King, Catherine Moss, Barbra Phillips, Daniel Wilson, and Jeffrey DeLeone. Absent: James Rossler. The motion carried.

Consent Agenda

The consent agenda for **June 15, 2023**, included:

- Minutes of the May 18, 2023, Retirement Board meeting
- Summary of Investment Transactions for the period of April 1, 2023, to April 30, 2023
- Retirement Report – Superannuations, Survivor Benefits, and Transfers
- Disability Report – Approval of Disability Benefits, Disapproval of Disability Benefits, Termination of Disability Benefits – Any Occupation, Approval of Appeal for Disability Benefits

Barbra Phillips moved and Catherine Moss seconded the motion to approve the Consent Agenda of the Retirement Board meeting held on Thursday, June 15, 2023. Upon roll call, the vote was as follows: Yea: Frank Weglarz, Hugh Garside, James Haller, Matthew King, Catherine Moss, Barbra Phillips, Daniel Wilson, and Jeffrey DeLeone. Absent: James Rossler. The motion carried.

Investment Report

Annual Investment Play FY2024

SERS Chief Investment Officer, Farouki Majeed, opened his investment report by asking the board if there were any questions about the Investment Plan that was introduced at the last meeting.

After questions and a brief discussion, Barbra Phillips moved and Frank Weglarz seconded the motion to approve the Annual Investment Plan for fiscal year ending June 30, 2024 (“the FY24 Plan”), as presented to the Board on June 15, 2023. The FY24 Plan replaces the FY23 Plan originally approved June 16, 2022. Upon roll call, the vote was as follows: Yea: Frank Weglarz, Hugh Garside, James Haller, Matthew King, Catherine Moss, Barbra Phillips, Daniel Wilson, and Jeffrey DeLeone. Absent: James Rossler. The motion carried.

Monthly Investment Report

Mr. Majeed continued by providing the board with the Monthly Investment Report. Mr. Majeed provided an overview of the economic and financial outlook stating the fed raised interest rates 10 times over the last year and more hikes are expected before the end of 2023. There was a pause in interest rate hikes to see how the rate increases have affected the economy. However, Mr. Majeed reported there is still a chance that we will fall into a recession by the end of the calendar year. SERS investment staff will continue to monitor the situation and provide updates to the board as needed.

After answering several questions and a robust discussion, the board thanked Mr. Majeed for his report.

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Executive Director's Report

Ohio Retirement Study Council (ORSC)

SERS Executive Director, Richard Stensrud, opened his report stating that the June ORSC meeting was cancelled. The next meeting is scheduled for July 13, 2023, or at the call of the Chair.

State Legislative Activity

Mr. Stensrud continued, reporting that the Ohio House Pension Committee voted unanimously to approve HB 146, which contained SERS CBBC legislation. It is now waiting to be scheduled for a vote before the full House.

Mr. Stensrud also reported that HCR 6, urging Congress to repeal WEP and GPO also passed out of committee. HCR 6 is not binding, but rather an indication of the legislature's advocacy. There has been no traction at the federal level, and it seems that no reform will happen until broader SSI reform happens.

Mr. Stensrud continued, stating that Operating Budget (HB 33) hearings continue in the Senate Finance committee. A substitute amendment was adopted last week and there were no provisions included regarding CBBC. Hearings were scheduled for today at 10:00 a.m. Following the hearings, HB 33 will go back to the House for another approval agreement. SERS leadership is very pleased with the progress that has been made. Mr. Stensrud offered a sincere thank you to several staff members and stakeholders at the capitol for their work to make this happen.

Board Chair Jeff DeLeone added his thanks and stated the work was a team effort. Mr. Stensrud agreed, showing his appreciation for those who helped and credited the good working relationships with stakeholders as the reason for the success.

Administrative Expenses

SERS Chief Financial Officer Marni Hall provided a brief overview of SERS administrative expenses. With no questions, Ms. Hall moved on to her request for board approval of the FY2024 Administrative budget.

FY2024 Administrative Budget

Ms. Hall opened her budget presentation addressing some questions that were asked at the last board meeting regarding salaries. Ms. Hall shared a five-year salary and wage history with corresponding headcount. Ms. Hall stated SERS administrative budget salaries and wages are based on budgeted FTE and SERS aggressively fills open positions, as noted by our low vacancy rate. Ms. Hall further explained that salaries and wages are a component of the major category Personnel, which include base wages, overtime, incentive compensation and paid leave. The projected negative variance for FY2023 salaries and wages is due to higher-than-expected overtime, incentive compensation, and paid leave. However, total Personnel expenses are projected to finish FY2023 under budget.

Ms. Hall continued, stating as part of the annual budget cycle, we track the budget as a percentage of actuarial accrued liabilities, a number that increases as our membership grows. This measurement is another way we ensure our budget growth is in line with the volume of our business. Ms. Hall also reported consistent with SERS annual budget cycle, approval is being requested for two budgets through separate resolutions at the June meeting:

1. SERS' Operating and Capital budgets for the next fiscal year, totaling \$37.4 million. This represents a \$20,484 increase over the May presentation, which was updated based on a recent employment contract negotiation line item.
2. Transfer of funds to OSERS Holdings, LLC to cover the net operating expenses of OSERS Broad Street, LLC, in the amount of \$1.7 million.

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Budget Resolution – FY2024 SERS Administrative Budget

Hugh Garside moved and Catherine Moss seconded that the following budget of \$37,357,382 for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023, and ending June 30, 2024, be approved, with such approval effective June 30, 2023.

Expense Classification	Budget
Personnel	\$ 25,471,425
Professional Services (including Investment-Related Consultants)	6,456,305
Communications	1,015,710
Other Operating Expenses	4,413,942
SERS Administrative Expenses	\$ 37,357,382
Administrative Budget	\$ 37,357,382

Be it further provided that the Board has reviewed the estimated fees and expenses for operation of the investment program and authorizes the payment of actual fees to such service providers and in such amounts as is set by the contract with the individual service providers. Upon roll call, the vote was as follows: Yea: Frank Weglarz, Hugh Garside, James Haller, Matthew King, Catherine Moss, Barbra Phillips, Daniel Wilson, and Jeffrey DeLeone. Absent: James Rossler. The motion carried.

Operating Transfer Resolution – FY2024

Frank Weglarz moved and Catherine Moss seconded that SERS transfer to OSERS Holdings, LLC up to \$1,697,957 for payment of building operations and LLC expenses of OSERS Holdings for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023, and ending June 30, 2024 with such approval effective June 30, 2023. OSERS Holdings, LLC shall report quarterly to the SERS Board of Trustees on the expenditure of all funds and receipt of all revenues. Upon roll call, the vote was as follows: Yea: Frank Weglarz, Hugh Garside, James Haller, Matthew King, Catherine Moss, Barbra Phillips, Daniel Wilson, and Jeffrey DeLeone. Absent: James Rossler. The motion carried.

Filing of Proposed Amended Administrative Rules

SERS General Counsel Joe Marotta spoke to the board regarding the following proposed amended administrative rules:

3309-1-18 Payment of contributions

This rule addresses contribution and surcharge payments. The proposed amendments to paragraphs (B), (D), and (H) change the point of reference for deadlines regarding the payment of contributions from the date the payment was remitted to the date SERS receives the payment. An amendment to paragraph (C) reflects that reports are now posted online to eSERS (a secure intranet site for use by SERS employers). Amendments to paragraphs (E) and (G) reflect changes to the payment of state operating funds to community schools and science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) schools enacted by the 134th General Assembly in HB 110. For SERS purposes the changes were not substantive; however, changes to statute citations necessitate conforming amendments in the rule.

3309-1-04 Election of retirement board members.

This rule specifies the process for conducting retirement board elections. The proposed amendments permit SERS to provide nominating petitions in an electronic format in addition to paper. The amendments expressly permit the use of electronic signatures for the electronic petitions. In order for this rule to be effective in time for August collection of signatures, Legal is requesting to file this rule as an emergency rule.

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Legal Counsel discussed with the Retirement Board filing with JCARR the following proposed amended rule as an emergency and regular rule: 3309-1-04 Election of retirement board members. Barbra Phillips moved and Frank Weglarz seconded that proposed amended rule 3309-1-04 be filed with JCARR as an emergency and regular rule as discussed. Upon roll call, the vote was as follows: Yea: Frank Weglarz, Hugh Garside, James Haller, Matthew King, Catherine Moss, Barbra Phillips, Daniel Wilson, and Jeffrey DeLeone. Absent: James Rossler. The motion carried.

Legal Counsel also discussed with the Retirement Board filing with JCARR the following proposed amended rule: 3309-1-18 Payment of contributions. Catherine Moss moved and Frank Weglarz seconded that proposed amended rule 3309-1-18 be filed with JCARR as discussed. Upon roll call, the vote was as follows: Yea: Frank Weglarz, Hugh Garside, James Haller, Matthew King, Catherine Moss, Barbra Phillips, Daniel Wilson, and Jeffrey DeLeone. Absent: James Rossler. The motion carried.

The board took a break at 10:10 a.m.

The board reconvened at 10:18 a.m.

Definition of Compensation Discussion

General Counsel Joe Marotta and Legal Counsel Susan Russell introduced the Definition of Compensation discussion. There was a robust discussion regarding what constitutes compensation and what that means to employers and each employee. Ms. Russell stated that compensation definitions vary depending on who is asked. The board discussed incentive pay, longevity pay, hourly wages, salaries, lump sum payments, and other payments made "in lieu of salary."

Mr. Stensrud chimed in, stating that we need to have consistent definitions for compensation across all levels of employment. Then we need to decide if certain levels of unique compensation should be counted. The goal is to find a definition for compensation that can be applied consistently across the board.

Board members expressed a desire to define compensation that applies to all classes and to that effort, the employment classes also need to be defined. Counsel concurred that there is not currently a definition that clarifies employee classifications.

Also discussed was the need to define the compensation that contractors receive and if the definition of a contractor's compensation aligns with regular employee compensation.

Board member Daniel Wilson asked that this topic be a monthly discussion with no hard deadline. Other board members agreed and asked SERS staff to look at what other systems outside of Ohio are doing regarding defining compensation.

Health Care Report

Premiums and Plan Design Changes

SERS Director of Health Care, Christi Pepe reported on the proposed changes to the health care program for 2024. To summarize:

Medicare Premiums and Benefits

1. No changes to the Aetna Medicare Advantage premium are proposed.
2. The Medicare prescription drug network will be transitioned to Express Scripts' National Medicare Performance Network.
3. Out-of-pocket Part D prescription drug expenses will not exceed the federally established limit for 2024.
4. The in-network specialist physician office visit copay will decrease to \$20 from \$30.
5. A quarterly \$60 over-the-counter product benefit available through CVS pharmacies or for home delivery will be provided as part of the Aetna Medicare Advantage plan.

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Traditional Choice Premiums

The Aetna Traditional Choice premium will be reduced to \$539 based on the actuary's recommendation.

Non-Medicare Premiums and Benefits

1. The Aetna Choice POS II premium will remain the same.
2. Aetna Choice copayments for primary care and specialist office visits will be reduced from \$20 to \$10 and \$40 to \$25 respectively.
3. The AultCare premium will increase by approximately 4%.
4. The Wraparound HRA total annual reimbursement limit will increase to \$2,100.
5. Wraparound HRA reimbursement will be available for any out-of-pocket Marketplace covered service expense, eliminating current service category limitations.

Dental Plan

The SERS dental benefit is offered by Delta Dental. The benefits are not changing for 2024. Dental premiums will increase to \$30.37 for a benefit recipient, \$60.74 with one dependent, and \$91.35 for a benefit recipient and two or more dependents for 2024. Premiums will be stable for the 2024 and 2025 two-year enrollment period.

Vision Plan

SERS vision coverage is offered by VSP. The program is also fully supported by member premiums. Benefits are not changing for 2024. Vision premiums will remain unchanged for 2024. Premiums will be stable for the 2024 and 2025 two-year enrollment period.

Following a brief discussion, it was moved by Hugh Garside and seconded by Frank Weglarz to approve the 2024 health care premiums in Appendix A and the plan design changes in Appendix B. The premiums and plan design changes are effective January 1, 2024. Upon roll call, the vote was as follows: Yea: Frank Weglarz, Hugh Garside, James Haller, Matthew King, Catherine Moss, Barbra Phillips, Daniel Wilson, and Jeffrey DeLeone. Absent: James Rossler. The motion carried.

It was moved by Matthew King and seconded by James Haller to approve the 2024 and 2025 dental and vision premiums as described in Appendix A. The premiums are effective January 1, 2024. Upon roll call, the vote was as follows: Yea: Frank Weglarz, Hugh Garside, James Haller, Matthew King, Catherine Moss, Barbra Phillips, Daniel Wilson, and Jeffrey DeLeone. Absent: James Rossler. The motion carried.

Health Care Premium Discount Program (Safety Net)

Ms. Pepe continued, discussing the Health Care Premium Discount Program. The 2024 Health Care Premium Discount Program is offered only to applicants enrolled in a SERS Medicare Advantage plan and to "split families" in which only one spouse is enrolled in a SERS Medicare Advantage plan.

Eligibility for the Health Care Premium Discount Program during the 2024 calendar year will be based upon the applicant's qualifying household income for calendar year 2022. Medicare Part B reimbursement is excluded from the definition of qualifying household income. Members who are determined eligible by manual application will be presumed to be eligible in subsequent years.

If the applicant's qualifying household income, less the total annual SERS medical premium for the applicant and covered dependents, is less than or equal to 175% of the 2023 federal (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services) poverty level for the household size, the applicant will be eligible to have 25% of his/her share of the SERS premium subsidized by SERS.

If the applicant's qualifying household income, less the total annual SERS medical premium for the applicant and covered dependents, is more than 175% of the 2023 federal poverty level for the household size, the applicant may request special consideration. Special consideration will be given to applicants providing written evidence satisfactory to SERS' staff that a material change in the applicant's financial circumstance

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subsequent to calendar year 2022 has caused the applicant's qualifying household income, less the total annual SERS medical premium for the applicant and covered dependents, to become less than or equal to 175% of the 2023 federal poverty level for the household size.

Effective January 1, 2024, SERS health care participants approved by Medicare for the non-institutionalized Part D low-income subsidy program, which has similar household income eligibility requirements to the Premium Discount Program, will be automatically enrolled into the Premium Discount Program. Previously approved participants will continue to be enrolled for the program in 2024 without reapplication.

It was moved by Catherine Moss and seconded by James Haller to approve the 2024 Health Care Premium Discount Program. Upon roll call, the vote was as follows: Yea: Frank Weglarz, Hugh Garside, James Haller, Matthew King, Catherine Moss, Barbra Phillips, Daniel Wilson, and Jeffrey DeLeone. Absent: James Rossler. The motion carried.

Adoption of Restated Health Care Plan

Mr. Marotta reported that SERS' Health Care Plan and Trust ("HC Plan") was last restated in 2000. The attached proposed restated HC Plan, which would be effective July 1, 2023, is based on the 2000 HC Plan. The purpose of the proposed restated HC Plan is to update content that is no longer current. SERS Legal consulted with outside health care legal counsel at Calfee, Halter & Griswold in Cleveland to develop the proposed restated HC Plan.

A Health Care Plan is intended to outline the benefits, rights, and obligations of participants and to provide the guidelines within which the Plan Administrator operates the Plan. To this end the SERS HC Plan describes eligibility, participation, contributions, benefits, and claims procedures. It also addresses compliance with federal and state law, coordination of benefits, subrogation and assignment, and administration matters.

The proposed restated HC Plan incorporates some content from health care plan documents as well as Ohio Revised Code Chapter 3309 and SERS administrative rules and sets forth additional content directly into the Plan to supplement the incorporated terms.

Legal Counsel discussed with the Retirement Board the "SERS Health Care Plan and Trust" restated July 1, 2023. Barbra Phillips moved and Frank Weglarz seconded the motion to adopt the "SERS Health Care Plan and Trust" restated July 1, 2023. Upon roll call, the vote was as follows: Yea: Frank Weglarz, Hugh Garside, James Haller, Matthew King, Catherine Moss, Barbra Phillips, Daniel Wilson, and Jeffrey DeLeone. Absent: James Rossler. The motion carried.

Retirement Report

There was no executive session for the retirement report.

Compensation Committee Report

Compensation Committee Chair Daniel Wilson provided a brief update on the meeting held earlier this morning. The board then convened into executive session.

Barbra Phillips moved and Catherine Moss seconded the motion that the Board convene in Executive Session pursuant to R.C. 121.22 (G)(1) to discuss the employment and compensation of a public employee. Upon roll call, the vote was as follows: Yea: Frank Weglarz, Hugh Garside, James Haller, Matthew King, Catherine Moss, Barbra Phillips, Daniel Wilson, and Jeffrey DeLeone. Absent: James Rossler. The motion carried.

The board convened in executive session at 11:36 a.m.

The board reconvened in open session at 11:48 a.m.

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It was moved by Daniel Wilson and seconded by Matthew King that as recommended by the Compensation Committee, Executive Director Richard Stensrud receive a 5.5% merit increase in salary effective the first pay date in Fiscal Year 2024. Upon roll call, the vote was as follows: Yea: Frank Weglarz, Hugh Garside, James Haller, Matthew King, Catherine Moss, Barbra Phillips, Daniel Wilson, and Jeffrey DeLeone. Absent: James Rossler. The motion carried.

Audit Committee Report

Chief Audit Officer Jeff Davis provided an update on the work being done in the Audit Committee. Mr. Davis advised that there is a new external auditor, Plante Moran, who was invited to this month's meeting & they provided a presentation on accounting standards. Plante Moran will work closely with Mr. Davis and will have a final audit report for the board by December. Mr. Davis also reported on the FY2023 audit plan that is wrapping up and provided a preview of the FY2024 Audit Plan. Also discussed in the Audit committee meeting was the CAO's FY2024 goals, which were approved.

Audit Committee Chair Barbra Phillips commented that Mr. Davis continues to do a wonderful job. She stated her appreciation for the ERM work that has been done and thanked Mr. Davis for his continued hard work.

Hugh Garside moved and Catherine Moss seconded the motion that the Board convene in Executive Session pursuant to R.C. 121.22 (G)(1) to discuss the employment and compensation of a public employee. Upon roll call, the vote was as follows: Yea: Frank Weglarz, Hugh Garside, James Haller, Matthew King, Catherine Moss, Barbra Phillips, Daniel Wilson, and Jeffrey DeLeone. Absent: James Rossler. The motion carried.

The board convened in executive session at 11:55 a.m.

The board reconvened in open session at 12:08 p.m.

It was moved by Catherine Moss and seconded by Barbra Phillips that as recommended by the Audit Committee, SERS Chief Audit Officer Jeff Davis receive a 5.5% merit increase in salary effective the first pay date in Fiscal Year 2024. Upon roll call, the vote was as follows: Yea: Frank Weglarz, Hugh Garside, James Haller, Matthew King, Catherine Moss, Barbra Phillips, Daniel Wilson, and Jeffrey DeLeone. Absent: James Rossler. The motion carried.

The board took a lunch break at 12:10 p.m.

The board reconvened after lunch at 1:00 p.m.

Executive Director's Report (cont.)

Board Self-Assessment

SERS Executive Director Richard Stensrud opened the discussion by reminding the board that this process started a couple of years ago and this discussion is a continuation of what was previously discussed. Mr. Stensrud wanted to provide the opportunity to discuss how the board is functioning.

Board Chair Jeff DeLeone stated that the board has done a lot of good work and remains as efficient as possible. Mr. DeLeone wants to continue focusing on how to improve on the work already being done.

Board member Daniel Wilson expressed his thoughts stating the board meetings are a good length (of time) and he would prefer to take full advantage of the full day Thursday rather than breaking meetings up into two days, where they would potentially meet on Friday morning. Mr. Wilson wants to make the best use of each board member's time. He also expressed his appreciation for the investment reporting and wants to know how and when benchmarks change over time. Mr. Wilson also wanted to acknowledge the great job SERS staff has done communicating with the board and other stakeholders.

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Board member Hugh Garside expressed he had similar sentiments as the other board members. Mr. Garside thinks the biggest accomplishments of this board is the health care plan and its continued sustainability. Funding for 30 years is unique. Mr. Garside also enjoys the respect and compassion shown by each board member for not only the members but for each other.

Board Vice Chair Frank Weglarz stated he thinks orientation should be longer and more robust. Mr. Weglarz would like to implement a policy that allows new and existing board members to tour each department to get a better understanding of how the working being done affects each member. Mr. Weglarz appreciates the diverse make-up of the board and appreciates that even when disagreements occur, they are respectful and the passion is for the sake of the SERS members. Mr. Weglarz is also pleased that SERS offers its own health care plan and in-house counselors to help with retirement planning. Mr. Weglarz expressed he's extremely proud to sit on this board.

Board member Catherine Moss stated that onboarding should be updated and suggested that SERS staff use the newest board member's upcoming onboarding as an opportunity to gauge success and work on improving the process.

Board member James Haller agreed with the other board members, stated that the onboarding process is like "drinking from a fire hose" and would like to see changes that will improve the onboarding the process. Mr. Haller also noted the board members come from unique backgrounds and that diversity makes for a well-functioning board.

Board member Matthew King agreed onboarding was like drinking from a fire hose and even with his financial background, it was a long learning process. Mr. King felt he had on the job training while on this board. Mr. King suggested providing onboarding again six months after starting a new term to ask clarifying questions. Mr. King also expressed appreciation that this board is proactive vs. reactive and each board member is encouraged to voice their opinions. Mr. King stated he wants to continue to have pension and healthcare sustainability discussions and feels those discussions are a great practice even if no action is taken.

Board member Barbra Phillips echoed the other board members' sentiments. Ms. Phillips feels onboarding has always been an issue. She also noted that even when there is friction among board members, good things come from those conflicts. Ms. Phillips noted that the board members need to begin thinking about succession planning and replacements while they are still on the board; this could open up opportunities for mentoring and building a pipeline of future board members. Ms. Phillips also encouraged board members to embrace and take advantage of more learning opportunities and expressed her gratitude for the training and educational opportunities she's received as a board member.

Mr. Stensrud thanked the board for their candor and thinks the board self-assessment is a good exercise. Mr. Stensrud plans to write up a summary of the discussion and will allow board members to add to it. Mr. Stensrud expressed his appreciation for the honest and open conversations and understands the board has the trust of its members because of the transparency demonstrated at each meeting. Mr. Stensrud closed by stating this will be an annual discussion topic and looks forward to further discussion.

Board Officer Elections

As Chairperson for the SERS Board, Jeff DeLeone opened the floor for nominations for the incoming Board Chairperson. Catherine Moss nominated current Vice Chairperson, Frank Weglarz, as Chair. Hugh Garside and Daniel Wilson also nominated Mr. Weglarz. Jeffrey DeLeone declared that Frank Weglarz Chairperson for fiscal year 2024.

Jeffrey DeLeone then opened the floor for nominations for Vice Chairperson. Daniel Wilson nominated Matthew King as Vice Chairperson. With no other nominations, Matthew King was declared Vice Chairperson for fiscal year 2024.

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Board Communication and Policy Issues

Board Information Request & Follow Up Items

The board expressed interest in creating a more robust onboarding experience. Several suggestions were made, and staff will review those suggestions to make improvements moving forward.

In addition, one board member requested more information regarding Artificial Intelligence (AI) and how SERS will approach this new technology.

It was also requested that the board revisit SERS rate of return based on marketplace expectations. The board would like to have the proper context from advisors regarding our rate of return.

Calendar Dates for Future Board Meetings

The board reviewed the meeting dates for 2023 and 2024.

CALENDAR DATES FOR SERS BOARD AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR 2023

AUDIT COMMITTEE MEETINGS

September 20, 2023 - 2:30 p.m. (Weds.)

December 20, 2023 – 2:30 p.m. (Weds.)

COMPENSATION COMMITTEE MEETINGS

July 20, 2023 – 7:30 a.m. (Thurs.) * *Special Meeting* *

September 21, 2023 – 7:30 a.m. (Thurs.)

December 21, 2023 – 7:30 a.m. (Thurs.)

TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE MEETINGS

September 21, 2023 – 12:30 p.m. (Thurs.)

December 21, 2023 – 12:30 p.m. (Thurs.)

BOARD MEETINGS

July 20 – 21, 2023 - 8:30 a.m. (Thurs. and Fri.)

September 21 – 22, 2023 - 8:30 a.m. (Thurs. and Fri.)

October 19 – 20, 2023 - 8:30 a.m. (Thurs. and Fri.)

November 16 – 17, 2023 - 8:30 a.m. (Thurs. and Fri.)

December 21 – 22, 2023 - 8:30 a.m. (Thurs. and Fri.)

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CALENDAR DATES FOR SERS BOARD AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR 2024 **

AUDIT COMMITTEE MEETINGS

March 20, 2024 – 2:30 p.m. (Weds.)
June 19, 2024 – 2:30 p.m. (Weds.)
September 18, 2024 - 2:30 p.m. (Weds.)
December 18, 2024 – 2:30 p.m. (Weds.)

COMPENSATION COMMITTEE MEETINGS

March 21, 2024 – 7:30 a.m. (Thurs.)
June 20, 2024 – 7:30 a.m. (Thurs.)
July 18, 2024 – 7:30 a.m. (Thurs.) * *Special Meeting* *
September 19, 2024 – 7:30 a.m. (Thurs.)
December 19, 2024 – 7:30 a.m. (Thurs.)

TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE MEETINGS

March 21, 2024 – 12:30 p.m. (Thurs.)
June 20, 2024 – 12:30 p.m. (Thurs.)
September 19, 2024 – 12:30 p.m. (Thurs.)
December 19, 2024 – 12:30 p.m. (Thurs.)

BOARD MEETINGS

February 15 - 16, 2024 - 8:30 a.m. (Thurs. and Fri.)
March 21 - 22, 2024 – 8:30 a.m. (Thurs. and Fri.)
April 18 – 19, 2024 - 8:30 a.m. (Thurs. and Fri.)
May 16 – 17, 2024 – 8:30 a.m. (Thurs. and Fri.)
June 20 - 21, 2024 - 8:30 a.m. (Thurs. and Fri.)
July 18 – 19, 2024 – 8:30 a.m. (Thurs. and Fri.)
September 19 – 20, 2024 – 8:30 a.m. (Thurs. and Fri.)
October 17 – 18, 2024 – 8:30 a.m. (Thurs. and Fri.)
November 21 – 22, 2024 – 8:30 a.m. (Thurs. and Fri.)
December 19 – 20, 2024 – 8:30 a.m. (Thurs. and Fri.)

**** Please note that these dates and times are tentative.**

Adjournment

Board Chair, Jeffrey DeLeone, moved to adjourn to meet on Thursday, July 20, 2023, at 8:30 a.m. for the next SERS regularly scheduled Retirement Board meeting.

The SERS board meeting adjourned at 1:47 p.m.

Jeffrey DeLeone, Board Chair

Richard Stensrud, Secretary