



Seattle City Employees' Retirement System

Board of Administration Meeting
Pacific Building, 720 3rd Avenue, Suite 900, Seattle, WA
(206) 386-1293

Minutes, Thursday, November 14, 2024

Board Members Present: Sherri Crawford (Chair), Judith Blinder, Joseph Hoffman, Kimberly Loving

SCERS Staff Present: Jeff Davis, Paige Alderete, Nina Melencio, Leola Ross, George Emerson

Others Present: Mike Monaco (MMPL), Gary Smith (Cit Attorney's Office), Andrew Robinson (FAS), Elizabeth Paschke (ARSCE), Joe Ebisa (With.Intelligence), Mary Ellen Cagnassola (With.Intelligence)

Call to Order

Sherri Crawford, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:01 am.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Administrative Consent Agenda

Provided in the Retirement Board Packet were the minutes from the October 10, 2024 Retirement Board regular meeting, ratification of Retired Payroll, Office Payroll, and other payments and withdrawals.

The following items represent normal expenses:	
Pension Payroll	\$23,442,646.83
Office Payroll*	441,766.14
Admin Expenses	369,280.16
Investment Expenses	367,508.30
Total Expenses – October 2024	\$24,621,201.43

**Includes estimated benefit costs*

Retirements, Withdrawals, Other Payouts – October 2024			
	Count	Monthly Pension	Lump Sum Distribution
Retirements	26	\$94,408.27	\$724,566.58
Withdrawals	15	n/a	\$546,992.86

Motion: Upon motion by Sherri Crawford, seconded by Kimberly Loving, the Board of Administration accepted and approved the Administrative Consent Agenda. The motion passed unanimously (4-0).

Investment Committee Report – October 31, 2024

Jeff Davis reported on the October 31, 2024 Investment Committee meeting. Staff presented the deep dive on the Overlay program and the 2023 Cost Effectiveness and Fee Analysis. SCERS's overall investment-related costs are comparable to other similarly sized public funds. SCERS has outperformed the Reference Passive Benchmark over the last 10 years, which suggests there is value for the cost.

Staff have recently been notified that NEPC is being acquired by Hightower Advisors, a wealth management firm. Hightower is acquiring 80% of NEPC with the remaining 20% to be held by NEPC partners. SCERS staff will review the acquisition and provide their thoughts at the November Investment Committee meeting.

Administrative Committee Report – October 31, 2024

Paige Alderete reported on the October 31, 2024 Administrative Committee meeting. Staff presented the results of the 2024 Staff Satisfaction Survey and presented a deep dive on SCERS Modernization efforts.

Overall staff satisfaction increased from 2023 to 2024 with a response rate of 90%, which is the highest rate since implementing the survey. A continuing theme for improvement is career advancement. SCERS is a small department and there are limited advancement opportunities.

Over the last decade, the Pension Administration System and Member Self-Service Portal have been the biggest projects for SCERS's modernization efforts. Going forward, staff have three goals for its customer service modernization: reduce paper mailing, improve the Member Self-Service Portal, and expand online education opportunities.

Mr. Davis presented the motion for the reappointment of Dwight McRae to the Investment Advisory Committee (IAC). IAC terms are for three years. Joseph Boateng has chosen to exit the IAC at the end of his term on December 31, 2024.

Motion: Upon motion by Sherrri Crawford, seconded by Kimberly Loving, the Board of Administration accepted the Administrative Committee's recommendation to reappoint Dwight McRae to the Investment Advisory Committee for a three-year term commencing December 31, 2024. The motion passed unanimously (4-0).

Executive Director Update

Mr. Davis reviewed upcoming agenda items. At the November Investment Committee, Joseph Boateng will be recognized and thanked for his service to SCERS. Staff will provide their assessment of the Hightower acquisition of NEPC and do an Investment Operations Review. NEPC will report on the third quarter's performance.

The November Administrative Committee meeting has been cancelled.

At the December Board of Administration meeting staff will present 2025 Board Educational opportunities and there will be some appeals from members on overpayments.

Good of the Order

There were no items for the Good of the Order.

Adjourn Meeting

Motion: Upon motion by Sherri Crawford, seconded by Judith Blinder, the Board of Administration voted to adjourn the meeting at 10:12 am. The motion passed unanimously (4-0).