

## SAUGUS RETIREMENT BOARD MEETING

November 14, 2023

The regular meeting of the Saugus Retirement Board duly posted and held in the Town Hall Annex, 25R Main St, Saugus, MA on the above date was called to order at 12:00 p.m. by Chairman Cross, with Board Members, Decareau, DiBari (via zoom), Gannon, and Matarazzo.

In addition, present at this meeting were Board Staff Ann Quinlan and Theresa Richards and Wainwright representatives Michael Dwyer and Jeff Fabrizio.

**Minutes**

- Board Member Decareau made a motion, seconded by Board Member Gannon to approve the October 23, 2023, Regular Meeting Minutes, and sign them into the records. The Board voted 5-0 in favor.

**Payments:**

A motion made by Board Member DiBari and seconded by Board Member Gannon, voting 5-0 in favor to issue payment for:

- Retirement Board Expense Voucher #121-131 for the month of November 14, 2023, for \$64,082.77.
- Payroll Warrant #11/2023 for \$843,546.65.
- Staff Payroll Warrant #11/2023 for \$15,710.60.
- PRIT General Allocation to Private Equity Exchange on 11/1/2023 for \$67,998.45.

**New Members:**

A motion made by Board Member Matarazzo and seconded by Board Member Gannon voting 5-0 in favor to include for membership in the Saugus Retirement System the following new employees:

- Marcel Fournier, System Administrator, School Department, Date of Hire & Membership is 10/16/23 Contribution rate is 9% + 2%.
- Christopher Vecchio, Applied Behavioral Analyst, School Department, Date of Hire & Membership is 10/31/2023 Contribution rate is 9% + 2%.

**Transfer Out:**

Board Member Decareau made a motion, seconded by Board Member Matarazzo, voting 5-0 in favor to approve the transfer of service and annuity savings account to other MA Retirement Systems, as approved on this month's expense voucher for the following members:

- To the Massachusetts Teacher's Retirement Board- Nicole Molina, School Department, Inactive Paraprofessional, Saugus Retirement Board accepted liability for 1 year and 6 months of service from 12/17/20- 6/23/22. She had prior service with MTRS that had been transferred to Saugus from 8/30/16- 11/9/20, for which MTRS took liability.
- To the Massachusetts Teachers Retirement Board- Danielle Onorio, School Department, Inactive Paraprofessional, Saugus Retirement Board accepted liability for 8 years & 1 months of service from 9/24/15-11/7/23.
- To the Everett Retirement Board- Paige Sannella, Inactive member, School Department. Saugus Retirement System will accept liability for 1 year of service from 1/16/20- 2/5/21.
- To the Woburn Retirement Board – Kathelyn Valente, Inactive member, School Department. Saugus Retirement System will accept liability for 7 months of service from 11/14/22-6/14/23.

**Deaths:**

- Retiree Jessie Mosher, a cafeteria aide passed away on October 12, 2023 just shy of her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. Her estate was paid a final payment upon her death.

**Investments:**

Mike Dwyer gave an overview of the September 2023 statement. The CPI was lower than expected. Jeff Fabrizio reviewed the MT&T Bank's report which shows the total fund at \$141,609,842.00 as of September 30, 2023. The total fund YTD was up 3.11% which is only 9 months in the new year however, the 3 year is at 6.52%. The Total general allocation was 4.65% YTD. The total equity fund was 3.31% YTD with Russell 1000 at 13.07% YTD, LMCG at .37% YTD, Aristotle at -3.69% YTD and Lord Abbett Small Cap at -2.20%. International Equity – MFS at 6.45% YTD. Rhumblin Core and Lord Abbett were -1.03% and 4.50% respectively. The PRIM core real estate was -3.79%. Total venture capital was 4.68% YTD and PRIM Hedge fund was 5.08% YTD.

The Board discussed commitment to Vintage Year 2024 for PRIT Private Equity. After some discussion, Board Member Matarazzo made a motion, seconded by Board Member DiBari, and passed 5-0 to make a commitment to PRIT Private Equity Vintage Year 2024 in the amount of \$3million. A letter needs to be sent to Francesco Danieli at PRIM Board before the December 17<sup>th</sup> deadline.

**Annual Reviews:**

At 12:15, Lord Abbett- Timothy Poulin, Relationship Manager and Jennifer Gallagher, Client Services Manager, Riz Hussain, Investment Strategist (High Yield) and Melanie Coffin, Investment Strategist (Small Cap) attended the meeting via zoom. Greg Balewicz resigned from Lord Abbett leaving Tim and Jennifer as the key relationship managers. Both have worked with Greg for the past 7 years and feel there will be no changes in the transition. Ms. Coffin reviewed the small cap growth's performance this year and shared the thinking process of upcoming months for the funds. Mr. Hussain discussed the High Yield's performance for the year going over the last quarter. More confident setting up for 2024 with the recent results.

At 12:30, MFS- Terence Welch – Institutional Relationship Manager and Ann Marie Costello, Investment Product Specialist attended the meeting via zoom. The MFS fund is an international equity fund. They discussed the performance of the fund for the past year and since inception serving the Saugus Retirement System. Discussed what the next quarter will bring along with their long-term projection.

**Items for Discussion:**

The Annual Appropriation data has been submitted to PERAC via PROSPER. Mrs. Quinlan explained the importance of obtaining the most accurate information for this report to PERAC. Unfortunately, the report that Board Member Matarazzo creates from the MUNIS system is multiple reports that get merged together on different tabs in an excel spreadsheet. The report should be submitted to the Board without the staff needing to make corrections as that would be a conflict. Board Member Matarazzo states there is no other way for the report to be done. Mrs. Quinlan will ask other Boards how it is handled in their Towns as she asked the Town of Andover, and they have access to MUNIS to run a report. Mrs. Matarazzo states the Town Accountant doesn't supply the report. Mrs. Quinlan states she was told a person within the accounting office supplied the report. Hopefully, the issue can be resolved before next year's submission.



Police Chief Mike Ricciardelli contacted both Chairman Cross and Mrs. Quinlan regarding a Home Rule petition for Christopher Taylor. Mr. Taylor is a retired Police Officer on an Accidental disability whose injuries were sustained in a violent domestic crime. There is language in the law that allows for a home Rule petition to allow a person in his situation to request 100% disability vs 72%. After a brief discussion, Board Member Gannon made a motion, seconded by Board Member DiBari, and passed 5-0 to send a letter of support to the Police Chief for Mr. Taylor's Home Rule Petition.

Robert Lemoine, a police officer with the Town of Saugus has paid his Veteran's buyback of 1 year prior to leaving employment. Mr. Lemoine has 10 years of service and has requested a deferred retirement.

The deadline for submission for the 5<sup>th</sup> member position on the Retirement Board has passed. Only one applicant, Doreen L. DiBari, submitted a resume and letter of interest. Board Member Matarazzo made a motion, seconded by Board Member Gannon, and passed 4-0, to appoint Mrs. Doreen L. DiBari for another 3-year term from January 6, 2024 to January 5, 2027. Board Member DiBari abstained from the vote.

The Board received an updated list of Police personnel on 111F and expected return dates.

**Copies of the following included for review and/or discussion:**

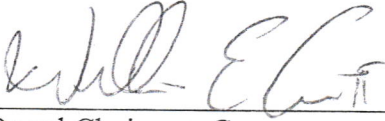
- PERAC Memo #22/2023: Appropriation Data Due October 31, 2023.
- PERAC Memo #23/2023: Paid Family & Medical Leave & Supplemental Payments
- PERAC Memo #24A: Outsourced Chief Investment Officer (OCIO) Policy
- PERAC Memo #25: Cybersecurity Training
- Rhumblin Russell 1000 & Core Bond Investment Statements- October 2023
- Lord Abbett Statement-October 2023
- MFS Statement – October 2023
- Rhumblin 3rd Quarter- \$3,674.00
- Aristotle Statement- October 2023
- LMCG Statement- October 2023
- PRIT Performance – September 2023
- MT&T Bank 9/1//2023 - \$3,263.50
- PRIT -Auto Redemption -11/22/2023– \$625,000.00
- Trial Balance, Cash Receipts, Cash Disbursement, Adjustments, Eastern Bank (3) Account Statements, Peoples' Bank Account Statement, Treasurer's' Reconciliation- September 2023
- Attorney Sacco- Client Only Memo – Military Service Purchase

**Adjournment of Open Meeting**

At 1:25 pm, Board Member Gannon made a motion, seconded by Board Decareau, and passed 5-0 to adjourn the meeting.

The next Board Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, December 19, 2023, at 12:00pm.

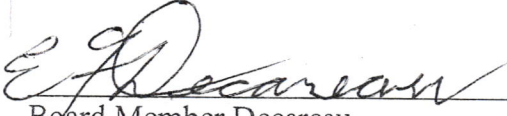
APPROVED BOARD OF RETIREMENT:



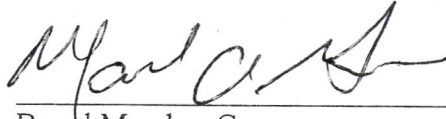
Board Chairman Cross



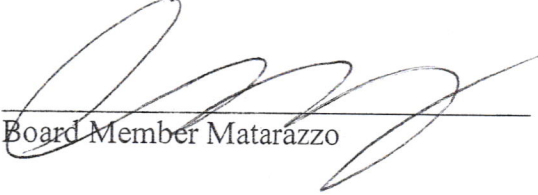
Board Member DiBari



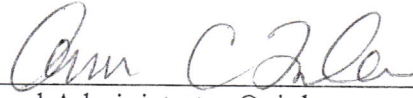
Board Member Decareau



Board Member Gannon



Board Member Matarazzo



Board Administrator Quinlan

