CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
GENERAL EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
401 NE FOURTH STREET, SUITE 201, FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA
Thursday, March 13, 2025
12:00 Noon

BOARD'S COMMUNICATION TO THE CITY COMMISSION

Items Requiring City Commission Action
- None at this time

Items That May Be of Interest to the City Commission
- None at this time

Items Submitted For City Commission Consideration
- None at this time

Present:	Lynn Wenguer, Chairperson Jill Prizlee, Vice Chairperson Marian Dollard, Secretary Jeri Pryor, Trustee Douglas Meade, Trustee Robert McComsey, Trustee Mark Burnam, Trustee
Also Present:	Glenn Thomas, Board Attorney (via teleconference) Nick Schiess, Pension Administrator Anne-Marie Lacroix-Vega, Pension Office Assistant Eric Leventhal, KSDT CPAs Piotr Krekora, Gabriel Roeder Smith

CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Wenguer called the meeting to order.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Board reviewed the draft minutes of the meeting held on February 20, 2025. **Ms. Pryor made a motion to approve the minutes of the meeting held on February 20, 2025. Ms. Dollard seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.**

APPROVAL OF CONSENT ITEMS

The Board reviewed the consent items. **Ms. Pryor made a motion to approve the consent items. Ms. Dollard seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.**

BENEFIT APPROVALS

RETIREMENT

Name	Date	Service
COTE, PAULA Fire	4/1/2025	9 Y, 10 M, 5D
GAVIRIA, RICARDO Transportation & Mobility	2/28/2025	23 Y, 6 M, 23D

DROP ENTRIES

Name	Date	Service
LITTLE, WILLIE Public Works	4/1/2025	19Y 5M 29D
WILLIAMS, PAUL Police	5/1/2025	27Y 2M 29D
THOMAS, MELISSA Information Technology Services	4/1/2025	22Y 10M 19D

AUDITOR'S REPORT & 2024 FISCAL YEAR FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Eric Leventhal appeared before the Board on behalf of KSDT CPAs to present the Auditor's Report and Audited Financial Statements for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2024. He thoroughly reviewed the financial statements of the Plan and issued the Board with a clean unqualified opinion letter on the statements. Mr. Leventhal reported that the System's net assets as of September 30, 2024 were $750M, an increase of $9M over the prior year, which was primarily attributable to higher-than-expected investment returns. He then reviewed GASB disclosures and required communications all in great detail. He reported that there were no identified instances of non-compliance or deficiencies in internal controls and procedures. He complimented the Board's new bookkeeper and transferring the accounting of the outside investment accounts away from a custodial bank. Mr. Leventhal reviewed the administrative expenses year-over-year, noting a slight increase attributable to the engagement of a bookkeeper. Mr. Schiess reminded the Board that the additional expense was more than offset by lower custodial fees due to restructuring. **Mr. Burnam made a motion to accept and approve the 2024 fiscal year Audit Report and Audited Financial Statements. Mr. Meade seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously. Mr. Meade made a motion to approve and execute the Audit Management Representation Letter. Ms. Pryor seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.**

ACTUARY'S REPORT: GABRIEL ROEDER SMITH

Piotr Krekora appeared before the Board on behalf of Gabriel Roeder Smith to present preliminary results of the actuarial valuation for fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, noting the final results would be presented at the next meeting. He explained that an additional $2.2M increase was required for funding the recently approved Cost-of-Living Adjustment. Mr. Krekora reviewed the actual experience of the System versus the actuarial assumptions, noting that this increase in funding requirements for the COLA was offset by favorable experience of $800K, for an overall net increase of $1.4M. This favorable experience was primarily attributable lower than expected recognized investment return on the actuarial value of assets

during the year.

Mr. Krekora reported that the Florida Retirement System revised its mortality table to reflect people living longer and GERS is statutorily required to utilize the same mortality table. People living longer unfortunately requires an increase in funding, estimated at $700K annually. He discussed the option to implement the new table immediately or postpone the increase to 2026. Since the decision impacts the City's funding requirements, the Board directed the Plan Administrator to request input from the City.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Schiess provided an update on the search for a replacement pension software system, noting that proposals should be presented at the next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Krekora advised that while the preliminary actuarial valuation results appear to be favorable to support a COLA, the final results will be presented at the next meeting. A question arose regarding the duration of the pension obligation bonds and the Board directed the Plan Administrator to inquire with the City specifically when the bonds are expected to be repaid.

Mr. Schiess discussed the State requirement to formally determine the expected rate of investment return on an annual basis. **Ms. Dollard made a motion to determine that the total expected annual rate of investment return for the System for the next year shall be 6.75% and long-term thereafter and authorize Chairperson Wenguer to execute the declaration. This determination is made in accordance with Section 112.661(9) Florida Statutes. Mr. Meade seconded the motion. The motion was accepted unanimously.**

ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Mr. Thomas reviewed an inquiry received from the Plan Administrator requesting an opinion whether a DROP Participant may run for election for the office of Trustee. Mr. Thomas reviewed the applicable definitions and provisions within Plan language all in great detail. He advised that while the provisions permit participation only by employees that DROP Participants are not specifically excluded and are indeed still employees logistically receiving pay ad performing service to the City. Mr. Thomas concluded that DROP Participants may therefore run for and hold office as Trustee.

Mr. Thomas provided an update on the upcoming issues proposed in the new State legislative session.

APPOINTMENT OF BOARD OFFICERS

Mr. Schiess noted the requirement of electing Board officers for the 2025 calendar year pursuant to City Ordinance. **Mr. McComsey nominated Ms. Wenguer as Chairperson of the Board, Ms. Prizlee as Vice-Chairperson and Ms. Dollard as Secretary. Mr. Burnam seconded the**

nominations, which were approved unanimously.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Mr. Schiess provided a financial report including account and benefit payment reconciliations, investments, monthly fund asset mix and miscellaneous organizational changes.

Mr. Schiess provided another update on retirees that had still not returned proof of life certification and whose benefits were suspended effective September 1, 2024. He reported sending of demand letters to the families of the two overpaid payees for the recovery of overpayments as directed by the Board at the last meeting. Mr. Schiess then reported that one had responded and had tentatively agreed to repayment over time but was somewhat non-committal regarding a schedule. The Board directed Mr. Thomas to send formal demand letters.

Mr. Schiess reported that workshops for active members who become eligible for the DROP during 2025 was scheduled on March 25, 2025.

Mr. Schiess reported that the annual policy review will be conducted at the April meeting and the policies not requiring revision had already been uploaded to OneDrive for review.

Mr. Schiess reported that the one-year trial period for the special audits for prevention of internal fraud were commissioned had expired. He suggested allowing him to explore future pricing with the auditor and the Board agreed.

Mr. Schiess reported that the proposed Ordinance Amendment that revises the eligibility requirements of Trustees to include retirees remains stalled because it was deemed a matter for collective bargaining by a Union.

PLEASURE OF THE BOARD

There were not any items for discussion.

BOARD COMMUNICATION TO THE CITY COMMISSION

There was not any Board communication to City Commission.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 2:35 PM.