

NEWTON RETIREMENT BOARD MEETING
Tuesday, September 24, 2024 – 9:00 a.m.
Location: Newton City Hall, Room 211

PRESENT: Chairman Thomas Lopez, Anthony Logalbo, Kelly Byrne, Lisa Maloney, Esq., Barbara O'Brien, Scentia Saintcyr, Deirdre Walsh, Assistant City Solicitor/Retirement Board Counsel Jaclyn Zawada, and Assistant City Solicitor/Retirement Board Counsel Kristen Annunziato

GUESTS: David Helfman, Newton Resident and City of Newton's Manager of Financial Planning and Analysis, Perry Rosenfield

VOTED: Record in minutes the Board voted, by a vote of 4-0, to approve the regular session minutes of the August 28, 2024, Board meeting.

VOTED: Record in minutes the Board voted, by a vote of 4-0, to approve the executive session minutes of the August 28, 2024, Board meeting.

VOTED: Record in minutes the Board voted, by a vote of 4-0, to table the vote regarding Maureen Murphy's request for a Needham Bill waiver pending the receipt of PERAC's response to the Board's request for clarification regarding collecting overpayment of benefits and refunding contributions.

RECORD: Record in minutes that at 9:05 a.m. Attorney Ira Zaleznik, counsel for member Dorothy Zaleznik, entered the meeting.

VOTED: Record in minutes the Board voted, by a vote of 4-0, to table Dorothy Zaleznik's request for reconsideration of the Board's August 28, 2024 decision to revoke her retirement allowance, collect the overpayment of benefits and refund her purchase of elected official time, and to request a follow-up opinion from PERAC based on additional details specific to Ms. Zaleznik's buyback of prior elected official service. The Board will take further action upon receipt of PERAC's response.

RECORD: Record in minutes that no action was taken regarding Ms. Zaleznik's request for a Needham Bill waiver.

RECORD: Record in minutes that at 9:15 a.m. Attorney Ira Zaleznik, counsel for member Dorothy Zaleznik, left the meeting.

VOTED: Record in minutes the Board voted, by a vote of 4-0, to approve the monthly financial reporting for month ending July 2024 (trial balance, related journals, MMDT/Eastern bank statements, MMDT/Eastern Bank reconciliations, asset allocation, expense budget to actual comparison and cash flow forecast) as prepared by Director O'Brien.

VOTED: Record in minutes the Board voted, by a vote of 4-0, to approve the acceptance of the following new members:

| Last Name | First Name | Group | Date of Membership | Department | Position |
|------------------|-------------------|--------------|---------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| Whalen | Michael | 1 | 08/26/24 | Public Works | HMEO |
| Beatrice | Curtis | 1 | 08/28/24 | School | Teacher Aide |
| Bentley Watson | Lanasia | 1 | 08/28/24 | School | Teacher Aide |
| Bugg | Kaley | 1 | 08/28/24 | School | Teacher Aide |
| Cadet | Edwin | 1 | 08/28/24 | School | Teacher Aide |
| Carlson | Daniel | 1 | 08/28/24 | School | Teacher Aide |
| Carnathan | Hannah | 1 | 08/28/24 | School | Teacher Aide |

| | | | | | |
|---------------------|-----------|---|----------|------------------------|---------------------------|
| Carpenter | Russell | 1 | 08/28/24 | School | Teacher Aide |
| Carpinetti | Angelina | 1 | 08/28/24 | School | Teacher Aide |
| Cummings | Molly | 1 | 08/28/24 | School | Teacher Aide |
| Dasent | Saskia | 1 | 08/28/24 | School | Teacher Aide |
| Davenport | Kate | 1 | 08/28/24 | School | Teacher Aide |
| Delong | Anna | 1 | 08/28/24 | School | Teacher Aide |
| Dias | Summer | 1 | 08/28/24 | School | Teacher Aide |
| Dubus Brandolini | Allegra | 1 | 08/28/24 | School | Teacher Aide |
| Davie | Keith | 1 | 08/12/24 | School | Asst Athletic Director |
| Manzella | Allison | 1 | 08/12/24 | School | Asst Athletic Director |
| Crossley | Lindsay | 1 | 08/29/24 | Health & Human Serv | School Nurse |
| Danziger | Hannah | 1 | 08/29/24 | Health & Human Serv | School Nurse |
| Martins | Maria | 1 | 08/29/24 | Health & Human Serv | School Nurse |
| McMenamy | Margaret | 1 | 08/29/24 | Health & Human Serv | School Nurse |
| Oullette | Cameron | 1 | 08/29/24 | Health & Human Serv | School Nurse |
| Murray | Andrea | 1 | 09/04/24 | Health & Human Serv | School Nurse |
| Antonakas | Peter | 1 | 09/09/24 | Police | Emergency Dispatch |
| Sampson | Krista | 1 | 09/09/24 | Police | Emergency Dispatch |
| Claffin | Michael | 4 | 09/09/24 | Fire | Firefighter |
| Coroia | Nicholas | 4 | 09/09/24 | Fire | Firefighter |
| Jeffers | Tanis | 4 | 09/09/24 | Fire | Firefighter |
| Tobin | William | 4 | 09/09/24 | Fire | Firefighter |
| Palmer | Cherise | 1 | 08/28/24 | School | Teacher Aide |
| Bardales | Brenden | 1 | 08/28/24 | School | Teacher Aide |
| Boardman | Samuel | 1 | 08/28/24 | School | Teacher Aide |
| Bourque | Kristen | 1 | 08/28/24 | School | Teacher Aide |
| Bosse | Katherine | 1 | 08/28/24 | School | Teacher Aide |
| Bryant | Kalene | 1 | 08/28/24 | School | Teacher Aide |
| Cooley | Isaiah | 1 | 08/28/24 | School | Teacher Aide |
| D'Amato | Angelo | 1 | 08/28/24 | School | Teacher Aide |
| Caira | Stacey | 1 | 09/03/24 | School | Teacher Aide |
| Calo | Rita | 1 | 08/28/24 | School | Teacher Aide |
| Cofella | Teresa | 1 | 08/28/24 | School | Teacher Aide |
| Coren | Tristan | 1 | 08/28/24 | School | Teacher Aide |
| DeAngelo | Abigail | 1 | 08/28/24 | School | Teacher Aide |
| DeRosa | Amanda | 1 | 08/28/24 | School | Teacher Aide |

| | | | | | |
|--------------------|-----------|---|----------|--------|--------------|
| Desmarais | Riley | 1 | 08/28/24 | School | Teacher Aide |
| Eaton | Thomas | 1 | 08/28/24 | School | Teacher Aide |
| Edwards | Janeille | 1 | 08/28/24 | School | Teacher Aide |
| Estrada | Tatiana | 1 | 08/28/24 | School | Teacher Aide |
| Furtado | Matthew | 1 | 08/28/24 | School | Teacher Aide |
| Galvani | Jared | 1 | 08/28/24 | School | Teacher Aide |
| Garcia Paulino | Caroline | 1 | 08/28/24 | School | Teacher Aide |
| Genser | Lauren | 1 | 08/28/24 | School | Teacher Aide |
| Georges | Berwick | 1 | 08/28/24 | School | Teacher Aide |
| Goldhagen | Sloane | 1 | 08/28/24 | School | Teacher Aide |
| Green | Daniel | 1 | 08/28/24 | School | Teacher Aide |
| Gulati | Aishni | 1 | 08/28/24 | School | Teacher Aide |
| Halloran | Richard | 1 | 08/28/24 | School | Teacher Aide |
| Haydock | Catherine | 1 | 08/28/24 | School | Teacher Aide |
| Healey | Mitchell | 1 | 08/28/24 | School | Teacher Aide |
| Holmes | Julie | 1 | 08/28/24 | School | Teacher Aide |
| Holley | Lamont | 1 | 08/28/24 | School | Teacher Aide |
| Homand | Matthew | 1 | 08/28/24 | School | Teacher Aide |
| Ignacio | Rowan | 1 | 08/28/24 | School | Teacher Aide |
| Isabelle | Krista | 1 | 08/28/24 | School | Teacher Aide |
| Iyer | Shweta | 1 | 08/28/24 | School | Teacher Aide |
| Jaeger | Charles | 1 | 08/28/24 | School | Teacher Aide |
| Jamal | Kareemah | 1 | 08/28/24 | School | Teacher Aide |
| James | Chrep | 1 | 08/28/24 | School | Teacher Aide |
| Jensen | Olivia | 1 | 08/28/24 | School | Teacher Aide |
| Johnston | Savannah | 1 | 08/28/24 | School | Teacher Aide |
| Labadini | Daniel | 1 | 08/28/24 | School | Teacher Aide |
| Lacey | Juliet | 1 | 08/28/24 | School | Teacher Aide |
| Le | Tony | 1 | 08/28/24 | School | Teacher Aide |
| Lys | Jean | 1 | 08/28/24 | School | Teacher Aide |
| Makelela | Laure | 1 | 08/28/24 | School | Teacher Aide |
| Mallory | Samiyah | 1 | 08/28/24 | School | Teacher Aide |
| Mansaray | Michael | 1 | 08/28/24 | School | Teacher Aide |
| Marlow Benedick | Emma | 1 | 08/28/24 | School | Teacher Aide |
| McDonald | Caroline | 1 | 08/28/24 | School | Teacher Aide |
| McGarvey | Jessica | 1 | 08/28/24 | School | Teacher Aide |
| Molinari | Alex | 1 | 08/28/24 | School | Teacher Aide |
| Ohrenberger | Kurt | 1 | 08/28/24 | School | Teacher Aide |
| Onaiwu Emokpae | Itohan | 1 | 08/28/24 | School | Teacher Aide |
| Paganelli | Margaret | 1 | 08/28/24 | School | Teacher Aide |
| Parks | Victoria | 1 | 08/28/24 | School | Teacher Aide |
| Peniche | Celia | 1 | 08/28/24 | School | Teacher Aide |

| | | | | | |
|-----------|-----------|---|----------|--------|--------------|
| Putnam | Jodie | 1 | 08/28/24 | School | Teacher Aide |
| Reamer | Stephanie | 1 | 08/28/24 | School | Teacher Aide |
| Riddell | Ethan | 1 | 08/28/24 | School | Teacher Aide |
| Rowan | Amanda | 1 | 08/28/24 | School | Teacher Aide |
| Russo | Megan | 1 | 08/28/24 | School | Teacher Aide |
| Sahadevan | Athul | 1 | 08/28/24 | School | Teacher Aide |
| St. Vil | Jessica | 1 | 08/28/24 | School | Teacher Aide |
| Sakhteman | Eiham | 1 | 08/28/24 | School | Teacher Aide |
| Smith | Emily | 1 | 08/28/24 | School | Teacher Aide |
| Stonehill | Leah | 1 | 08/28/24 | School | Teacher Aide |
| Trani | Danielle | 1 | 08/28/24 | School | Teacher Aide |
| Tsui | Anna | 1 | 08/28/24 | School | Teacher Aide |
| Vecchione | Meghan | 1 | 08/28/24 | School | Teacher Aide |
| Walker | Hailee | 1 | 08/28/24 | School | Teacher Aide |
| Wilson | Shannon | 1 | 08/28/24 | School | Teacher Aide |
| Wood | Heather | 1 | 08/28/24 | School | Teacher Aide |
| Elsayeh | Nermeen | 1 | 09/03/24 | School | Teacher Aide |
| Ulysse | Stephanie | 1 | 09/04/24 | School | Teacher Aide |
| Dilworth | Alex | 1 | 09/06/24 | School | Teacher Aide |
| LaMotte | Dominic | 1 | 09/06/24 | School | Teacher Aide |
| Bush | McKenna | 1 | 09/09/24 | School | Teacher Aide |
| Parks | Cameron | 1 | 09/10/24 | School | Teacher Aide |
| Crocini | Melanie | 1 | 08/28/24 | School | Teacher Aide |

VOTED:

Record in minutes the Board voted, by a vote of 4-0, to approve the following application(s) for superannuation and termination retirement pursuant to G.L. c. 32, §5 and §10. Retirement Board staff has verified that the necessary paperwork is in order and has determined all applicants(s) to be eligible for such benefits:

| Member | Position | Dept. | Date of Retirement |
|---------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|
| Mark Ferguson | Heavy Equipment Operator | DPW | 9/30/24 |
| Raquel Salas | Teacher Aide | School | 10/01/24 |
| Ruth Hoshino | Director of School Health Services | Health & Human Services | 9/27/24 |

VOTED:

Record in minutes the Board voted, by a vote of 5-0, to approve the following expense warrants:

| | | | |
|-----------------|------------|---|-----------------|
| Warrant # 21-24 | 09-25-2024 | Administrative expense/member account disbursements | \$ 90,902.70 |
| Warrant # 22-24 | 09-25-2024 | 09/30/2024 Contributory pension payroll | \$ 4,149,939.92 |
| Warrant # C8-24 | 09-25-2024 | Federal Tax | \$ 5,589.92 |
| Warrant # 23-24 | 09-25-2024 | 3rd Quarter 2024 Staff salary expense | \$ 72,775.49 |

RECORD:

Record in minutes that based on Scott Perella's oral agreement made in August 2024, Mr. Perella will mail his payment on the 25th of every month and the re-payment is scheduled to be completed by May 2029. No action taken by the Board.

RECORD: Record in minutes Director O'Brien confirmed that a response to the 9/17/24 letter to PERAC seeking clarification regarding service purchase refunds due to former elected officials is pending. No action taken by the Board.

RECORD: Record in minutes Director O'Brien confirmed that the request to transfer \$11,250,000 to the PRIT Core Fund effective 10/1/24 has been sent to the City's treasurer. The Board will review the October 2024 balance at next month's meeting and discuss whether to transfer funds to PRIT effective 11/1/24.

RECORD: Record in minutes Chairman Lopez stated that Board Counsel Zawada, Director O'Brien and he will meet next month to discuss next steps to be taken as it relates to the drafting of the Employee Handbook.

RECORD: Record in minutes the Board discussed PERAC's Assistant Deputy Director Patrick Charles' 9/6/24 email to City of Newton Human Resources Director Michelle Pizzi O'Brien in which Attorney Charles stated that a member submitting a disability application due to a presumption is required to submit a pre-employment physical taken either prior to employment or post-employment but prior to the disability application, and that the physical exam must show that the applicant had no signs of the disabling condition. Chairman Lopez stated that a meeting with the Human Resources Director is scheduled for 9/25/24.

RECORD: Record in minutes the Board directed Ms. O'Brien to send an email to all active members and retirees regarding post-retirement employment earnings and hours limitations, and to invite Mayor Fuller, Chief Financial Officer Maureen Lemieux, Treasurer Ron Mendes, City Solicitor Alissa O. Giuliani, and Human Resources Director Michelle Pizzi O'Brien to attend the 10/29/24 Board meeting to develop a process for monitoring post-retirement employment, to ask if any rehired retirees have exceeded or are close to exceeding the post-retirement hours and earnings limitations and actions taken. Director O'Brien confirmed that to date, the Board has not received a hearing request from retirees Michael Abbruzzese, James McCarthy, and Thomas McCarthy in response to the Board's 9/17/24 letter regarding their excess earnings and refund due the system.

RECORD: Record in minutes the Board requested that the Veterans buyback application be included in new member enrollment packets and that notice be mailed and emailed to all active members regarding the changes to military service buybacks pursuant to the HERO Act.

RECORD: Record in minutes that Director O'Brien confirmed that the receipt of the 1/1/24 Actuarial Valuation Report that was returned to Segal on 8/29/24 for correction of typographical errors is pending. No action was taken by the Board.

RECORD: Record in minutes that Board Counsel provided the following updates:

- Richard Metro-DALA issued a conditional dismissal on 9/3/24 ordering Mr. Metro to show good cause within 14 days why he failed to follow proper procedure. Board Counsel confirmed we have not received any indication that Mr. Metro submitted the requested documentation and suggested that the matter be considered dismissed.
- Lee Gilliam – Board Counsel consented to Mr. Gilliam's request to hold the matter in abeyance pending resolution of the Murphy appeal.
- Jeremy Wilson -Board Counsel is preparing the pre-hearing memorandum.
- Kimberley Vanaman, Paula Fallon, Elizabeth Whittum and Edith Goethals: DALA hearing scheduled for 10/22/24; Board Counsel has met with both witnesses.

RECORD: Record in minutes that Director O'Brien provided an update on PTG's Employee Self Service, Scanning Project & Notice of Deposits.

RECORD: Record in minutes the Board confirmed Director O'Brien has the discretion to host volunteers, including but not limited to Senior or Veteran Property Tax Work-Off participants, to assist with special office projects as needed.

VOTED: Record in minutes the Board voted, by a vote of 4-0, to allow retirement allowance payment to Michael Abbruzzese, James McCarthy, and Thomas McCarthy in an amount equal to any life, dental or health insurance deductions that they may have, in the event their retirement allowances are suspended in October 2024.

Upon motion duly made and seconded it was voted, by a vote of 4-0, to adjourn at 10:12 a.m.

Signed:



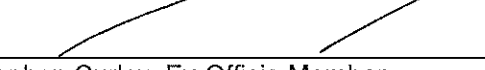
Thomas Lopez, Chairman/Elected Member



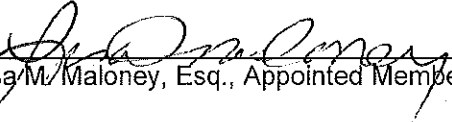
Anthony T. Logalbo, Vice Chairman/Mayoral Appointee



Kelly Byrne, Elected Member



Stephen Curley, Ex-Officio Member



Lisa M. Maloney, Esq., Appointed Member