

PERAC AUDIT REPORT



Newton Contributory
Retirement System



JAN. 1, 2011 - DEC. 31, 2014



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PERAC

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS | PUBLIC EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT ADMINISTRATION COMMISSION

PHILIP Y. BROWN, ESQ., *Chairman*

JOSEPH E. CONNARTON, *Executive Director*

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May 5, 2016

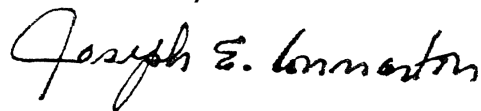
The Public Employee Retirement Administration Commission has completed an examination of the Newton Retirement System pursuant to G.L. c. 32, § 21. The examination covered the period from January 1, 2011 to December 31, 2014. This audit was conducted in accordance with the accounting and management standards established by the Public Employee Retirement Administration Commission, in regulation 840 CMR 25.00. Additionally, all supplementary regulations approved by PERAC and on file at PERAC are listed in this report.

In our opinion, the financial records are being maintained and the management functions are being performed in conformity with the standards established by the Public Employee Retirement Administration Commission.

We commend the Newton Retirement Board for the exemplary operation of the system.

In closing, I acknowledge the work of examiners Amy Chow, Patty Morrison and Harry Chadwick who conducted this examination, and express appreciation to the Board of Retirement and staff for their courtesy and cooperation.

Sincerely,



Joseph E. Connarton
Executive Director



STATEMENT OF LEDGER ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

	AS OF DECEMBER 31,			
	2014	2013	2012	2011
Net Assets Available For Benefits:				
Cash	\$6,519,896	\$8,500,817	\$16,502,386	\$6,512,491
Pooled Real Estate Funds	91,899	408,680	1,157,254	10,274,070
PRIT Cash Fund	200,023	200,017	200,028	200,024
PRIT Core Fund	286,871,089	270,677,325	235,776,635	215,818,018
Prepaid Expenses	6,225	6,706	4,233	11,272
Accounts Receivable	242,896	559,795	549,432	536,859
Accounts Payable	<u>(7,690)</u>	<u>(7,530)</u>	<u>(7,654)</u>	<u>(9,522)</u>
Total	<u>\$293,924,337</u>	<u>\$280,345,810</u>	<u>\$254,182,316</u>	<u>\$233,343,214</u>
Fund Balances:				
Annuity Savings Fund	\$86,485,645	\$82,687,241	\$79,778,188	\$77,977,390
Annuity Reserve Fund	28,972,410	29,822,742	30,387,494	30,113,950
Pension Fund	178,404,860	167,778,829	143,959,692	125,197,444
Military Service Fund	61,422	56,998	56,941	54,430
Expense Fund	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	<u>\$293,924,337</u>	<u>\$280,345,810</u>	<u>\$254,182,316</u>	<u>\$233,343,214</u>

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES

	Annuity Savings Fund	Annuity Reserve Fund	Pension Fund	Military Service Fund	Expense Fund	Total All Funds
Beginning Balance (2011)	\$76,724,534	\$28,839,701	\$136,019,080	\$44,816	\$0	\$241,628,132
Receipts	8,181,326	885,413	16,824,931	89	1,474,098	27,365,856
Interfund Transfers	(5,306,844)	5,258,697	38,621	9,526	0	0
Disbursements	(1,621,626)	(4,869,862)	(27,685,189)	0	(1,474,098)	(35,650,774)
Ending Balance (2011)	77,977,390	30,113,950	125,197,444	54,430	0	233,343,214
Receipts	8,325,674	905,257	47,690,650	55	1,490,131	58,411,767
Interfund Transfers	(4,467,922)	4,478,384	(12,918)	2,456	0	0
Disbursements	(2,056,955)	(5,110,096)	(28,915,483)	0	(1,490,131)	(37,572,665)
Ending Balance (2012)	79,778,188	30,387,494	143,959,692	56,941	0	254,182,316
Receipts	8,585,276	896,927	53,577,653	57	1,706,685	64,766,599
Interfund Transfers	(3,889,865)	3,822,758	67,107	0	0	0
Disbursements	(1,786,359)	(5,284,437)	(29,825,623)	0	(1,706,685)	(38,603,104)
Ending Balance (2013)	\$82,687,241	\$29,822,742	\$167,778,829	\$56,998	\$0	\$280,345,810
Receipts	9,377,464	867,855	40,943,544	57	1,787,345	52,976,265
Interfund Transfers	(3,803,758)	3,799,909	(518)	4,367	0	0
Disbursements	(1,775,302)	(5,518,095)	(30,316,995)	0	(1,787,345)	(39,397,738)
Ending Balance (2014)	\$86,485,645	\$28,972,410	\$178,404,860	\$61,422	\$0	\$293,924,337

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS

	FOR THE PERIOD ENDING DECEMBER 31,			
	2014	2013	2012	2011
Annuity Savings Fund:				
Members Deductions	\$8,346,490	\$7,858,553	\$7,550,858	\$7,500,791
Transfers from Other Systems	846,980	446,258	444,771	276,071
Member Make Up Payments and Re-deposits	30,468	57,738	70,892	84,441
Member Payments from Rollovers	19,138	119,425	154,425	145,031
Investment Income Credited to Member Accounts	<u>134,388</u>	<u>103,303</u>	<u>104,728</u>	<u>174,992</u>
Sub Total	<u>9,377,464</u>	<u>8,585,276</u>	<u>8,325,674</u>	<u>8,181,326</u>
Annuity Reserve Fund:				
Investment Income Credited to the Annuity Reserve Fund	<u>867,855</u>	<u>896,927</u>	<u>905,257</u>	<u>885,413</u>
Pension Fund:				
3 (8) (c) Reimbursements from Other Systems Received from Commonwealth for COLA and Survivor Benefits	692,537	634,501	556,802	488,134
Pension Fund Appropriation	449,067	649,195	658,335	752,371
Settlement of Workers' Compensation Claims	19,693,552	17,975,932	16,508,453	16,056,552
Federal Grant Reimbursement	14,505	0	2,218	19,437
Interest Not Refunded	347,380	319,511	313,189	303,331
Excess Investment Income	3,162	4,664	15	3,195
Recovery of 91A Overearnings	19,743,340	33,991,874	29,650,431	(798,088)
Sub Total	<u>40,943,544</u>	<u>53,577,653</u>	<u>47,690,650</u>	<u>16,824,931</u>
Military Service Fund:				
Investment Income Credited to the Military Service Fund	<u>57</u>	<u>57</u>	<u>55</u>	<u>89</u>
Sub Total	<u>57</u>	<u>57</u>	<u>55</u>	<u>89</u>
Expense Fund:				
Expense Fund Appropriation	\$284,623	\$278,168	\$261,140	251,326
Investment Income Credited to the Expense Fund	<u>1,502,722</u>	<u>1,428,517</u>	<u>1,228,991</u>	<u>1,222,772</u>
Sub Total	<u>1,787,345</u>	<u>1,706,685</u>	<u>1,490,131</u>	<u>1,474,098</u>
Total Receipts, Net	<u>\$52,976,265</u>	<u>\$64,766,599</u>	<u>\$58,411,767</u>	<u>\$27,365,856</u>

STATEMENT OF DISBURSEMENTS

FOR THE PERIOD ENDING DECEMBER 31,				
	2014	2013	2012	2011
Annuity Savings Fund:				
Refunds to Members	\$1,193,464	\$725,877	\$787,150	\$889,019
Transfers to Other Systems	<u>581,838</u>	<u>1,060,482</u>	<u>1,269,805</u>	<u>732,606</u>
Sub Total	<u>1,775,302</u>	<u>1,786,359</u>	<u>2,056,955</u>	<u>1,621,626</u>
Annuity Reserve Fund:				
Annuities Paid	5,502,923	5,283,663	5,093,680	4,766,773
Option B Refunds	<u>15,173</u>	<u>775</u>	<u>16,416</u>	<u>103,089</u>
Sub Total	<u>5,518,095</u>	<u>5,284,437</u>	<u>5,110,096</u>	<u>4,869,862</u>
Pension Fund:				
Pensions Paid:				
Regular Pension Payments	21,060,921	20,325,612	19,713,327	18,646,654
Survivorship Payments	1,729,263	1,675,210	1,640,794	1,582,114
Ordinary Disability Payments	230,642	227,225	221,992	213,035
Accidental Disability Payments	4,714,324	4,888,577	4,568,245	4,449,410
Accidental Death Payments	1,248,998	1,370,000	1,444,052	1,372,064
Section 101 Benefits	98,620	97,229	98,964	98,606
3 (B) (c) Reimbursements to Other Systems	667,024	620,518	585,634	581,440
State Reimbursable COLA's Paid	<u>567,203</u>	<u>621,250</u>	<u>642,475</u>	<u>741,866</u>
Sub Total	<u>30,316,995</u>	<u>29,825,623</u>	<u>28,915,483</u>	<u>27,685,189</u>
Expense Fund:				
Board Member Stipend	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000
Salaries	208,118	202,118	187,590	179,101
Travel Expenses	1,828	2,901	3,032	1,878
Administrative Expenses	11,903	14,778	12,684	17,132
Professional Services	0	0	0	14,500
Actuarial Services	11,500	12,500	14,235	0
Education and Training	1,890	2,430	2,970	1,890
Furniture and Equipment	582	0	986	588
Management Fees	1,497,202	1,421,647	1,213,488	1,219,337
Service Contracts	17,273	14,154	19,125	7,626
Fiduciary Insurance	<u>22,050</u>	<u>21,157</u>	<u>21,021</u>	<u>17,045</u>
Sub Total	<u>1,787,345</u>	<u>1,706,685</u>	<u>1,490,131</u>	<u>1,474,098</u>
Total Disbursements	<u>\$39,397,738</u>	<u>\$38,603,104</u>	<u>\$37,572,665</u>	<u>\$35,650,774</u>

INVESTMENT INCOME

	FOR THE PERIOD ENDING DECEMBER 31,			
	2014	2013	2012	2011
Investment Income Received From:				
Cash	\$14,605	\$23,323	\$17,717	\$14,739
Pooled or Mutual Funds	<u>7,991,520</u>	<u>7,437,813</u>	<u>8,790,586</u>	<u>7,453,236</u>
Total Investment Income	<u>8,006,125</u>	<u>7,461,137</u>	<u>8,808,304</u>	<u>7,467,975</u>
Plus:				
Realized Gains	12,670,883	11,900,099	6,603,832	6,914,639
Unrealized Gains	<u>18,504,635</u>	<u>31,133,710</u>	<u>30,699,005</u>	<u>22,111,960</u>
Sub Total	<u>31,175,518</u>	<u>43,033,809</u>	<u>37,302,836</u>	<u>29,026,599</u>
Less:				
Realized Loss	(207,937)	(388,018)	(256,248)	(302,091)
Unrealized Loss	<u>(16,725,343)</u>	<u>(13,686,249)</u>	<u>(13,965,430)</u>	<u>(34,707,306)</u>
Sub Total	<u>(16,933,280)</u>	<u>(14,074,267)</u>	<u>(14,221,678)</u>	<u>(35,009,397)</u>
Net Investment Income	<u>22,248,363</u>	<u>36,420,678</u>	<u>31,889,461</u>	<u>1,485,177</u>
Income Required:				
Annuity Savings Fund	134,388	103,303	104,728	174,992
Annuity Reserve Fund	867,855	896,927	905,257	885,413
Military Service Fund	57	57	55	89
Expense Fund	<u>1,502,722</u>	<u>1,428,517</u>	<u>1,228,991</u>	<u>1,222,772</u>
Total Income Required	<u>2,505,022</u>	<u>2,428,804</u>	<u>2,239,031</u>	<u>2,283,266</u>
Net Investment Income	22,248,363	36,420,678	31,889,461	1,485,177
Less: Total Income Required	<u>2,505,022</u>	<u>2,428,804</u>	<u>2,239,031</u>	<u>2,283,266</u>
Excess Income (Loss) To The Pension Fund	<u>\$19,743,340</u>	<u>\$33,991,874</u>	<u>\$29,650,431</u>	<u>(\$798,088)</u>

SCHEDULE OF ALLOCATION OF INVESTMENTS OWNED

(percentages by category)

AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2014		
	MARKET VALUE	PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL ASSETS
Cash	\$6,519,896	2.22%
Pooled Real Estate Funds	91,899	0.03%
PRIT Cash Fund	200,023	0.07%
PRIT Core Fund	<u>286,871,089</u>	<u>97.68%</u>
Grand Total	<u>\$293,682,907</u>	<u>100.00%</u>

For the year ending December 31, 2014, the rate of return for the investments of the Newton Retirement System was 8.18%. For the five-year period ending December 31, 2014, the rate of return for the investments of the Newton Retirement System averaged 9.90%. For the 30-year period ending December 31, 2014, since PERAC began evaluating the returns of the retirement systems, the rate of return on the investments of the Newton Retirement System was 8.80%.

The composite rate of return for all retirement systems for the year ending December 31, 2014 was 7.81%. For the five-year period ending December 31, 2014, the composite rate of return for the investments of all retirement systems averaged 10.08%. For the 30-year period ending December 31, 2014, since PERAC began evaluating the returns of the retirement systems, the composite rate of return on the investments of all retirement systems averaged 9.43%.

SUPPLEMENTARY INVESTMENT REGULATIONS

The assets of the Newton Retirement Board are 99% invested in the PRIT fund managed by the PRIM Board. Certain residual investment agreements related to holdings of Pooled Real Estate Funds remain under the care and custody of the Newton Retirement Board. Such residual investments generally consist of limited partnership subscriptions for a specific term. These terms are fixed for a period usually not to exceed ten years. As a result, the supplemental investment regulations that were previously approved by the Public Employee Retirement Administration Commission and remain on file at PERAC have been effectively rescinded, except as they pertain to the residual holdings referenced above. A complete list of these regulations is available upon request and can be accessed via the internet as follows:

<http://www.mass.gov/perac/investsup/Newtonintsup.html>

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

NOTE I – SUMMARY OF PLAN PROVISIONS

The plan is a contributory defined benefit plan covering all Newton Retirement System member unit employees deemed eligible by the retirement board, with the exception of school department employees who serve in a teaching capacity. The Teachers' Retirement Board administers the pensions of such school employees.

ADMINISTRATION

There are 104 contributory retirement systems for public employees in Massachusetts. Each system is governed by a retirement board and all boards, although operating independently, are governed by Chapter 32 of the Massachusetts General Laws. This law in general provides uniform benefits, uniform contribution requirements and a uniform accounting and funds structure for all systems.

PARTICIPATION

Participation is mandatory for all full-time employees. Eligibility with respect to part-time, provisional, temporary, seasonal or intermittent employment is governed by regulations promulgated by the retirement board, and approved by PERAC. Membership is optional for certain elected officials.

There are 4 classes of membership in the retirement system, but one of these classes, Group 3, is made up exclusively of the State Police. The other 3 classes are as follows:

Group 1:

General employees, including clerical, administrative, technical and all other employees not otherwise classified.

Group 2:

Certain specified hazardous duty positions.

Group 4:

Police officers, firefighters, and other specified hazardous positions.

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

MEMBER CONTRIBUTIONS

Member contributions vary depending on the most recent date of membership:

Prior to 1975:	5% of regular compensation
1975 - 1983:	7% of regular compensation
1984 to 6/30/96:	8% of regular compensation
7/1/96 to present:	9% of regular compensation
1979 to present:	an additional 2% of regular compensation in excess of \$30,000.

In addition, members of Group 1 who join the system on or after April 2, 2012 will have their withholding rate reduced to 6 % after achieving 30 years of creditable service.

RATE OF INTEREST

Interest on regular deductions made after January 1, 1984 is a rate established by PERAC in consultation with the Commissioner of Banks. The rate is obtained from the average rates paid on individual savings accounts by a representative sample of at least 10 financial institutions.

RETIREMENT AGE

The mandatory retirement age for some Group 2 and Group 4 employees is age 65. Most Group 2 and Group 4 members may remain in service after reaching age 65. Group 4 members who are employed in certain public safety positions are required to retire at age 65. There is no mandatory retirement age for employees in Group 1.

SUPERANNUATION RETIREMENT

A person who became a member before April 2, 2012 is eligible for a superannuation retirement allowance (service retirement) upon meeting the following conditions:

- completion of 20 years of service, or
- attainment of age 55 if hired prior to 1978, or if classified in Group 4, or
- attainment of age 55 with 10 years of service, if hired after 1978, and if classified in Group 1 or 2.

A person who became a member on or after April 2, 2012 is eligible for a superannuation retirement allowance (service retirement) upon meeting the following conditions:

- attainment of age 60 with 10 years of service if classified in Group 1, or
- attainment of age 55 with 10 years of service if classified in Group 2, or
- attainment of age 55 if classified in Group 4.

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

AMOUNT OF BENEFIT

A member's annual allowance is determined by multiplying average salary by a benefit rate related to the member's age and job classification at retirement, and the resulting product by his creditable service. The amount determined by the benefit formula cannot exceed 80% of the member's highest three year (or five year as discussed below) average salary. For veterans as defined in G.L. c. 32, s. 1, there is an additional benefit of \$15 per year for each year of creditable service, up to a maximum of \$300.

For employees who become members after January 1, 2011, regular compensation is limited to 64% of the federal limit found in 26 U.S.C. 401(a)(17). In addition, regular compensation will be limited to prohibit "spiking" of a member's salary to increase the retirement benefit.

- For persons who became members prior to April 2, 2012, Average Salary is the average annual rate of regular compensation received during the 3 consecutive years that produce the highest average, or, if greater, during the last 3 years (whether or not consecutive) preceding retirement.
- For persons who became members on or after April 2, 2012, Average Salary is the average annual rate of regular compensation received during the 5 consecutive years that produce the highest average, or, if greater, during the last 5 years (whether or not consecutive) preceding retirement.
- The Benefit Rate varies with the member's retirement age. For persons who became members prior to April 2, 2012 the highest rate of 2.5% applies to Group 1 employees who retire at or after age 65, Group 2 employees who retire at or after age 60, and to Group 4 employees who retire at or after age 57. A .1% reduction is applied for each year of age under the maximum age for the member's group. For Group 2 employees who terminate from service under age 55, the benefit rate for a Group 1 employee shall be used.
- For persons who became members on or after April 2, 2012 and retire with less than 30 years of creditable service, the highest rate of 2.5% applies to Group 1 employees who retire at or after age 67, Group 2 employees who retire at or after age 62, and to Group 4 employees who retire at or after age 57. A .15% reduction is applied for each year of age under the maximum age for the member's group.
- For persons who became members on or after April 2, 2012 and retire with more than 30 years of creditable service, the highest rate of 2.5% applies to Group 1 employees who retire at or after age 67, Group 2 employees who retire at or after age 62, and to Group 4 employees who retire at or after age 55. A .125% reduction is applied for each year of age under the maximum age for the member's group.

DEFERRED VESTED BENEFIT

A participant who has attained the requisite years of creditable service can elect to defer his or her retirement until a later date. Certain public safety employees cannot defer beyond age 65. All participants must begin to receive a retirement allowance or withdraw their accumulated deductions no later than April 15 of the calendar year following the year they reach age 70½.

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

WITHDRAWAL OF CONTRIBUTIONS

Member contributions may be withdrawn upon termination of employment. The interest rate for employees who first become members on or after January 1, 1984 who voluntarily withdraw their contributions with less than 10 years of service will be 3%. Interest payable on all other withdrawals will be set at regular interest.

DISABILITY RETIREMENT

The Massachusetts Retirement Plan provides 2 types of disability retirement benefits:

ORDINARY DISABILITY

Eligibility: Non-veterans who become totally and permanently disabled by reason of a non-job related condition with at least 10 years of creditable service (or 15 years creditable service in systems in which the local option contained in G.L. c. 32, s.6(1) has not been adopted).

Veterans with ten years of creditable service who become totally and permanently disabled by reason of a non-job related condition prior to reaching “maximum age”. “Maximum age” applies only to those employees classified in Group 4 who are subject to mandatory retirement.

Retirement Allowance: For persons who became members prior to April 2, 2012, the benefit is equal to the accrued superannuation retirement benefit as if the member was age 55. If the member is a veteran, the benefit is 50% of the member’s final rate of salary during the preceding 12 months, plus an annuity based upon accumulated member contributions plus credited interest. If the member is over age 55, he or she will receive not less than the superannuation allowance to which he or she is entitled.

For persons in Group 1 who became members on or after April 2, 2012, the benefit is equal to the accrued superannuation retirement benefit as if the member was age 60. If the member is a veteran, the benefit is 50% of the member’s final rate of salary during the preceding 12 months, plus an annuity based upon accumulated member contributions plus credited interest. If the member is over age 60, he or she will receive not less than the superannuation allowance to which he or she would have been entitled had they retired for superannuation.

For persons in Group 2 and Group 4 who became members on or after April 2, 2012, the benefit is equal to the accrued superannuation retirement benefit as if the member was age 55. If the member is a veteran, the benefit is 50% of the member’s final rate of salary during the preceding 12 months, plus an annuity based upon accumulated member contributions plus credited interest. If the member is over age 55, he or she will receive not less than the superannuation allowance to which he or she would have been entitled had they retired for superannuation.

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

ACCIDENTAL DISABILITY

Eligibility: Applies to members who become permanently and totally unable to perform the essential duties of the position as a result of a personal injury sustained or hazard undergone while in the performance of duties. There are no minimum age or service requirements.

Retirement Allowance: 72% of salary plus an annuity based on accumulated member contributions, with interest. This amount is not to exceed 100% of pay. For those who became members in service after January 1, 1988 or who have not been members in service continually since that date, the amount is limited to 75% of pay. There is an additional pension of \$821.52 per year (or \$312.00 per year in systems in which the local option contained in G.L. c. 32, s. 7(2)(a)(iii) has not been adopted), per child who is under 18 at the time of the member's retirement, with no age limitation if the child is mentally or physically incapacitated from earning. The additional pension may continue up to age 22 for any child who is a full time student at an accredited educational institution. For systems that have adopted Chapter 157 of the Acts of 2005, veterans as defined in G.L. c. 32, s. 1 receive an additional benefit of \$15 per year for each year of creditable service, up to a maximum of \$300.

ACCIDENTAL DEATH

Eligibility: Applies to members who die as a result of a work-related injury or if the member was retired for accidental disability and the death was the natural and proximate result of the injury or hazard undergone on account of which such member was retired.

Allowance: An immediate payment to a named beneficiary equal to the accumulated deductions at the time of death, plus a pension equal to 72% of current salary and payable to the surviving spouse, dependent children or the dependent parent, plus a supplement of \$821.52 per year, per child (or \$312.00 per year in systems in which the local option contained in G.L. c. 32, s. 9(2)(d)(ii) has not been adopted), payable to the spouse or legal guardian until all dependent children reach age 18 or 22 if a full time student, unless mentally or physically incapacitated.

The surviving spouse of a member of a police or fire department or any corrections officer who, under specific and limited circumstances detailed in the statute, suffers an accident and is killed or sustains injuries while in the performance of his duties that results in his death, may receive a pension equal to the maximum salary for the position held by the member upon his death. In addition, an eligible family member may receive a one-time payment of \$150,000.00 from the State Retirement Board. This lump sum payment is also available to the family of a public prosecutor in certain, limited circumstances.

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

DEATH AFTER ACCIDENTAL DISABILITY RETIREMENT

Effective November 7, 1996, Accidental Disability retirees were allowed to select Option C at retirement and provide a benefit for an eligible survivor. For Accidental Disability retirees prior to November 7, 1996, who could not select Option C, if the member's death is from a cause unrelated to the condition for which the member received accidental disability benefits, a surviving spouse will receive an annual allowance of \$6,000. For Systems that accept the provisions of Section 28 of Chapter 131 of the Acts of 2010, the amount of this benefit is \$9,000. For Systems that accept the provisions of Section 63 of Chapter 139 of the Acts of 2012, the amount of this benefit is \$12,000.

DEATH IN ACTIVE SERVICE

Allowance: An immediate allowance equal to that which would have been payable had the member retired and selected Option C on the day before his or her death. For a member who became a member prior to April 2, 2012 whose death occurred prior to the member's superannuation retirement age, the age 55 benefit rate is used. For a member classified in Group 1 who became a member on or after April 2, 2012 whose death occurred prior to the member's superannuation retirement age, the age 60 benefit rate is used. If the member died after age 60, the actual age is used. For a member classified in Group 2 or Group 4, whose death occurred prior to the member's minimum superannuation retirement age, the benefit shall be calculated using an age 55 age factor. The minimum annual allowance payable to the surviving spouse of a member in service who dies with at least two years of creditable service is \$3,000 unless the retirement system has accepted the local option increasing this minimum annual allowance to \$6,000, provided that the member and the spouse were married for at least one year and living together on the member's date of death.

The surviving spouse of such a member in service receives an additional allowance equal to the sum of \$1,440 per year for the first child and \$1,080 per year for each additional child until all dependent children reach age 18 or 22 if a full time student, unless mentally or physically incapacitated.

COST OF LIVING

If a system has accepted Chapter 17 of the Acts of 1997, and the Retirement Board votes to pay a cost of living increase (COLA) for that year, the percentage is determined based on the increase in the Consumer Price Index used for indexing Social Security benefits, but cannot exceed 3.0%. Section 51 of Chapter 127 of the Acts of 1999, if accepted, allows boards to grant COLA increases greater than that determined by CPI but not to exceed 3.0%. Only a certain portion of a retiree's total allowance is subject to a COLA. The total COLA for periods from 1981 through 1996 is paid for by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Under the provisions of Chapter 32, Section 103(j) inserted by Section 19 of Chapter 188 of the Acts of 2010, systems may increase the maximum base on which the COLA is calculated in multiples of \$1,000. For many years the COLA base was calculated based upon the first \$12,000 of a retiree's allowance. Now the maximum base upon which the COLA is calculated varies from system to system. Each increase in the base must be accepted by a majority vote of the Retirement Board and approved by the legislative body.

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

METHODS OF PAYMENT

A member may elect to receive his or her retirement allowance in one of 3 forms of payment.

Option A: Total annual allowance, payable in monthly installments, commencing at retirement and terminating at the member's death.

Option B: A reduced annual allowance, payable in monthly installments, commencing at retirement and terminating at the death of the member, provided, however, that if the total amount of the annuity portion received by the member is less than the amount of his or her accumulated deductions, including interest, the difference or balance of his accumulated deductions will be paid in a lump sum to the retiree's beneficiary or beneficiaries of choice.

Option C: A reduced annual allowance, payable in monthly installments, commencing at retirement. At the death of the retired employee, 2/3 of the allowance is payable to the member's designated beneficiary (who may be the spouse, or former spouse who has not remarried, child, parent, sister, or brother of the employee) for the life of the beneficiary. For members who retired on or after January 12, 1988, if the beneficiary pre-deceases the retiree, the benefit payable increases (or "pops up" to Option A) based on the factor used to determine the Option C benefit at retirement. For members who retired prior to January 12, 1988, if the System has accepted Section 288 of Chapter 194 of the Acts of 1998 and the beneficiary pre-deceases the retiree, the benefit payable "pops up" to Option A in the same fashion. The Option C became available to accidental disability retirees on November 7, 1996.

ALLOCATION OF PENSION COSTS

If a member's total creditable service was partly earned by employment in more than one retirement system, the cost of the "pension portion" is allocated between the different systems pro rata based on the member's service within each retirement system. If a member received regular compensation concurrently from two or more systems on or after January 1, 2010, and was not vested in both systems as of January 1, 2010, such a pro-ration will not be undertaken. This is because such a person will receive a separate retirement allowance from each system.

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

NOTE 2 - SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The accounting records of the System are maintained on a calendar year basis in accordance with the standards and procedures established by the Public Employee Retirement Administration Commission.

Cash accounts are considered to be funds on deposit with banks and are available upon demand.

Short Term Investments are highly liquid investments that will mature within twelve months from the date of acquisition.

Investments are reported at their fair value. Securities traded on recognized exchanges are valued at the most recent sales price at year end. If no sale was reported, the mean of the bid and asked price is used when available, or the most recent bid price. Mutual, commingled and pooled funds are valued based on the net asset or unit value at year end. Real estate and alternative investments are valued based on estimates provided by the managers of those respective investments. Purchases and sales of securities are reflected on the date the trade is initiated. Realized gain or loss is largely based on the difference between the cost or the value at the prior year end and the funds realized upon liquidation. Dividend income is generally recorded when received. Interest income is recorded as earned on an accrual basis. Income from alternative investments is recorded as reported by the managing partner. Appreciation or depreciation in the value of investments consists of the unrealized gains and losses reported as the difference between the previous period and the current value.

The system makes estimates and assumptions that affect the reported values of assets and liabilities and the reported amounts added and deducted during the reporting periods. The fair value of real estate and alternative investment holdings are generally estimated in the absence of reliable exchange values. The actual funds realized upon liquidation may differ from these estimates.

The provisions of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 32, § 23 (2) generally govern the investment practices of the system. The Board primarily relies upon the investment strategy of the PRIM Board to maintain their progress toward full funding of the system. That strategy seeks to balance the exposure to common deposit and investment risks related to custody, credit concentrations, interest rate and foreign currency fluctuations.

Operating expenses include the ordinary and necessary cost of investment and professional services and the other miscellaneous administrative expenses of the system.

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

The Annuity Savings Fund is the fund in which members' contributions are deposited. Voluntary contributions, re-deposits, and transfers to and from other systems, are also accounted for in this fund. Members' contributions to the fund earn interest at a rate determined by PERAC. Interest for some members who withdraw with less than ten years of service is transferred to the Pension Reserve Fund. Upon retirement, members' contributions and interest are transferred to the Annuity Reserve Fund. Dormant account balances must be transferred to the Pension Reserve Fund after a period of ten years of inactivity.

The Annuity Reserve Fund is the fund to which a member's account is transferred upon retirement from the Annuity Savings Fund and Special Military Service Credit Fund. The annuity portion of the retirement allowance is paid from this fund. Interest is credited monthly to this fund at the rate of 3% annually on the previous month's balance.

The Special Military Service Credit Fund contains contributions and interest for members while on a military leave for service in the Armed Forces who will receive creditable service for the period of that leave.

The Expense Fund contains amounts transferred from investment income for the purposes of administering the retirement system.

The Pension Fund contains the amounts appropriated by the governmental units as established by PERAC to pay the pension portion of each retirement allowance.

The Pension Reserve Fund contains amounts appropriated by the governmental units for the purposes of funding future retirement benefits. Any profit or loss realized on the sale or maturity of any investment or on the unrealized gain of a market valued investment as of the valuation date is credited to the Pension Reserve Fund. Additionally, any investment income in excess of the amount required to credit interest to the Annuity Savings Fund, Annuity Reserve Fund, and Special Military Service Credit Fund is credited to this Reserve account.

The Investment Income Account is credited with all income derived from interest and dividends of invested funds. At year-end the interest credited to the Annuity Savings Fund, Annuity Reserve Fund, Expense Fund, and Special Military Service Credit Fund is distributed from this account and the remaining balance is transferred to the Pension Reserve Fund.

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

NOTE 3 - SUPPLEMENTARY MEMBERSHIP REGULATIONS

The Newton Retirement System submitted the following supplementary membership regulations, which were approved by the Public Employee Retirement Administration Commission on:

Membership:

June 24, 2015:

Part-time and Temporary Full-time employees of the Newton School Department shall be eligible for membership in the Newton Retirement System after fifteen (15) months of consecutive school year employment in a position which requires him/her to work a minimum of 20 hours per week.

Regulation to become effective for the 2016/2017 school year.

April 18, 2010:

Employees of any member unit of the Newton Retirement System who are regularly employed a minimum of 20 hours per week and earn a minimum of \$5,000 per year must become members of the system.

Employees who are provisional, seasonal, temporary or intermittent and are regularly employed a minimum of 20 hours per week for a period of six consecutive months and earn a minimum of \$5,000 per year must become members of the system at the conclusion of the six-month period.

Employees working fewer than 20 hours per week are not eligible for membership.

Employees earning less than \$5,000 per year are not eligible for membership.

April 4, 2011:

CETA employment: Only City of Newton employees and members of the Newton Retirement System are eligible to buy back creditable service for Newton CETA employment.

December 14, 1984

Regularly employed part-time employees with 20 hours or more must join the retirement system.

Buy-Backs: Back payments must be paid in \$200 installments or more.

Creditable Service:

April 8, 2010:

A member whose entire membership service is in a full-time position shall receive one year of creditable service for each year worked provided the member works the number of hours required by the position held.

A member shall be considered part-time if he regularly works fewer than the number of hours required by the position held and regularly works at least 20 hours per week.

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

NOTE 3 - SUPPLEMENTARY MEMBERSHIP REGULATIONS (Continued)

A member whose entire membership service is part-time shall receive one year of creditable service for each year worked provided that the hours of part-time service have not fluctuated during his membership service.

A member whose membership service fluctuates between part-time and full-time shall be granted creditable service equal to 12 months for each year of full-time employment and a pro-rated period of years or fractions thereof equal to the percentage that his part-time hours worked bears to his full-time hours worked, multiplied by the number of part-time years of membership.

A member whose membership service consists of fluctuating part-time hours shall have his creditable service pro-rated as it bears to the average hours worked during the three highest consecutive years with the greatest number of hours worked.

A member whose membership service has fluctuated between part-time and full-time and whose full-time service is 15 months or less shall have his creditable service computed as though his entire membership was part-time.

APPLICABILITY: This regulation shall apply to creditable service calculated for member buybacks, member transfers to other Massachusetts public sector retirement systems and retirement benefit calculations for members of the Newton Retirement System who retire on or after the effective date of this regulation.

Miscellaneous:

April 16, 2014:

Correction of Errors under G.L. c. 32, 20(5)(c)(2):

In all cases of correction of an error by the Newton Retirement Board of an underpayment or non-payment of a pension or benefit to a member or beneficiary of the Newton Retirement System which results in a onetime retroactive payment of benefits, such payment shall include interest for such period of underpayment or non-payment at the rate annually determined for such period by the Public Employee Retirement Administration Commission pursuant to G.L. c. 32, § 22(6).

In all cases of a correction of an error by the Newton Retirement Board of an overpayment of a pension or benefit to a member or beneficiary of the Newton Retirement System, the amount of overpayment shall be due from the member or beneficiary, along with interest for said period of overpayment at the rate annually determined by the Public Employee Retirement Administration Commission pursuant to G.L. c. 32, § 22(6).

Pursuant to the judgment in *Herrick v. Essex Regional Retirement Board*, 465 Mass. 801 (2013) and PERAC Memorandum #32, 2013, said interest shall be deemed to be the actuarial equivalent of the adjustment to the pension or benefit as set forth in G.L. c. 32, § 20(5)(c)(2).

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

NOTE 3 - SUPPLEMENTARY MEMBERSHIP REGULATIONS (Continued)

December 14, 1984:

Accidental Disability Applications: Accidental disability applicants must be present when their application is presented to the board, unless a medical reason exists that prevents.

Travel Regulations:

The Newton Retirement System has adopted Travel Supplemental Regulations under the provisions of G.L. c. 7, § 50 and G.L. c. 32, § 21(4). Regulations available upon written request, and are also available on the PERAC website <http://www.mass.gov/perac/Newton>.

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

NOTE 4 - ADMINISTRATION OF THE SYSTEM

The System is administered by a five-person Board of Retirement consisting of the Comptroller who shall be a member ex-officio, a second member appointed by the governing authority, a third and fourth member who shall be elected by the members in or retired from the service of such system, and a fifth member appointed by the other four board members.

Ex-officio Member: David C. Wilkinson

Appointed Member: Nunzio J. Piselli Term Expires: 01/01/18
Chairman

Elected Member: Francis P. Capello Term Expires: 12/13/17
Vice-Chairman

Elected Member: Paul Bianchi Term Expires: 09/09/16

Appointed Member: Kimberly A. Fletcher Term Expires: 01/01/18

The Board members are required to meet at least once a month. The Board must keep a record of all of its proceedings. The Board must annually submit to the appropriate authority an estimate of the expenses of administration and cost of operation of the system. The board must annually file a financial statement of condition for the system with the Executive Director of PERAC.

The investment of the system's funds is the responsibility of the Board. All retirement allowances must be approved by the Retirement Board. The PERAC Actuary performs verification prior to payment, unless the system has obtained a waiver for superannuation calculations allowing them to bypass this requirement. All expenses incurred by the System must be approved by a majority vote of the Board. Payments shall be made only upon vouchers signed by two persons designated by the Board.

Retirement board members and employees are bonded by an authorized agent representing a company licensed to do business in Massachusetts. Fidelity insurance is the only required policy coverage under Ch. 32 §21 and §23 as well as 840 CMR 17.01. The policy is designed to cover specific intentional acts such as theft, fraud or embezzlement and also specify who commits such acts, most commonly employees of the system. This coverage reimburses the system for the losses it suffers as a result of its employees' actions. It does not insure the employees for their illegal acts. Statutorily required coverage is provided by the current fidelity insurance policy to a limit of \$1,000,000 with a \$10,000 deductible issued through Travelers Casualty and Surety Company. The system also has Fiduciary coverage to a limit of \$50,000,000 with a \$10,000 deductible under a blanket policy issued through Massachusetts Association of Contributory Retirement Systems.

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

NOTE 5 - ACTUARIAL VALUATION AND ASSUMPTIONS

The most recent actuarial valuation of the System was prepared by Segal Consulting as of January 1, 2015.

The actuarial liability for active members was	\$243,733,882
The actuarial liability for vested terminated members was	6,465,613
The actuarial liability for retired members was	<u>327,958,410</u>
The total actuarial liability was	\$578,157,905
System assets as of that date were	<u>293,843,924</u>
The unfunded actuarial liability was	<u><u>\$284,313,981</u></u>
The ratio of system's assets to total actuarial liability was	50.8%
As of that date the 2015 projected employee payroll was	\$92,136,837

The normal cost for employees on that date was 9.5% of payroll
 The normal cost for the employer was 2.7% of payroll

The principal actuarial assumptions used in the valuation are as follows:

Investment Return: 7.65% per annum
 Rate of Salary Increase: 3.50% per annum

SCHEDULE OF FUNDING PROGRESS AS OF JANUARY 1, 2015

Actuarial Valuation Date	Actuarial Value of Assets (a)	Actuarial Accrued Liability (b)	Unfunded AAL (UAAL) (b-a)	Funded Ratio (a/b)	Covered Payroll (c)	UAAL as a % of Cov. Payroll ((b-a)/c)
1/1/2015	\$293,843,924	\$578,157,905	\$284,313,981	50.8%	\$89,260,679	318.5%
1/1/2014	\$279,852,911	\$551,136,472	\$271,283,561	50.8%	\$86,807,549	312.5%
1/1/2013	\$268,087,455	\$512,376,691	\$244,289,236	52.3%	\$82,970,316	294.4%
1/1/2012	\$262,109,152	\$493,224,160	\$231,115,008	53.1%	\$80,337,091	287.7%
1/1/2011	\$260,156,459	\$473,083,813	\$212,927,354	55.0%	\$81,378,076	261.7%
1/1/2010	\$254,035,335	\$462,103,688	\$208,068,353	55.0%	\$83,843,673	248.2%

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

NOTE 6 - MEMBERSHIP EXHIBIT

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Retirement in Past Years										
Superannuation	70	30	32	37	45	47	46	41	37	46
Ordinary Disability	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Accidental Disability	5	4	3	1	6	2	2	3	2	2
Total Retirements	76	34	35	38	51	49	48	45	39	48
Total Retirees, Beneficiaries and Survivors	1,346	1,329	1,327	1,315	1,325	1,329	1,333	1,335	1,301	1,311
Total Active Members	1,782	1,681	1,778	1,751	1,771	1,662	1,615	1,616	1,668	1,724
Pension Payments										
Superannuation	\$14,129,222	\$14,927,904	\$15,403,671	\$15,788,140	\$17,073,353	\$17,751,800	\$18,646,654	\$19,713,327	\$20,325,612	\$21,060,921
Survivor/Beneficiary Payments	1,594,376	1,601,629	1,587,232	1,609,926	1,654,061	1,715,970	1,582,114	1,640,794	1,675,210	1,729,263
Ordinary Disability	183,593	183,984	185,129	187,439	187,209	223,879	213,035	221,992	227,225	230,642
Accidental Disability	3,768,145	4,211,838	3,976,038	4,375,510	4,412,077	4,471,566	4,449,410	4,568,245	4,886,601	4,714,324
Other	1,762,447	1,834,874	1,910,222	2,194,350	2,229,346	2,217,112	2,793,977	2,771,125	2,708,998	2,581,845
Total Payments for Year	<u>\$21,437,783</u>	<u>\$22,760,229</u>	<u>\$23,062,292</u>	<u>\$24,155,365</u>	<u>\$25,556,046</u>	<u>\$26,380,327</u>	<u>\$27,685,189</u>	<u>\$28,915,483</u>	<u>\$29,823,647</u>	<u>\$30,316,995</u>

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