

The Board of Trustees of the Teachers Retirement System of Georgia met in its bi-monthly meeting on July 24, 2024, at 10:30 a.m. via in person and Zoom Video/Audio Conference. Trustees present in person were Mr. Kenneth Dyer, Mr. Greg S. Griffin, Mr. Christopher A. McGraw, Mr. Thomas W. Norwood and Dr. William G. Sloan. Trustees participating via Zoom were Ms. Miriam M. Shook, Ms. Deborah K. Simonds and Mr. Christopher S. Swanson.

TRS staff members present were: Dr. L. C. Evans, Ms. Laura L. Lanier, Mr. Winston C. Buckley, Ms. K. Paige Donaldson, Ms. Christy Gray, Mr. Michael Jackson, Ms. Dina N. Jones, Mr. Thomas W. McMurry and Ms. Vonnie B. Stewart.

Ms. Shelley Seinberg was present as legal counsel.

Visitors in attendance were: Mr. Robert Aycock, Ms. Margaret Ciccarelli, Mr. Chase Jones, Ms. Lindsay McVicar, Mr. Don Splinter, Ms. Lisa Underwood and Ms. Samantha Vargas.

Mr. Norwood called the meeting to order and welcomed trustees and visitors to the meeting.

#### Item 1

Mr. Griffin made a motion to adopt the May 15, 2024, Board of Trustees meeting minutes and the Investment Committee meeting minutes for May 15, 2024, and June 26, 2024. Dr. Sloan seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously adopted.

#### Item 2

Dr. Evans provided an operational update for FY 2024. Work items, statistical data and updates for each division were reviewed. Financial Services was awarded its 36<sup>th</sup> Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting by Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA). Cyber security statistics comparison was provided for FY 2024 versus FY 2023. For FY 2024, Communications conducted 258 events, with 24,060 attendees (virtual and in-person), produced 5 podcast episodes, 358 social media posts and 4 internal newsletters. Turnover rate for FY 2024 (excluding retirements) was 3.14% compared to FY 2023 at 4.49%. Call Center received 189,685 calls in FY 2024 compared to 173,926 calls for FY 2023. New service retirements increased in FY 2024 compared to FY 2023: 6,477 to 6,320. Retirement Services Division processed for FY 2024 136,336 service retirees with benefit payroll of \$6.2 billion.

#### Item 3

Ms. Lanier reported on the financial statements and expense fund as follows:

- 3.1 Assets restricted for pensions were \$106.2 billion as of June 30, 2024, compared to \$95.0 billion as of June 30, 2023.
- 3.2 Total contributions for FY 2024 were \$4.1 billion, an increase of \$300 million from FY 2023. Change in net position for FY 2024 was a 42% increase over FY 2023 of \$3.3 billion.
- 3.3 The expense fund closed under budget for FY 2024. With the end-of-the year closing, TRS expended 88.3% of budgeted funds. Mr. Dyer made a motion to approve the expense fund. Mr. Griffin seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously adopted.
- 3.4 The Beta Building report was provided for information.
- 3.5 Dr. Evans requested approval for eight additional employees: two positions for Retirement Services Division, two positions for Information Technology, two positions for the Call Center

and two positions for Employer Services Division. Agency justification summary was provided. Mr. Dyer made a motion to approve two additional positions for Retirement Services Division, two additional positions for Information Technology Division, two additional positions for the Call Center and two additional positions for Employer Services Division. Dr. Sloan seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously adopted.


Item 4

Ms. Lanier presented the amended FY 2025 and proposed FY 2026 budgets. The FY 2025 amended budget reflects current assessment of needed resource increase of \$3,831,106 in order to achieve mission objectives. The recommended increase is primarily attributable to DIS merit increases and incentive payouts, new positions and a 4% cost-of-living adjustment per the Governor's budget. Other changes include: increased costs for supplies and materials for new furniture and fixtures at Macon office; increased costs for publications and printing for employer guide and employer training through instructional videos conducted by Employer Services, Communications and Retirement Services Divisions; increased costs for other operating expenses for dues and subscriptions for upgrades to software tools used for social media content management and live streaming due to security requirements; increased costs for computer charges for a member e-signature feature on our website, increases to the Microsoft annual renewal for additional cloud backups and costs to purchase and implement a new customer relations management software tool for Communications; increased costs for building maintenance due to maintenance staff and security guard salary increases, an additional security guard, higher utility costs and rising supplier goods and services prices; increased costs for contractual services for legal fees associated with plan compliance services performed by an external law firm and IT professional services to add an accounts receivable module to the accounting software; increased costs for telecommunications for phone system enhancements for the Call Center; decreased costs for postage permits as no special notice mailing; and decreased costs for equipment for a reduced number of server replacements needed due to cloud migration offset by an increase for a copier purchase. The FY 2026 budget reflects a current assessment of a decrease of \$827,480 in order to achieve mission objectives. Primary changes include: decreased costs for supplies and materials for new furniture and fixtures at Macon office, not needed in FY26; decreased costs for equipment for storage area network replacement, not needed in FY26; increased costs for computer charges for desktop computer replacements and further Microsoft annual renewal increases for cloud backups; and increased costs for telecommunications for continued phone system improvements along with purchase of new cell phones. These enhancements will be included as the continuation budget for fiscal year 2026. Mr. Dyer made a motion to adopt the amended FY 2025 budget and FY 2026 budget as presented. Dr. Sloan seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously adopted.

Item 5

Mr. Norwood reviewed the process for the evaluation of the Executive Director.

There being no further business to discuss, Mr. Norwood thanked members and visitors for being present and adjourned the meeting at 11:35 a.m.

  
Thomas W. Norwood

  
L. C. Evans  
Executive Director