



ALAMEDA COUNTY EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION
BOARD OF RETIREMENT - Special Meeting
REVISED MINUTES

Wednesday, September 4, 2019

Chair Henry Levy called the Special Board meeting to order at 9:38 a.m.

Trustees Present: Dale Amaral
Ophelia Basgal
Keith Carson
Tarrell Gamble
Henry Levy
Elizabeth Rogers
George Wood
Nancy Reilly (*Alternate*)

Trustees Excused: Liz Koppenhaver
Jaime Godfrey
Darryl Walker (*Alternate*)

Staff Present: Victoria Arruda, Human Resource Officer
Angela Bradford, Executive Secretary
Sandra Dueñas-Cuevas, Benefits Manager
Kathy Foster, Assistant Chief Executive Officer
Jessica Huffman, Benefits Manager
Harsh Jadhav, Chief of Internal Audit
Vijay Jagar, Retirement Chief Technology Officer, ACERA
Kathy Mount, Chief Counsel
David Nelsen, Chief Executive Officer
Betty Tse, Chief Investment Officer

Staff Excused: Margo Allen, Fiscal Services Officer

PUBLIC INPUT

SEIU Local 1021 Representative Cynthia Landry announced that the SEIU Board will be hosting a training in diversity, inclusion and equality. Ms. Landry said she supports ACERA's Investment Sub-Group in the development of an aspirational statement similar to that of the California State Teachers' Retirement System (CalSTRS) and the California Public Employees' Retirement System (CalPERS) for inclusion in ACERA's Investment Policy.

Continuation of Discussion Regarding Seeking Diversity and Inclusion Through The Contracting Process (Information Item).

Attorney Harvey Leiderman of Reed Smith LLP continued the discussion by asking for the Board’s feedback about whether and how it wants to engage the marketplace regarding diversity and inclusion in ACERA’s contracting process. Trustee Ophelia Basgal reported that she spoke on a panel, along with representatives from the Los Angeles City Employees’ Retirement System (LACERS), and learned that LACERS obtained an Attorney General’s Opinion related to LACERS’ practice of collecting diversity data during its contracting process.

Mr. Leiderman referred to and discussed with the Board information he received from LACERA, CalSTRS and CalPERS that reflect the type of diversity data those systems collect, how and when the data is used, and outreach efforts. He reported that those systems believe that diverse talent leads to long-term sustainable value for their beneficiaries. Chief Investment Officer Betty Tse reported that ACERA is a member of the Institutional Limited Partners Association (ILPA) and includes an *ILPA Due Diligence Questionnaire* as part of its materials in search of potential private equity investment managers and that Staff and Verus engage in discussions with ACERA’s existing investment managers to discuss how they promote and/or plan to promote diversity and inclusion in their contracting process. Some Trustees observed that they want to ensure that the Board complies with its fiduciary responsibilities and protect the fund, and also want to promote fairness and equality in ACERA’s contracting process in order to obtain the best talent and to add value to ACERA’s fund.

Mr. Leiderman referred to aspirational statements regarding diversity and inclusion that he received from LACERA, CalSTRS and CalPERS and advised that the ACERA Board could include such an aspirational statement in its investment policy. Chief Executive Officer Dave Nelsen suggested that ACERA’s investment sub-group would be a possible venue to analyze whether to develop a diversity and inclusion aspirational statement for the Board’s review and approval.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at approximately 11:12 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



David Nelsen
Chief Executive Officer

9/19/19

Date Adopted