

**MercedCERA RETIREMENT BOARD MINUTES  
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2022– 8:15 A.M.  
MERCED COUNTY EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION**

**\*VIRTUAL ONLY\*  
ZOOM CONFERENCE**

**<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/93030195748?pwd=NGhFeGltSVhaSTlsK2JGWE83TVFydz09>**

**DIAL IN NUMBER: 669-900-6833, MEETING ID: 930 3019 5748, PASSCODE: 095484**

(FOR USE ONLY IF ZOOM CONNECTION MALFUNCTIONS)

TELEPHONE NUMBER: 1-310-372-7549, CONFERENCE CODE: 975839

**CALL TO ORDER** - 8:15 A.M.

**ROLL CALL**

**Board members present:** Ryan Paskin, Alfonse Peterson, Wendy Alvarez, Aaron Rosenberg, Scott Silveira, Scott Johnston, David Ness, Janey Cabral, Karen Adams and Mike Harris.

**Absent:** None. **Counsel:** Jeff Grant. **Staff:** Kristen Santos, Martha Sanchez, Mark Harman, Kenter Ludlow, Sheri Villagrana, Brenda Mojica and Wendy Calderon.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – January 27, 2022

**The MercedCERA Board voted unanimously via roll call vote to approve the January 27, 2022 meeting minutes.**

**Johnston/Peterson U/A (9/0)**

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

**No Comment.**

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

Consent matters are expected to be routine and may be acted upon, without discussion, as one unit. If an item is taken off the Consent Calendar for discussion, it will be heard as the last item(s) of the Board Action/Discussion as appropriate.

**RETIREMENTS:** Pursuant to Govt. Code § 31663.25 or § 31672

All items of earnable compensation for service or disability retirements listed below are in compliance with the pay code schedule approved by the Board of Retirement. The retirement is authorized; however, administrative adjustments may be necessary to alter the amount due to: audit, late arrival of data, court order, etc.

a. Rodriguez, Glenn	Sheriff	10 Yrs. Svc.	Eff: 01/31/2022
b. Benson, Patricia	Health	17 Yrs. Svc.	Eff: 01/29/2022
c. Herrera, Yvonne (SCD)	H.S.A.	11 Yrs. Svc.	Eff: 06/15/2018*
d. Barrena, Rebecca	H.S.A.	10 Yrs. Svc.	Eff: 01/12/2022
e. Goins, Beverly	H.S.A.	15 Yrs. Svc.	Eff: 01/15/2022
f. Martin, Allen	D.P.W.	1 Yr. Svc.	Eff: 01/13/2022
g. Duran, Ronald	Public Health	23 Yrs. Svc.	Eff: 01/29/2022
h. Kelly, Marimir	Child Health	12 Yrs. Svc.	Eff: 02/01/2022

YTD fiscal year 2021/2022 retirees: 57

YTD fiscal year 2020/2021 retirees: 88

YTD fiscal year 2019/2020 retirees: 105

\*YTD fiscal year 2017/2018 retirees: 83

- (1) **MONTHLY BUDGET REPORT:** Submitted.
- (2) **VIRTUAL MEETINGS:** Reaffirm the adoption of Merced County Employees' Retirement Association Resolution No. 2021-02, and its findings that the Governor's proclaimed state of emergency related to the COVID-19 pandemic remains active, that the state of emergency impacts the ability of the Trustees and public to safely meet in person, and state or local officials continue to impose or recommend measures to promote social distancing.

**The MercedCERA Board voted unanimously via roll call vote to approve the consent calendar as presented.**

**Adams/Cabral U/A (9/0)**

### **CLOSED SESSION**

As provided in the Ralph M. Brown Act, Government Code sections 54950 et seq., the Board may meet in closed session with members of its staff, county employees and its attorneys. These sessions are not open to the public and may not be attended by members of the public. The matters the Board will meet on in closed session are identified below. Any public reports of action taken in the closed session will be made in accordance with Government Code sections 54957.1.

#### **(1) DISABILITY RETIREMENT APPLICATIONS: PERSONNEL EXCEPTION**

(Govt. Code § § 54957, 31532; Cal Const. art. I, § 1)

1. Informal Hearing
  - a. Banda, Gregory
  - b. Jenkins, Robert
2. Formal Hearing
  - a. None
3. Disability update and possible action:
  - a. Aceves, Martin
  - b. Arroyo, Elizabeth
  - c. Banda, Gregory
  - d. Brooks, Roland
  - e. Castillo, Araceli
  - f. Cureton, Michael
  - g. Daniel, Autumn
  - h. Elias Jr., Robert C.
  - i. Jenkins, Robert L.
  - j. Kayser, Esther
  - k. Moua, Keo
  - l. Wagner, Nicole

### **RETURN TO OPEN SESSION**

#### **(1) DISABILITY RETIREMENT APPLICATIONS: PERSONNEL EXCEPTION**

(Govt. Code § § 54957, 31532; Cal Const. art. I, § 1)

1. Informal Hearing
  - a. Banda, Gregory

**The MercedCERA Board voted unanimously via roll call vote to approve a non-service connected disability for Gregory Banda and deny a service connected disability.**

**Cabral/Johnston U/A (9/0)**

- b. Jenkins, Robert

**The MercedCERA Board voted unanimously via roll call vote to approve a service connected disability for Robert Jenkins and deny a non-service connected disability.**

**Ness/Johnston U/A (9/0)**

2. Formal Hearing
  - b. None

**No action taken.**

3. Disability update and possible action:
  - a. Aceves, Martin
  - b. Arroyo, Elizabeth
  - c. Banda, Gregory
  - d. Brooks, Roland
  - e. Castillo, Araceli
  - f. Cureton, Michael
  - g. Daniel, Autumn
  - h. Elias Jr., Robert C.
  - i. Jenkins, Robert L.
  - j. Kayser, Esther
  - k. Moua, Keo
  - l. Wagner, Nicole

**No action taken.**

**BOARD ACTION/DISCUSSION**

1. Discussion and possible action to approve the recommended Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) for Tier 1 retirees based on the letter and recommendation from Cheiron – Staff.  
**The MercedCERA Board voted via roll call vote to approve the recommended Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) for Tier 1 retirees (3% with 1% banked) based on the letter and recommendation from Cheiron.**  
**Adams/Cabral U/A (9/0)**
2. Discussion and possible action to approve staff to add cubicles to MercedCERA Conference Room at a cost of \$17,704.20 – Staff.  
**The MercedCERA Board voted via roll call vote to approve staff to add cubicles to MercedCERA Conference Room at a cost of \$17,704.20 and to provide the cost for additional cubicles at the February 24, 2022 meeting.**  
**Johnston/Peterson U/A (9/0)**
3. Discussion and possible action to direct the Plan Administrator to recontract with Cliffwater for alternative investment consulting services pending successful legal negotiations of contract – Staff.  
**The MercedCERA Board voted via roll call vote to recontract with Cliffwater for alternative investment consulting services pending successful legal negotiations of contract.**  
**Adams/Ness U/A (9/0)**
4. Discussion and possible action to extend the Northern Trust contract for custodial services (extend 4 years) – Staff.  
**The MercedCERA Board voted via roll call vote to extend the Northern Trust contract for custodial services (extend 4 years).**  
**Silveira/Adams U/A (9/0)**
5. Discussion and possible action for the Chair to appoint a budget subcommittee – Staff.  
**The MercedCERA Board Chair appointed Trustees Cabral, Alvares and Johnston to be the budget subcommittee.**
6. Review calendar of any training sessions and authorize expenditures for Trustees and Plan Administrator. Pursuant to Govt. Code § 31522.8 and MercedCERA's Trustees Education and Training Policy requirements. Examples of upcoming training and educational sessions:
  - CALAPRS General Assembly, March 5-8, 2022, San Diego, CA.

- National Association of Securities Professionals (NASP) Annual Day of Education for Trustees and Staff, March 23-24, 2022, Los Angeles, CA.
- SACRS Spring Conference, May 10-13, 2022, Rancho Las Palmas, CA (not open for registration).

**No action taken.**



**INFORMATION ONLY**

Johnston- Will not attend February 24, 2022 meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 9:06 A.M.

Accepted By,

Trustee Name/Position	Signature	Date
Ryan Paskin/ Chair		3/3/22
Al Peterson/Secretary		03/02/2022