



Merced County Employees' Retirement Association

**MINUTES
RETIREMENT BOARD MEETING**

Thursday, October 26, 2023, 8:30 A.M.

Location: Merced County Administration Building
2222 M Street, Merced, CA
Los Banos and Livingston Conference Rooms, Basement
Zoom Conference Information:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/93030195748?pwd=NGhFeGltSVhaSTIsK2JGWE83TVFydz09>

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

1. Call to Order- 8:31 A.M.

2. Roll Call

***Board Members Present:* Scott Johnston, Mike Harris, Dave Ness (arrived 8:34 A.M.), Corrina Brown, Aaron Rosenberg, Alfonse Peterson, Karen Adams, Scott Silveira (arrived 8:35 A.M.) and Ryan Paskin. *Absent:* Janey Cabral. *Counsel:* Tom Ebersole. *Staff:* Kristen Santos, Martha Sanchez Barboa, Khue Xiong, Patrick Armendarez, Mark Harman, Brenda Mojica, Monica Gallegos, Sheri Villagrana, Nikki Barraza, Kristy Barajas, Marissa Coelho.**

3. Teleconference Request

Trustee Teleconference Request (Govt. Code §54953(f)(2)(A)(i)).

No Requests.

4. Approval of Minutes – September 28, 2023 and October 10, 2023.

1st- Johnston / 2nd- Brown, passes 6-0.

5. Public Comment

Members of the public may comment on any item under the Board's jurisdiction including items on the Board's agenda. Matters presented under this item will not be discussed or acted upon by the Board at this time. Persons addressing the Board will be limited to a maximum of five (5) minutes in total. Please state your name for the record.

None.

6. 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 Open Session as appropriate:

a. Retirements: Pursuant to Govt. Code § 31663.25 or § 31672.

Name	Effective Date
Margaret Kohn	10/07/2023
John Gee	09/30/2023
Ray Anaya	10/23/2023

b. Monthly expenditures report - Submitted.

c. Approval of non-pensionable pay code TST-TECH STPND for Merced Superior Court.

d. Monthly investment performance report from Meketa.

Motion to approve the consent calendar as presented:

1st- Brown / 2nd- Adams, passes 6-0.



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7. 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:

- a. Disability Retirement Applications: Personnel exceptions (Govt. Code § 54957, 31532; Cal Const. art I § 1).
 1. Initial Disability Application Recommendation – Roland Brooks
Motion to deny a service connected disability and grant a non-service connected disability to Roland Brooks. 1st- Brown / 2nd- Johnston, passes 8-0.
 2. Consideration of Hearing Officer Recommendation – Michael Cureton
Motion to adopt the recommendation of the Administrative Hearing Officer's Recommendation and deny a service connected disability to Michael Cureton. 1st- Silveira / 2nd- Brown, passes 8-0.

8. Open Session

- a. Discussion and possible action to approve the proposed capital budget for the MercedCERA alternative portfolio as presented by Cliffwater, LLC – Cliffwater.
The Board voted unanimously to approve the proposed capital budget for the MercedCERA alternative portfolio as presented by Cliffwater, LLC. 1st- Silveira / 2nd- Peterson, passes 8-0.
- b. Discussion and possible action to approve the SACRS business meeting agenda and designate Scott Johnston as the voting delegate with Janey Cabral as the alternate – Staff.
The Board voted unanimously to approve the SACRS business meeting agenda and designated Scott Johnston as the voting delegate with Janey Cabral as the alternate. 1st- Adams / 2nd- Peterson, passes 8-0.
- c. Discussion on the status of the MercedCERA Headquarter Building – Staff.
No action taken.

9. Travel Request (items not preapproved in MercedCERA Bylaws)

None.

10. Information Sharing & Agenda Item Requests



-Trustee Brown requested an agenda item to discuss the future of the Chief Investment Officer position.
-Kristie introduced new MercedCERA Support Services Analyst staff, Khue Xiong and Patrick Armendarez, as well as the new Accountant staff, Kristy Barajas.
-Kristie announced the recruitment of the Assistant Plan Administrator was completed and Martha Sanchez Barboa, the current MercedCERA Benefits and Administration Manager, had been selected to fill the Assistant position. She also announced a recruitment would be completed to fill the Benefits and Administration Manager position Martha currently holds.



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11. Adjournment at 9:01 A.M.

Accepted By,

Trustee Name/Position	Signature	Date
Ryan Paskin/Chair		11/9/23
Al Peterson/Secretary		11/09/23