

Lawrence Retirement Board Meeting Minutes

June 25th, 2024 at 8:30 am

Meeting called to order at 8:39.

Members Ceballos, Wilson, Cockroft and Wright were present. Member Ruiz was absent.

New Business:

An application for superannuation has been received from **Patrick Lafrance** a 53-year old Fire Lieutenant with 26 years and 5 months of service. If approved, member will retire effective May 28th, 2024, under an annual Option C allowance in the approximate amount of \$ 60,049.44.

Diane Cockroft made a motion to approve the superannuation retirement of Patrick Lafrance. Motion was seconded by Sheryl Wright. Motion was approved unanimously 4-0.

An application for superannuation has been received from **George W. Hale**, a 61-year old LHA Maintenance Worker with 38 years and 8 months of service. If approved, member will retire on August 23rd, 2024, under an annual Option C allowance in the approximate amount of \$ 51,263.64.

Sheryl Wright made a motion to approve the superannuation retirement of George hale. Motion was seconded by Diane Cockroft. Motion was approved unanimously 4-0.

An application for superannuation has been received from **Joan Milone**, a 64-year old School HR Specialist with 28 years and 8 months of service. If approved, member will retire on August 9th, 2024, under an annual Option C allowance in the approximate amount of \$ 37,884.96.

Diane Cockroft made a motion to approve the superannuation retirement of Joanne Milone. Motion was seconded by Sheryl Wright. Motion was approved unanimously 4-0.

An application for superannuation has been received from **Daniel Fitzpatrick**, a 61-year old Police Officer with 32 years and 7 months of service. If approved, member will retire on August 22nd, 2024, under an annual Option C allowance in the approximate amount of \$ 66,354.12.

Diane Cockroft made a motion to approve the superannuation retirement of Daniel Fitzpatrick. Motion was seconded by Sheryl Wright. Motion was approved unanimously 4-0.

An application for superannuation has been received from **George Gonzalez**, a 61-year old School Custodian with 21 years and 1 month of service. If approved, member will retire on August 1st, 2024, under an annual Option C allowance in the approximate amount of \$ 24,625.80.

Diane Cockroft made a motion to approve the superannuation retirement of George Gonzalez. Motion was seconded by Sheryl Wright. Motion was approved unanimously 4-0.

An application for superannuation has been received from **David Pekarski**, a 68-year old School Media Manager with 28 years and 11 months of service. If approved, member will retire on August 2nd, 2024, under an annual Option A allowance in the approximate amount of \$ 64,215.84.

Robert Wilson made a motion to approve the superannuation retirement of David Pekarski. Motion was seconded by Diane Cockroft. Motion was approved unanimously 4-0.

GLTHS, Paraprofessional, **Cindy Martinez** would like to purchase her prior refunded GLTHS, Paraprofessional service. If approved member would be entitled to 2 years and 10 months of creditable service for time worked from 09/30/2002-07/30/2005. The cost to purchase is \$21,975.16. Refund transcripts were retained by our office.

Diane Cockroft made a motion to approve the service purchase for Cindy Martinez. Motion was seconded by Sheryl Wright. Motion was approved unanimously 4-0.

City, Library Assistant, **Nancy Gunther** would like to purchase her prior part-time prorated Library Page Service with the Town of Holden. If approved member would be entitled to 9 months of creditable service for time worked from 05/01/2014-12/31/2015. The cost to purchase is \$2,075.24. Records were obtained and verified from the town of Holden. Worcester Regional will not accept liability. Will our board approve the purchase and accept liability?

Robert Wilson made a motion to approve the service purchase for Nancy Gunther with Lawrence accepting the liability. Motion was seconded by Sheryl Wright. Motion was approved unanimously 4-0.

Mark Verville, Section 15 (4), final determination

Director Rizzo shared memo dated 4/12/2024 from Board Attorney Michael Sacco. In the memo regarding Mark Verville, was the Lawrence District Court, Civil Action no 25218CV598 decision affirming the forfeiture of his right to retirement. Mark Verville had 60 days to appeal this decision and did not do so.

Robert Wilson made a motion to rescind Mark Vervilles membership under MGL, Chapter 32, Section 15 (4) and issue a distribution of his accumulated total deductions, less interest. Motion was seconded by Diane Cockroft. Motion was approved unanimously 4-0

Staff - Salary Adjustment – Consideration

Director Rizzo shared a salary survey that was conducted by the Malden Retirement Board Director along with a request for consideration to bring staff more in line with other retirement board staff. She explained that our board positions have always fallen short within the Retirement Board Community and that she would be doing herself and her staff a disservice if she didn't approach the board. She explained that Lawrence has a larger number of members and retirees which drives the workload and as seen from the survey, we are not in line with the other retirement boards. The volume of work has increased exponentially in the last few years as well. She explained that the survey is particularly alarming since she has 35 years of service and that her assistant has 20 years of service. The office performs well and does not receive complaints and that she respectfully asks for consideration to be brought in line with the other salaries across the Commonwealth of Mass.

Sheryl Wright made a motion to make the base salaries of the staff as follows: Director \$120,000.00., Assistant Director \$ 85,000.00 and Member Specialist \$ 67,000.00. Salaries to be revisited 7/1/2025. Motion seconded by Diane Cockroft. Motion was approved unanimously 4-0.

FY2025 Retirement Office Budget

Assistant Director, Christine Adames supplied the board with the annual office budget including annual comparisons.

Sheryl Wright asked if there was somewhere within the budget that we could potentially cut costs. Retirement Director Rizzo said that many boards are moving away from sending out monthly pension direct deposits. We would save at least half our budgeted postage and the cost of printing statements and envelopes. Our retirees can sign up for the portal and access their monthly amounts.

Ramona Ceballos instructed Director Rizzo to do a cost study for the direct deposits and add it to next months agenda.

Sheryl Wright made a motion to remove half a year of postage from the budget and increase the salary line to accommodate the new salaries and to approve the budget with the changes. Motion was seconded by Diane Cockroft. Motion was approved unanimously 4-0.

Items on appeal:

Coughlin - CRAB appeal

Wood – CRAB appeal

Bradley – DALA appeal

Bistany – CRAB appeal

Delaney – DALA appeal

Olivero-Oviedo – DALA appeal

New Members:

Name	UNIT	Dept or Position	Group
Frias, Juana	SCH	Café Worker	1
Lopez, Maxine	SCH	52 Week Clerk	1
Martinez, Thelma	SCH	Para	1
Ramirez, Brittanie	SCH	Para	1
Ramos, Danilo	SCH	Custodian	1
Rogers-Howard, Melinda	SCH	Para	1
Rosario, Sol	SCH	52 Week Clerk	1
Santos, Brashilla	SCH	Para	1
Taveras, Mariel	SCH	Para	1
Ventura, Anthony	SCH	BBE	1
Vidal, Tayna	SCH	Para	1
Ortega, Jasmin	MVRTA	Comptroller	1
Garcia, Caryl	CTY	2nd Attorney	1
Alicea, Alexa	SCH	52 Week Safety Officer	1
Almanzar, Alexandra	SCH	Para	1
Anderson, Scott	SCH	LTS	1
Apolinar, Bethania	SCH	BBE	1
Camacho, Valery	SCH	Para	1
Castillo, Emily	SCH	Para	1
Cartagena, Jarolin	FIR	Fire Fighter	1

Gomez, Nelson	FIR	Fire Fighter	1
Tejada, Jose	FIR	Fire Fighter	1
Castillo Gomez, Cary	SCH	Para	1
Cavallo, Miosotty	SCH	Para	1
Chavez, Melisa	SCH	Para	1
Cleary, James	SCH	Para	1
De La Cruz, Otto	SCH	Para	1
Diaz, Shila	SCH	Para	1
Felix, Melany	SCH	Work Based Manager	1
Gil, Pedro	SCH	Custodian	1
Garcia, Yvette	VOC	Workforce Development Manager	1
Hurley, Nichole	SCH	HR Specialist	1
Kiely, Christopher	SCH	BBE	1
Lopez Tejada, Jose	SCH	Custodian	1
Mariano, Regie	SCH	Para	1
McCann, Tracie	SCH	Para	1
Mendez, Josias	SCH	Para	1
Morales, John	SCH	Para	1
Odemis, Mustafa	SCH	LTS	1
Nguyen, Jennifer	SCH	BBE	1
Orozco, Guido	SCH	52 Week Safety Officer	1
Pennington, Lisa	SCH	LPN	1
Rodriguez Bautista, Juan	SCH	LTS	1
Rodriguez, John	SCH	Para	1
Yambo, Idaliz	SCH	Para	1

Diane Cockroft made a motion to approve the new members as submitted. Motion was seconded by Robert Wilson. Motion was approved unanimously 4-0.

Refunds:

Alexander Mitchell	SCH	Custodian	\$873.92
Deanna Desfosses	SCH	52 Week Clerk	\$17,412.50
Richard Abreu	POL	Police Officer	\$1,012.77
Patricia Wong	SCH	Paraprofessional	\$1293.96
Daniel Toribio Roman	CTY	Intake Specialist	\$5,125.94
Stephanie Casanas	SCH	Paraprofessional	\$532.70
Marlene Ferrer	CTY	CD Homeowner Officer	\$18,601.99
Adolis Alfonsina Ramos	CTY	Inspectional Services H S E	\$9,408.93

Sheryl Wright made a motion to approve the refunds as submitted. Motion was seconded by Diane Cockroft. Motion was approved unanimously 4-0.

Monthly Expenses:

Warrant # 6	Voucher # 206-262	\$ 300,557.53
Retiree End Checks		\$ 13,979.57

Robert Wilson made a motion to approve the monthly expenses as submitted. Motion was seconded by Sheryl Wright. Motion was approved unanimously 4-0.

Monthly pension payroll for June 28 th , 2024	\$ 2,537,352.12
Special pension payroll	\$ 1,935.30
Voids	\$ -1,911.18

Diane Cockroft made a motion to approve the monthly pension payrolls and voids as submitted. Motion was seconded by Robert Wilson. Motion was approved unanimously 4-0.

PRIT Wire redemption

Robert Wilson made a motion to approve the PRIT wire redemption as submitted. Motion was seconded by Sheryl Wright. Motion was approved unanimously 4-0.

Approval of the **May 30th, 2024 retirement board minutes and executive session minutes** as submitted.

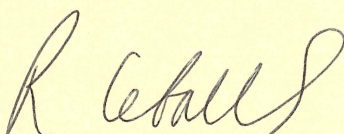
Robert Wilson made a motion to approve the retirement board minutes and executive session minutes from May 30th, 2024 as submitted. Motion was seconded by Sheryl Wright. Motion was approved unanimously 4-0.

Copies of bank statements, cashbooks investment reports and recent PERAC Memos are available for review. Warrants and vouchers are present for approval and review.

Next meeting will be Tuesday, July 30th, 2024 at 8:30 a.m.

Being no further business, Diane Cockroft made a motion to adjourn at 9:55 AM, seconded by Sheryl Wright. Motion was approved unanimously 4-0

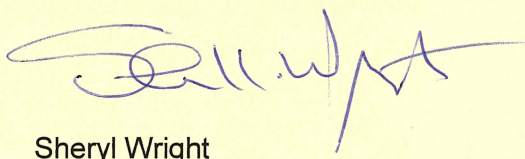
Respectfully Submitted,



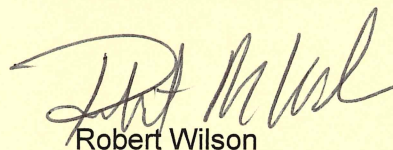
Ramona Ceballos, Chairman



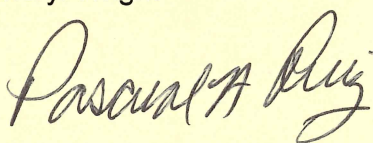
Gina Rizzo, Executive Director



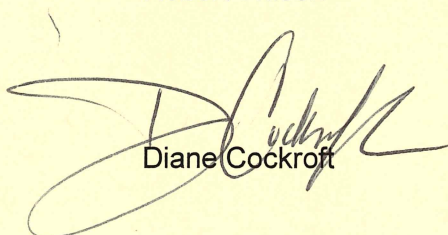
Sheryl Wright



Robert Wilson



Pascual Ruiz



Diane Cockroft