

**FRANKLIN REGIONAL RETIREMENT SYSTEM
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES
January 29, 2025**

A meeting of the Franklin Regional Retirement Board, duly posted to be held via remote participation on the above date, was called to order at 8:30 AM by Board Chair Sandra Hanks, also present were Co-Chair Paul Mokrzecki with Board Member Angel Bragdon and Gabriele Voelker present. Present in the Board office located at 101 Munson Street, Suite 108, Greenfield MA were Executive Director Kristine Mathis, Assistant Director Ashley Manley, Member Services Accountant Nicole Gaspar. Member Services Diane Wright and Data Maintenance Clerk Patricia Hume joined via Zoom.

Review and Acceptance of Meeting Minutes

On a motion made by Gabriele Voelker, and seconded by Paul Mokrzecki, the Board voted to approve the following minutes. All ayes

December 18, 2024, regular minutes
December 23, 2024, special minutes

Payroll, Refunds, Transfers and Bills Warrants

A motion was made by Paul Mokrzecki to approve the following warrant totals, Gabriele Voelker seconded the motion. All ayes

Retirees		\$1,305,196.49
Refunds		\$16,767.73
Transfers		\$0.00
Invoices	2024	\$93,672.79
	2025	<u>\$465,633.18</u>
For a total		\$1,881,270.19

There will not be a partial refund according to Kristine of the cost of 2025 PTG Pro site prepaid money, included in the 2025 Invoices total, if the Retirement System decides to change to Baystate Pension after the new year, in answer to Paul Mokrzecki's question at last month's meeting.

Cash Transfer between Investments and Bank

On a motion made by Angel Bragdon and seconded by Paul Mokrzecki, the Board voted unanimously to transfer \$925,000.00 from Loomis to cover February's warrants. All ayes

Visitors: Amber Robidoux, Orange Treasurer/HR Director. Amber left the meeting at 8:51 AM

Membership (new members, new positions, additional positions)

A motion was made by Angel Bragdon and seconded by Gabriele Voelker to accept the following new members, new positions, and additional positions. All eyes

<u>New Memberships</u>	<u>HIRE DATE</u>	<u>C.S. %</u>	<u>New %</u>	<u>UNIT</u>	<u>POSITION</u>
Beaumier, Christie	12/16/2024	100%	-	MOH	Educational Support Staff
Carlisle, Sharon	12/9/2024	100%	-	MOH	Paraprofessional
Carpenter, Casey	12/19/2024	100%	-	ERV	Sped Support/Paraprofessional
Coblyn, Sara	11/18/2024	100%	-	CON	Instructional Assistant
Garbiel, II, Charles	1/13/2025	100%	-	ERV	Waster Water Maintenance Laborer
Phillips, Casey	12/2/2024	100%	-	SND	Instructional Assistant
Poplawski, Grace	12/16/2024	100%	-	DER	Long Term Substitute
Reed, Joseph	1/1/2025	100%	-	NTD	EMT
Rivera Castillo, Juan	1/6/2025	100%	-	CON	Highway Department
Root, Brandon	*9/30/2024 (prev listed 9/16/2024)	100%	-	CHT	Highway Dept. Driver/Laborer
Stein, Rachel	12/2/2024	80%	-	FRN	Instructional Assistant
Wygant, Caroline	11/25/2024	100%	-	SND	Instructional Assistant
			-		
<u>New Positions</u>			-		
Hoyt, Marla	1/2/2025	100%	-	HLT	Paraprofessional
			-		
<u>Additional Positions</u>			-		
Bancroft, Jill	9/14/2024	50%	-	NEW	Police Officer
Drumgool, Timothy	11/5/2024	100%	-	NTD	Paramedic-Per Diem
Foote, Carol	1/2/2025	100%	-	MOH	CRPLA Task Force
Klepadlo, Jeremy	8/2/2024	100%	-	NTD	EMS Member-As needed

Accept Liability for Buybacks and Makeups Through Other Systems:

A motion was made by Paul Mokrzecki and seconded by Angel Bragdon, to accept liability for the following Buyback through other systems as presented. All eyes

Scoble, Peter – Current member as of 9/8/2006 requesting to purchase 1 year, 1 month, and 25 days of 4(2)(b) service at a cost of \$3,985.19.

New Retirees:

A motion was made by Angel Bragdon and seconded by Paul Mokrzecki to accept all new retirees as presented. All ayes

Cooke, Jeffrey – The retirement packet has been submitted to PERAC to retire Jeffrey Cooke for a Superannuation, Option C retirement allowance. His last day of work was 11/01/2024 and his retirement benefit will begin on 11/01/2024. Jeffrey was a group 1 member working as Building Commissioner for the Town of Orange, accruing 21 years, 10 months of creditable service. Following is a table of Retirement Boards and the liability of creditable service they hold:

Board	Years	Months	Days
State	0	11	14
Gardner	0	2	0
Athol	8	4	0
Gardner	6	1	0
Marlborough	3	3	0
FRRS	3	1	10

Totman, Karen – The retirement packet has been submitted to PERAC to retire Karen Totman for a Superannuation, Option A retirement allowance. Her last day of work was 12/31/2024 and her retirement benefit will begin on 12/31/2024. Karen was a group 1 member working as the Executive Secretary to the Superintendent for the Mohawk Trail Regional School District, accruing 13 years, 2 months of creditable service.

Deaths:

Coburn, Elva – Option A retiree since 04/13/2002, Ms. Coburn worked in the cafeteria for the Mohawk Regional School District, accruing 21 years, 4 months of creditable service. DOD was 12/20/2024 at the age of 91.

Mason, Debra – Option B retiree since 04/01/2024, Mrs. Mason was a Principle’s Office Assistant for the Frontier Regional School District, accruing 26 years, 4 months of creditable service. DOD was 12/23/2024 at the age of 65. Her husband, Anthony, will be receiving the balance in her annuity account.

Tormanen, Susan – Option B retiree since 08/26/2023, Mrs. Tormanen was an Instructional Assistant for the Pioneer Valley Regional Scholl District, accruing 15 years of creditable service. DOD was 12/28/2024 at the age of 64. Her husband, Charles, will be receiving the balance in her annuity account.

General Business

1. Discussion of Making Minutes from 3/27/2024 Executive Session Public (Executive Session)

The Board voted to go into Executive Session at 8:52 AM by roll call vote: Sandra Hanks—yes, Gabriele Voelker—yes, Paul Mokrzecki—yes, Angel Bragdon—yes.

A motion was made by Gabriele Voelker that we make public, the minutes from the March 27, 2024, Executive Session meeting, Paul Mokrzecki seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken: Sandra Hanks—yes, Gabriele Voelker—yes, Paul Mokrzecki—yes, Angel Bragdon—yes.

A vote was taken to leave the Executive Session meeting at 8:57 AM. Sandra Hanks—yes, Paul Mokrzecki—yes, Angel Bragdon—yes. Gabe Voelker—did not vote.

2. Decision of Making Minutes from 3/27/2024 Executive Session Public (Open Meeting)

The minutes of the Executive Session meeting of March 27, 2024, were voted on and made public.

3. PERAC Audit Exit Conference

Executive Director Kristine Mathis met with PERAC Auditor Scott Henderson on Monday, December 30, 2024. There were no substantial findings for the years 2017 through 2021. The next audit is scheduled for 2026. Sandra Hanks asked to look into whether an audit exit conference should be held, and if PERAC can send the findings to the Board.

4. PTG Update

Due to a lawsuit from Boston Tech Holdings against Pension Technology Group (PTG) and a lawsuit from PTG against Baystate Pension, Kristine asked Board legal counsel, Attorney Michael Sacco for guidance on how to move forward if a decision to move to Baystate Pension was a wise choice at this time, if the decision were made. Attorney Sacco suggested running both programs simultaneously. Assistant Director Ashley Manley brought up the extra cost of running both programs until the lawsuits are settled. After discussion of the extra cost to run both programs and the extra hours of labor for the staff, and possible longevity of the lawsuits' outcome, *Gabriele Voelker made a motion to stay with PTG for now and see how the lawsuits go and not take any additional steps. Paul Mokrzecki seconded the motion. All ayes*

5. IT Computer Vote and Outlook Update

Mark Smith will begin migrating, from Gmail to Outlook, Executive Director Kristine and Assistant Director Ashley's emails on Friday, January 31, 2025.

A vote is needed to either replace the current PCs and WFH micros with laptops and docking stations or update the existing PCs and WFH micros with new desktop models that would accommodate Windows 11's required update.

Gabriele Voelker made a motion that the office go with total cost for the replacement option for \$16,500.00 dollars. Paul Mokrzecki seconded the motion. All ayes

6. Travel Policy Update per PERAC

PERAC suggested updates to the travel policy that was submitted and approved at the October 30, 2024, Board Meeting. The Board accepted the suggestions.

A motion was made by Paul Mokrzecki that the Board modify our travel policy to accommodate the suggestions made by PERAC. Angel Bragdon seconded the motion. All ayes

7. Vote Retirees' COLA for July 1

After discussion, *Paul Mokrzecki made a motion that the Board approve a 3 percent COLA for our retirees beginning July 1, 2025, Angel Bragdon seconded the motion.*

All ayes

New Business

Gabriel Voelker brought to the Board's attention that the Investment meeting, under the heading of future Investment meetings on the agenda, of Wednesday, February 28, should be February 26 instead.

Adjournment

On a motion made by Angel Bragdon and seconded by Gabriele Voelker, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 9:26 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

THESE MINUTES WERE APPROVED AT THE WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2025, REGULAR BOARD MEETING.

Patricia Hume, Data Maintenance Clerk

Sandra A. Hanks, Chair and Treasurer

Paul J. Mokrzecki, Vice Chair

Angel J. Bragdon, Council Member

Gabriele H. Voelker, Board Member