



Appeals Committee

Item Number 2 – Open Session

Subject: Approval of Minutes for the April 2, 2021, Appeals Committee Meeting – Open Session

Presenter(s): Chairperson

Item Type: Consent Action

Date & Time: June 14, 2021 – 0 minutes

Attachment(s): None

PowerPoint(s): None

PROPOSED MINUTES

Teachers' Retirement Board – Appeals Committee Meeting

April 2, 2021

OPEN SESSION

LOCATION: Web Conference, Public Comment taken by phone, in accordance with Executive Order N-29-20 and N-33-20

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Denise Bradford, Chairperson

Sharon Hendricks

Karen Yamamoto

STAFF PRESENT

Bill Perez, Chief Benefits Officer

Teresa Schilling, Chief Public Affairs Officer

Julie Underwood, Chief Financial Officer

Melyssa Adams, Director, Disability and Survivor Benefits

Diane Alsup, Director, Service Retirement

Reina G. Minoya, Assistant General Counsel

Mark Gini, Ombuds

Kimberley Petz, Pension Program Manager III

David Walton, Pension Program Manager III
Sukha Chima, Pension Program Manager II
Kaitlin DuBray, Pension Program Manager II
Mike Dutil, Supervising Management Auditor
Jennifer Helfend-Gomez, Pension Program Manager II
Nicole Snyder, Staff Services Manager II
James Stassi, Pension Program Manager II
Meredith Bartles, Staff Services Manager I
Ashley Lopez-Trotter, Pension Program Manager I
Ian Coen, Associate Pension Program Analyst
Katie Kiser, Associate Pension Program Analyst
Monica Sihombing, Associate Pension Program Analyst
Saideh Dadras, Senior Counsel
Kati Franck, Senior Counsel
Summer Harrison, Senior Counsel
James Lindsay, Senior Counsel
Brian Sytsma, Counsel
Trevor Young, Counsel
Ryan Dunlevy, Counsel

OTHERS PRESENT

Chris Waddell, Olson Remcho, LLP (Independent Counsel to the Appeals Committee)
Dana Dillon, CTA/NEA-Retired Liaison
Peter Morse, FACCC
Linda A
Mary Thompson

A quorum being present, Chairperson Bradford called the Open Session meeting of the Appeals Committee meeting to order at 10:13 a.m.

I. APPROVAL OF COMMITTEE AGENDA (Item 1)

MOTION duly made by Ms. Hendricks, seconded by Ms. Yamamoto, and carried to approve the Committee Agenda.

Members Voting	Aye	Nay	Abstain
Ms. Hendricks	X		
Ms. Yamamoto	X		
Chairperson Bradford	X		

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR THE JANUARY 7, 2021, APPEALS COMMITTEE MEETING OPEN SESSION (Item 2)

MOTION duly made by Ms. Hendricks, seconded by Ms. Yamamoto, and carried to approve minutes for the January 7, 2021, Appeals Committee meeting – Open Session.

Members Voting	Aye	Nay	Abstain
Ms. Hendricks	X		
Ms. Yamamoto	X		
Chairperson Bradford	X		

III. CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSED ADMINISTRATIVE DECISION (Item 3)

- a. In the Matter of the Denial of Disability Benefits of: Ignacio Reynoso

The committee received a presentation from Mr. Lindsay and Mr. Coen regarding the proposed decision by the administrative law judge in *In the Matter of the Denial of Disability Benefits of: Ignacio Reynoso*. The committee sought clarification about Mr. Reynoso’s work history, job duties and the procedural history of this matter. Staff recommended the committee adopt the proposed decision, with the technical or other minor changes noted on the committee materials at APP11 and two additional changes: removing the end quotation mark from page 4, paragraph, line 5, and correcting the page number for the tenth recommended change on APP11 from page 11 to 13.

IV. EDUCATION: APPEAL ISSUE SERIES – DISABILITY AND SURVIVOR BENEFITS (Item 4)

The committee received a presentation from Mr. Stassi providing an overview of the appeal issues the Disability and Survivor Benefits (DaSB) division has administered in the last five calendar years. The committee learned that out of the 597 Decision letters DaSB has issued in the last five years, 118 of them went on to the Executive Review process with Determination letters issued, and 10 administrative hearings were subsequently requested. The committee sought clarification about the application process for disability benefits. The committee learned from Ms. Adams and Mr. Perez about the methods in which the availability of disability benefits is communicated to CalSTRS members and the help with the application process provided to members.

V. STAFF REPORT (Item 5)

The committee received a staff report from Ms. Minoya concerning anticipated proposed decisions, continuation of the educational series for the committee, annual committee activities, and scheduling needs for future meetings.

VI. REVIEW OF INFORMATION REQUESTS (Item 6)

There were no requests for information.

VII. OPPORTUNITY FOR STATEMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC (Item 7)

There were no statements from the public.

RECESS

The Open Session of the committee meeting recessed at 11:02 a.m. and the committee went into Closed Session. The committee reconvened in Open Session at 11:21 a.m.

VIII. ANNOUNCEMENT OF ACTIONS TAKEN ON PROPOSED ADMINISTRATIVE DECISION (Item 11)

a. In the Matter of the Denial of Disability Benefits of: Ignacio Reynoso

The committee adopted the proposed decision in *In the Matter of the Denial of Disability Benefits of: Ignacio Reynoso*, with the technical or other minor changes recommended by staff on APP11, and the additional changes discussed during Item 3, as reflected below:

1. On page 3, paragraph 4, line 4, change “Shelia” to “Sheila.”
2. On page 4, paragraph 4, lines 3 and 5, remove quotation marks.
3. On page 5, paragraph 7, line 5, change “set” to “sent.”
4. On page 8, paragraph 13, line 2, change “tit. 16” to “tit. 5.”
5. On page 10, paragraph 18, lines 8 and 15, change “the present” to “date of application.”
6. On page 11, paragraph 3, line 5, change “CalSTRS agency” to “CalSTRS-covered employer.”
7. On page 13, paragraph 5, lines 2 and 7, change “the present” to “date of application.”
8. On page 13, paragraph 6, line 4, change “the present” to “date of application.”
9. On page 13, paragraph 6, line 5, change “provide” to “provided.”
10. On page 13, Order, line 1, delete “The.”

IX. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to conduct, Chairperson Bradford adjourned the Appeal Committee meeting at 11:22 a.m.

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Jack Ehnes, Chief Executive Officer
And Secretary to the Teachers' Retirement Board

Denise Bradford, Chairperson

Prepared by: Ryan Dunlevy, Counsel