

**NEW MEXICO**  
**PUBLIC EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION**  
**MONTHLY BOARD MEETING**

**March 31, 2016**

This meeting of the Public Employees Retirement Board was called to order by Patricia French, Chair, at approximately 11:00 a.m. on the above-cited date at the PERA Building, Senator Fabian Chavez, Jr., Board Room, 33 Plaza La Prensa, Santa Fe, New Mexico.

**1. ROLL CALL**

Executive Director Wayne Propst called roll and a quorum was established with the following members present:

**Members Present:**

Patricia French, Chair - Municipal  
Dan Mayfield, Vice Chair - Retiree  
Dan Esquibel - Municipal  
Tim Eichenberg- *Ex-officio*  
Paula Fisher - State  
Jackie Kohlasch - State  
James Maxon - County  
Loretta Naranjo Lopez - Retiree  
John Reynolds - State  
Cathy Townes - State  
Brad Winter - *Ex-officio*  
John Melia - Municipal [appointed at 11:50]

**Member(s) Absent:**

None

**Staff Members Present:**

Wayne Propst, Executive Director  
Susan Pittard, Chief of Staff-General Counsel  
Jon Grabel, Chief Investment Officer  
Greg Trujillo, Deputy Director/Chief Information Officer  
Karen Risku, Deputy General Counsel  
Renada Peery-Galon, ASD Director  
Natalie Cordova, Chief Financial Officer  
Misty Braswell, Assistant General Counsel  
Dana David, Assistant General Counsel  
Jude Perez, Deputy CIO  
Joaquin Lujan, Director of Rates and Credit  
Danna Varela, Executive Assistant  
Mark Montoya, Financial Analyst  
Kristin Varela, Portfolio Manager  
Emily Lopez, Financial Specialist

Karyn Lujan, Deferred Compensation Plan Manager  
Christine Ortega, Portfolio Manager  
Lalleh Dayeny, Investment Division

**Others Present:**

Paul Lium, Nationwide  
Don Wencewicz, AFSCME Retiree

**2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Ms. Fisher introduced the following motion:

**“RESOLVED, that the PERA Board approve the agenda.”**

Mr. Esquibel seconded and the motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

**3. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA**

*[Exhibit 1: Consent Agenda]*

Chair French indicated that she reviewed the minutes and found them accurate.

Mr. Mayfield introduced the following motion:

**“RESOLVED, that the PERA Board approve the consent agenda.”**

Mr. Esquibel seconded and the motion passed by without opposition.

**4. CURRENT BUSINESS**

**A. Interview of Applicants for the Municipal Board Member Position:**

- a. Christopher Daniel
- b. John Melia

Chair French outlined the procedures for the interviews: Each applicant will be allocated 5 minutes to introduce himself. Following that, each Board member will be limited to one question which will be asked of both applicants. Chair French reminded the Board that candidate letters of interest and resumes were provided within the packet.

Christopher Daniel appeared before the Board, introduced himself and provided information about his education, employment and personal history. Presently, he serves as the chief investment officer for the City of Albuquerque where he has worked for 10 years. He has a master’s degree from Georgia State University, is a CPA and a CFA charter holder. He discussed the functions he provides for the city that he said would dovetail well with the PERA Board.

John Melia appeared before the Board, introduced himself and provided information about his education, employment and personal history. He has a degree in emergency medical services and since 2005 has served as a firefighter and paramedic for the Albuquerque Fire

Department. He told the Board how he became interested in PERA, the defined compensation plan and how he educated himself in investments.

The applicants were individually thanked for their interest and each asked the following questions:

- There may be a time you are asked to vote on an investment when, based on your experience and knowledge, your vote may differ from the rest of the Board; how will you deal with that? Will you vote with the rest of the Board or will you consider what your experience, knowledge and understanding?
- Where do you see PERA in five years?
- The Board has taken a strong stance regarding double-dipping/return-to-work; what is your position on that subject?
- What does PERA mean to you individually and what does it mean to the community?
- What piqued your interest in serving on this Board?
- What does the word “integrity” mean to you and provide an example of how having integrity would be important as a PERA Board member?
- Have you previously sought to be elected to this Board and if not, why not?
- What is your understanding of being a fiduciary?
- Serving on an elected board is different than other jobs; what will keep you from micromanaging PERA staff and the investment counselors?

With both applicants out of the Board room, Chair French opened the floor to comments and/or nominations. The vote would be conducted by a show of hands.

Mr. Esquibel said either candidate would be an asset to the Board. He said Mr. Melia’s passion impressed him and he nominated John Melia.

Mr. Winter nominated Christopher Daniel.

John Melia received seven votes and was declared the winner.

Mr. Maxon introduced the following motion:

**“RESOLVED, that the PERA Board appoint John Melia as the municipal member to fill the current vacancy.”**

Mr. Esquibel seconded and the motion passed by majority [9-2] voice vote.

Secretary of State Winter administered the oath of office to John Melia. On behalf of the PERA staff, Mr. Propst congratulated Mr. Melia and said they looked forward to working with him.

## **B. Executive Director’s Report**

Mr. Propst expressed his and his staff’s condolences to Chair French for a recent loss she experienced.

Mr. Propst reviewed information on benefit and refund payments made since 2008. Since 2008, PERA has paid out more than \$6.1 billion in benefits and made more than \$300 million in refund payments. He expected that PERA would pay out more than \$1 billion in benefits to retirees this year and commended the Board for following through on the commitment to preserve and protect the fund for current and future retirees.

On April 13<sup>th</sup> Mr. Grabel, SIC and ERB will be making a presentation to the Legislative Finance Committee on investment performance.

**5. OTHER BUSINESS**

Chair French thanked staff and the consultants for their guidance with regard to the asset allocation strategies.

Chair French commended staff for receiving the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting and said this exemplifies the hard work of PERA's staff.

A roster for the 2016 Election Committee was included within the Board packet.

**6. ADJOURNMENT**

Having completed the agenda and with no further business to come before the Board, Chair French declared this meeting adjourned at 11:55 a.m.

Approved by:



Patricia French  
Chair, PERA Board

ATTEST:

Wayne Propst, Executive Director

Attached Exhibit:

*Exhibit 1: Consent Agenda*