

**New Mexico
Public Employees Retirement Association
Board Meeting
May 27, 2021**

1. Call to Order

This meeting of the New Mexico PERA Board was held on the date cited above via Zoom tele/video conferencing. Acting Chair Francis Page called the meeting to order at approximately 11:30 a.m.

2. Roll call

The meeting attendance met quorum with the following members present;

Board Members Present

Francis Page, Acting Chair
Tim Eichenberg
Paula Fisher
Loretta Naranjo Lopez
Steve Neel (out at 11:45)
Shirley Ragin
Roberto Ramirez
Diana Rosales Ortiz
David Roybal
Maggie Toulouse Oliver

Board Members Absent

Lawrence Davis
John Melia

Staff

Greg Trujillo, Acting Executive Director
Susan Pittard, General Counsel
Trish Winter, Executive Assistant
Anna Williams, CFO
Misty Schoeppner, Deputy General Counsel
Kristin Varela, Interim CIO
LeAnne Larranaga Ruffy, Co-Head of Equity
Aaron Kayser, Investment Administrator
Frank Mihail, Investments Director
Isaac Beckel, Investments Director
Isaac Olaoye, Investment Accountant
Kate Brassington, Investment Associate
Michael Killfoil, Investment Associate
Karyn Lujan, SmartSave Plan Manager
Jessica Trujillo, HR Manager
Ron Gallegos, CTO
Angela Romero, Albuquerque Office Manager
Geraldine Garduno, Assistant General Counsel

Others in Attendance

Tom Toth, Wilshire Consulting
Arlene Jacobius, Pensions & Investments
Marah de Muel, Attorney General’s Office

3. Approval of Agenda

Shirley Ragin moved to approve the agenda. Maggie Toulouse Oliver seconded the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous roll call vote as follows;

Francis Page	Yes
Tim Eichenberg	Yes
Paula Fisher	No response
Loretta Naranjo Lopez	Yes
Steve Neel	Yes
Shirley Ragin	Yes
Roberto Ramirez	Yes
Diana Rosales Ortiz	Yes
David Roybal	Yes
Maggie Toulouse Oliver	Yes

4. Approval of the Consent Agenda

Ms. Naranjo Lopez proposed to remove the minutes from the Consent Agenda and move it to item 6 under unfinished business, Items removed from the Consent Agenda. She further pointed out that they could not vote to approve the Consent Agenda until they get to item 6.

General Counsel, Susan Pittard explained that the process they usually follow after removing an item from the Consent Agenda is to proceed with approval. This is according to the Board policies and procedures.

Shirley Ragin moved to approve the Consent Agenda without the minutes. Maggie Toulouse Oliver seconded the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous roll call vote as follows;

Francis Page	Yes
Tim Eichenberg	Yes
Paula Fisher	Yes
Loretta Naranjo Lopez	Yes
Steve Neel	Yes
Shirley Ragin	Yes
Roberto Ramirez	Yes
Diana Rosales Ortiz	Yes
David Roybal	Yes
Maggie Toulouse Oliver	Yes

**5. A. Investment Committee
Departure Event: Chief Investment Officer (Transition Plan)**

Mr. Neel reported that on May 12, they received a notification informing them of the departure of the current CIO, Dominic Garcia. His last day is 4th June.

Investment Committee established an AdHoc date for transition and continuity planning. The meeting was held on May 21 where the Committee was notified that Kristin Varela would be stepping in as the interim CIO and LeAnne Larranaga Ruffly would be stepping up as the deputy CIO.

Several items were also covered at the meeting as follows; resource planning, the continuity of the team, the retention of the team, the new organization structure, and the resources with regard to open positions that had been provided.

Mr. Neel reported that the investment division has more resources currently than they ever had historically. This was also a new high with regard to assets under management and complexity of the portfolio. He further stated that it was critical to proceed with a CIO search in the near term because the portfolio is currently in neutral even though it is being monitored well.

5. B. AdHoc Executive Director Search Committee
Minimum Qualifications Screening Process of Executive Director Applications

Ms. Fisher reported that the AdHoc Committee had met and discussed the process the committee will use to determine the top applicant finalists. The committee will then give their recommendations to the full Board.

Mr. Neel inquired about the earliest plausible date that they could have a new Executive Director on board. Ms. Fisher stated that she did not have a plausible date. They were just waiting for the applications to finalize on June 1 and then undergo the review process.

Mr. Neel stated that speed should be placed on that as it dovetails closely with the transition to the CIO. Acting Chair Page stated that the process could be done by September 1.

Ms. Fisher stated that they had already given the description as to the minimum qualification screening process and asked for a motion to proceed.

Tim Eichenberg moved to approve the ED search process of applicants. Maggie Toulouse Oliver seconded the motion. The motion passed by a roll call vote of 9 to 1 as follows:

Francis Page	Yes
Tim Eichenberg	Yes
Paula Fisher	Yes
Loretta Naranjo Lopez	No
Steve Neel	Yes
Shirley Ragin	Yes
Roberto Ramirez	Yes
Diana Rosales Ortiz	Yes
David Roybal	Yes
Maggie Toulouse Oliver	Yes

6. Unfinished Business.

Ms. Naranjo Lopez stated that she would vote no on the minutes because she does not trust the way they are being submitted. Acting Chair Page stated that they are not exact minutes but a general discussion of what took place at the last meeting. He asked for a motion to approve the minutes.

Maggie Toulouse Oliver moved to approve minutes from Consent Agenda. Paula Fisher seconded the motion. The motion passed with a roll call vote of 9 to 1 as follows;

Francis Page	Yes
Tim Eichenberg	Yes
Paula Fisher	Yes
Loretta Naranjo Lopez	No
Steve Neel	Yes
Shirley Ragin	Yes
Roberto Ramirez	Yes
Diana Rosales Ortiz	Yes
David Roybal	Yes
Maggie Toulouse Oliver	Yes

Board Recessed to Executive Session NMSA 1978, §10-15-1 (H) (3)

Maggie Toulouse Oliver moved to recess to Executive Session. Roberto Ramirez seconded the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous vote as follows;

Francis Page	Yes
Tim Eichenberg	Yes
Paula Fisher	Yes
Loretta Naranjo Lopez	Yes
Steve Neel	Yes
Shirley Ragin	Yes
Roberto Ramirez	Yes
Diana Rosales Ortiz	Yes
David Roybal	Yes
Maggie Toulouse Oliver	Yes

Executive Session from 11:52am to 12:17pm

Board reconvened to Regular Session.

Board members present

Francis Page
Paula Fisher
Loretta Naranjo Lopez
Steve Neel
Shirley Ragin
Roberto Ramirez

Diana Rosales Ortiz
David Roybal

7. A. Final Decision on administrative appeal.
Orlando A Chavez (PID # 22778)

Roberto Ramirez moved to uphold the hearing officer’s recommendation. Shirley Ragin seconded the motion. The motion passed by a roll call vote of 7 to 0 as follows;

Francis Page	Yes
Tim Eichenberg	No response
Paula Fisher	No response
Loretta Naranjo Lopez	Yes
Steve Neel	Yes
Shirley Ragin	Yes
Roberto Ramirez	Yes
Diana Rosales Ortiz	Yes
David Roybal	Yes
Maggie Toulouse Oliver	No response

7. B. CIO Report

Interim CIO, Ms. Kristin Varela stated that her team is dedicated to the mission and they are ready to serve. She stated that they are highly qualified investment professionals capable of continuing the implementation requirements that are necessary in the interim.

Ms. Varela reported that the trust fund is going into the transition with a solid financial foundation, an all-time high of \$17.05 billion. Fiscal year-to-date returns are in the double digits and May is also looking good. She believed that they can continue to steer the fund in the right direction.

In response to a question by Acting Chair Page, Ms. Varela stated that there is one open position on the classified side supporting the operational functions. They are recruiting and are planning to fill the position by the end of the fiscal year.

Active recruitments for the GOVX beta position are ongoing. The plan is to also fill that position by the end of the fiscal year. Mr. Neel explained that the open classified position is a result of a promotion of another staff member.

7. C. Executive Director’s Report

Acting Executive Director, Greg Trujillo, presented in the report. He stated there were two additions to the report; the job description of the CIO that was used in 2013 and 2017, as well as the loose timeline of what those recruitments look like. No action is required on this. He stated that he will develop a recruitment plan to share with the Board on how to move forward with the recruitment.

Mr. Trujillo also reported that a new investment associate will be joining PERA soon. He is coming from the State Investment Council and has a CFA as well. His resume was included in the packet.

With regards to the ED classification, Ms. Pittard reported that they had received information from the Governor's office that they are pulling back the classification from pay range 70 as it was done in error.

Ms. Pittard stated that this will not change anything. The advertisements do not need to be revised because the pay scale was not available to the applicants. The applicants are each being contacted by the HR, Jessica Trujillo, to tell them of the modification to the job posting. The Board can therefore move forward under the existing classification and advertise.

Ms. Rosales Ortiz pointed out that the pay grade 70 allowed the Board to dismiss the Executive Director at will. She asked if that was still the case since the classification had not been approved. Ms. Pittard explained that that had not changed. The Executive Director has always served at the will of the Board.

8. Public Comment.

There were no comments from the public.

9. Adjournment

With no further business to discuss, Acting Chair Page adjourned the meeting at approximately 12:33 PM.

Approved by:


Francis Page, Acting Board Chair

ATTEST:


Greg Trujillo, Acting Executive Director