



Appeals Committee

Item Number 2 – Open Session

Subject: Approval of Minutes for the August 31, 2021 Appeals Committee Meeting – Open Session

Presenter(s): Chairperson

Item Type: Consent Action

Date & Time: March 7, 2022 – 0 minutes

Attachment(s): None

PowerPoint(s): None

PROPOSED MINUTES

Teachers' Retirement Board – Appeals Committee Meeting

August 31, 2021

OPEN SESSION

LOCATION: Web Conference

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Denise Bradford, Chairperson

Karen Yamamoto, Vice Chairperson

Sharon Hendricks

STAFF PRESENT

Bill Perez, Chief Benefits Officer

Teresa Schilling, Chief Public Affairs Officer

Julie Underwood, Chief Financial Officer

Lucy Arbuckle, Director, Accounting

Reina G. Minoya, Assistant General Counsel

Ashley Lopez-Trotter, Pension Program Manager I

James Lindsay, Senior Counsel

Kati A. Franck, Senior Counsel

OTHERS PRESENT

Jennifer Baker, CalRTA
Joe Bartell, CTA
Dana Dillon, CTA/NEA-Retired
Sandy Keaton

Teresa Sordello

Kevin Welch, CTA
Chris Waddell, Olson Remcho, LLP (Independent Counsel to the Appeals Committee)

A quorum being present, Chairperson Bradford called the Open Session meeting of the Appeals Committee meeting to order at 3:00 p.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 JUNE 14, 2021, APPEALS COMMITTEE MEETING OPEN SESSION (Item 2)

MOTION duly made by Ms. Yamamoto, seconded by Ms. Hendricks, and carried to approve the minutes for the June 14, 2021, Appeals Committee meetings – Open Sessions.

| 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 Retirement Benefits of: Teresa Sordello

The committee received a presentation from Mr. Lindsay and Ms. Lopez-Trotter regarding the proposed decision by the administrative law judge in *In the Matter of Retirement Benefits of: Teresa Sordello*. The committee sought clarification about which life events would qualify a member for an option election change outside the statutory period,

as referenced on page eight of the administrative law judge’s proposed decision. The committee discussed the member’s retirement history which included Ms. Sordello’s first retirement in 2009 where she elected a “member-only benefit.” The committee also confirmed that the member delayed in inquiring about an option election change for more than two months after the statutory deadline had passed.

The committee heard from Teresa Sordello who expressed her issues with the proposed decision.

Staff recommended the committee adopt the proposed decision, with the technical or other minor changes identified in the committee materials on Item 3a, page 3.

IV. EDUCATION: APPEAL ISSUE SERIES - ACCOUNTING (Item 4)

The committee received a presentation from Ms. Arbuckle from the Accounting division regarding an overview of the appeal issues it has administered in the last five fiscal years. The presentation included a review of the current appeal process, as well as charts detailing the number of Decision letters and Executive Review requests the Accounting division has administered.

The committee commented that since the 2016/2017 fiscal year, all appeals administered by the Accounting division had been resolved without the need for an administrative hearing. Further information was presented to the committee which distinguished the typical appeals administered by the Accounting division versus other business areas.

V. STAFF REPORT (Item 5)

The committee received a staff report from Ms. Minoya concerning upcoming scheduled administrative hearings and the scheduling needs for future committee 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 additional statements from the public.

RECESS

The Open Session of the committee meeting recessed at 3:27 p.m. and the committee went into Closed Session. The committee reconvened in Open Session at 3:43 p.m.

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

a. In the Matter of the Retirement Benefits of: Teresa Sordello

The committee adopted the proposed decision *In the Matter of the Retirement Benefits of: Teresa Sordello*, with the following technical or other minor changes:

1. On page 5, paragraph 7, line 9, change “receive” to “recent.”
2. On page 9, paragraph 16, line 4, change “June 30, 2019” to “March 15, 2019.”
3. On page 11, paragraph 22, line 6, change “Rasinger” to “Riesinger.”
4. On page 12, paragraph 25, line 4, change “Service Award Letter” to “Service Retirement Award Letter.”
5. On page 12, paragraph 25, line 6, change “service award adjustment letters” to “service retirement award adjustment letters.”
6. On page 12, paragraph 24, line 6, change “use” to “us.”

IX. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to conduct, Chairperson Bradford adjourned the Appeal Committee meeting at 3:45 p.m.

Cassandra Lichnock, Chief Executive Officer
And Secretary to the Teachers’ Retirement Board

Denise Bradford, Chairperson

Prepared by: Kati A. Franck, Senior Counsel