

**Special Meeting
Board of Trustees
Of the Employees' Retirement System
Of the City of New Orleans
Purchasing Conference Room
1300 Perdido Street, 4W05
April 3, 2017
12:09 pm**

Trustees Present:

Dr. Edgar L. Chase, III, Chairman
Ms. Lisa M. Hudson, Vice Chairperson
Ms. Beverly Gariepy, Treasurer/CFO
Ms. Marina M. Kahn, Retiree Representative
Ms. Courtney B. Bagneris, Active Representative

Others Present:

Jesse Evans, Jr., Director of Employees' Retirement System
Janet H. Easterling, Administrative Support Supervisor
Kimberly K. Smith, City Attorney's Office
Carletta Graves, Clerk of Council
Roy Guerico, Finance/Comptroller
Tia Harrison, Civil Service
Doddie Smith, Civil Service

The chairman called the meeting to order at 12:09 pm.

NEW BUSINESS

Oath of Office Mr. Chase swore in the new Director of Finance, Ms. Gariepy as Treasurer of the fund.

OLD BUSINESS

Retirement Board Election Mr. Evans informed the Board that members have nominated multiple candidates and if we were to eliminate the nomination of those members it would leave only one candidate for the 2017 Board election. He contacted Ms. Hudson regarding the members nominating multiple candidates and inquired as to what is the next course of action. Ms. Hudson requested that this issue be brought before the Board at a special meeting. Mr. Evans spoke with the prior Manager of the Retirement Office, who recalled this situation happening some time ago, where members who nominated multiple candidates were disqualified from nominating anyone, but he could not find any documents to support that action. Ms. Bagneris stepped out. Ms. Kahn asked whether the candidates submitted more than twenty-five signatures. Mr. Evans said no, if we eliminate those multiple signatures for both candidates, they will have less than the required twenty-five signatures. Ms. Kahn said that the nomination form clearly states "note: you may not sign more than one nomination form". Ms. Hudson contacted former Civil Service employees who handled the Board election process in the past, and they do not recall this happening before. Ms. Hudson said that there are two options for the Board, 1) accept the nomination form that were received first by the Retirement Office or 2) eliminate both candidates for duplicate signatures. Dr. Chase inquired about the rules or policy for the Board elections. Ms. Hudson said the process on the form states "note: you may not sign more than one nomination form". Ms. Smith said to accept one candidate form and not the other is a problem because of duplicate signatures.

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Dr. Chase said that based on the process of the Board election which is stated at the top of the form “note: you may not sign more than one nomination form”, we cannot accept the nomination forms for the candidates with duplicate signatures. A motion was made by Dr. Chase and seconded by Ms. Kahn to throw out the nomination forms that did not have the required twenty-five signatures due to three members signing nomination forms for two different candidates. The motion passed with four in favor (Dr. Chase, Ms. Kahn, Ms. Gariepy, and Ms. Hudson). Dr. Chase inquired as to what is the next step in the Board election. Mr. Evans said that Ms. Hudson will send out letters to the candidates informing them that their nomination forms were thrown out due to member’s signatures multiple nomination forms for different candidates. He said that Ms. Bagneris will win by default. Dr. Chase inquired as to term ends date for Ms. Bagneris’. Mr. Evans said June 30, 2020 is the term end date for Ms. Bagneris and will be sworn in at the July Board meeting.

Ms. Bagneris returned to the meeting.

Dr. Chase requested to add an item to the agenda to discuss the amendments to Chapter 114.

A motion was made by Dr. Chase and seconded by Ms. Hudson to add to the agenda Discussion on Amendments to Chapter 114. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Bagneris informed Dr. Chase that a Member Relations Committee meeting will be held on Friday, April 7th from 1pm to 5pm to explain to employees the effects of the proposed changes to the plan by Councilmember Head and explain the Board’s position on the changes. Mr. Evans said that Councilmember Head put forth an Ordinance at the last City Council meeting with a series of changes to Chapter 114. He informed the Board that Councilmember Heads’ Ordinance amendments to Chapter 114 need to go before the Governmental Affairs Committee before going to the full City Council. Mr. Evans said that he can invite Councilmember Head to the Member Relations Committee meeting on April 7, 2017, to present her Ordinance changes of Chapter 114 to members.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Ms. Hudson and seconded by Ms. Bagneris to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously.



Jesse Evans, Jr.
Director

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