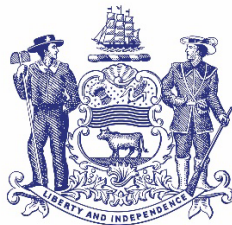


David Taylor, Co-Chair
Delaware Retired School Personnel Association

Karen Crouse, Co-Chair
Delaware State Education Association

Janice Vander Decker, 2nd Vice Chairman
Delaware School Nutrition Service Association

International Assoc. of Local 1590 City of Wilmington Firefighters
Delaware Association of School Administrators
Delaware School Nutrition Service Association
Delaware Fraternal Order of Police
Delaware State Troopers Association
Two at-Large Members



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**PENSION ADVISORY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES FROM APRIL 11, 2023**

Members present:

Kevin Carson	DASA
David Taylor	DRSPA
Charlotte Lister	At Large
Karen Crouse	DSEA
Jim Testerman	At Large
Mark Ryde	DSTA

Member's absent:

Joseph Malloy	WFD IAFF 1590
Janice Vander Decker	DSNA
Fred Calhoun	FOP

Others present:

Joanna Adams	Pension Administrator
Vicki Schultes	Executive Assistant to Pension Administrator
William O'Brien	Deputy Attorney General

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Mr. Taylor called the meeting to order at 1:31 pm. A quorum was present.
No public comment was given.

2. OPENING COMMENTS:

Mr. Taylor began with reading the definition of Advocacy and stated we are a Pension Advisory Council (PAC), not a Pension Advocacy Council. However, he feels we do advocate for all issues that pertain to

pensioners. Ms. Adams read the charge of this group and she feels we are within the parameters to advocate as needed on issues that pertain to pensioners, however the intent is more on the pension piece (Title 29 Chapter 83 Section 8308A). The state has 3 major issues to deal with: Passing of legalizing marijuana, electric vehicle issue and health care for retirees and current employees. On the national level it is gun control and abortion. Mr. Taylor would like to see the committee members go to their groups and get their opinions on health care issue especially since that is the main issue currently for pensioners. The PAC needs to make sure we are acting on the wishes of our constituent groups. Mr. Taylor invited us to attend the State Employee Benefit Committee (SEBC) meetings and offer public comments.

Additional discussion included the need for representation from the Fraternal Order of Police (FOP). PAC membership previously included representation of the National Guard and the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (ASCFME). The PAC needs to pursue having these groups represented moving forward.

Ms. Lister reported that the judiciary system also used to be represented within PAC members, however, their employees are covered by another group and the judges have their own representation to the legislature, so the value is not there for them. Mr. Taylor suggested we talk to our legislators and attend their public meetings that they have in their districts.

Dr. Carson stated we need to have the consistent speaking points for all PAC members to use. The PAC needs to have the cost impact on what we currently have readily available, and how that impacts the budget.

3. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA:

There were no additions to the agenda.

4. APPROVAL OF THE JANUARY 10, 2023 MEETING MINUTES:

Mr. Taylor offered technical corrections. Mr. Testerman motioned to approve the minutes as corrected, seconded by Ms. Lister.

5. CO-CHAIRMEN'S REPORT:

Mr. Taylor reported he spoke on SB 29 and spoke at Joint Finance in support of a one-time payment for all pensioners in the amount of \$1000 due to inflation cost of gas, groceries like lettuce and egg prices; health care, the Medicare advantage plan; and SB42 (the death benefit increase).

Ms. Crouse had nothing to report.

6. OLD BUSINESS:

There was no old business to report.

7. NEW BUSINESS:

Ms. Adams reviewed the SEBC and referred to page 7 of SB29 amendment 1, which expands the membership of this committee. Ms. Adams reviewed the synopsis on page 12. The committee is to provide a comprehensive biannual report to Governor Carney and the General Assembly by May 1st. Ms. Adams also discussed the other post-employment benefits (OPEB) liability. Ms. Adams indicated there could be plan changes for both active and retirees regarding health care benefits.

Ms. Adams discussed SB42 burial benefits being raised from \$7000.00 to \$10,000, which has a budget impact of \$40 million. It will cost \$13 million for each \$1000 increase. Ms. Crouse asked if this bill would be eliminating the current doubling of this for whereas State employees received the benefit and those that were also Volunteer Fire Fighters or Auxiliary also received the benefit in the past. Ms. Adams indicated that it would eliminate the double collection of the death benefit. Mr. Testerman asked why are we penalizing those volunteers who are also state employees?

Dr. Carson stated we need to look at HB 63, which changes the amount of money a retiree can make before losing some of their pension. Dr. Carson indicated we are having trouble recruiting teachers and we need to look at the ratio compared to job classifications as it is currently inequitable as a custodian could return to work and earn more than a teacher could. Ms. Lister asked if there was a way to ask for educators to be exempt.

LEGISLATION:

- HB 64 - Relating to survivor benefits; tabled in the House Administration Committee.
- HB 75 - The Proposed Budget Act. Mr. Taylor indicated we need more information on the content in this bill that would directly impact retirees.

Mr. Testerman thanked Mr. Taylor for his work in monitoring all of these bills and speaking on our behalf.

Ms. Lister shared that the PAC needs to have a resolution on the lawsuit that was filled before anything can happen on the health care issue.

8. Pension Administrator's Report:

Ms. Adams reported that they have completed the actuary RFP. The Pension Office is also part of the ERP modernization project which combines 3 systems into 1.

The next PAC meeting is scheduled for May 9th at 1:30 pm.

9. ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Testerman made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 2:30 pm; the motion was seconded by Ms. Lister. The motion carried.

Respectfully submitted

Karen Crouse, Co-Chair
Pension Advisory Council