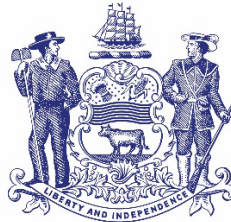


David Taylor, Chair  
Delaware Retired School Personnel Association

Karen Crouse, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair  
Delaware State Education Association

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

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



**STATE OF DELAWARE  
BOARD OF PENSION TRUSTEES  
PENSION ADVISORY COUNCIL**

MCARDLE BUILDING  
860 SILVER LAKE BLVD., SUITE #1  
DOVER, DE 19904-2402

When Calling Long Distance  
Toll Free Number 1-800-722-7300  
E-mail: [pensionoffice@delaware.gov](mailto:pensionoffice@delaware.gov)

Telephone (302) 739-4208  
FAX # (302) 739-6129  
[www.delawarepensions.com](http://www.delawarepensions.com)

**PENSION ADVISORY COUNCIL  
MEETING MINUTES FROM May 14, 2024**

**Members Present:**

David Taylor	DRSPA
Charlotte Lister	At Large
Karen Crouse	DSEA
Kevin Carson	DASA
Janice Vander Decker	DSNA
Joseph Malloy	WFD IAFF 1590

**Members Absent:**

Fred Calhoun	FOP
Mark Ryde	DSTA
Jim Testerman	At Large

**Others Present:**

Joanna Adams	Pension Administrator
Jason Staib	Attorney General's Office
Stephanie Tatman	Deputy Pension Administrator
Tammy LeCates	Executive Assistant

**1. CALL TO ORDER:**

D. Taylor called the meeting to order at 1:34 p.m. A quorum was present.

## **2. PUBLIC COMMENT:**

No public comment was given.

## **3. OPENING COMMENTS:**

No opening comments were given.

## **4. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA:**

No additions were made to the agenda.

## **5. APPROVAL OF THE APRIL 9, 2024 MINUTES:**

C. Lister made a motion to accept the minutes as written, seconded by K. Carson. D. Taylor asked that a clarification be made in the minutes regarding New Business Item 7 HB1 for HB 350. The correct name should be The Diamond State Review Board. Makers of the motion agreed, motion carried.

## **6. Co-CHAIRMEN'S REPORT:**

Karen reported that she had emailed Taylor Hawk at DSEA regarding the change we are seeking on reinstating organizations to the Council as of this date she has heard nothing back.

## **7. OLD BUSINESS:**

1. D. Taylor reported that the retirees lost the court case on Retiree Health Care. The court stated this is not a decision to be made by the court but by the legislators.

2. **House Bill 281** – There will be no Medicare Advantage Plan for FY 25, FY 26 and possibly FY 27. Retirees will continue with the current Medicare Supplement Plan. Passed the house 40-0. This is on the Senate ready list and has 18 sponsors/co-sponsors.

3. **House Bill 282** – This bill calls for another retiree member to be added to the SEBC Committee and less appointees by the governor. This is not law yet, but it passed the House 40-0. This is on the Senate ready list and has 18 sponsors/co-sponsors.

4. **House Bill 289** – This would increase the death benefit from \$7000 to \$8000. This is in the appropriations committee. D. Taylor has spoken with a couple lobbyists, and they feel it will pass. It has been 23 years since there was an increase. C. Lister asked if we had heard any opposition to this bill and D. Taylor said we have heard none. On Monday, May 20<sup>th</sup> DEFAC report will be out, and this will show the plan for the budget. All indications are there will be a surplus announced.

5. **House Bill 330 – Annual Appropriations** – This bill calls for 1% of the state payroll to prefund health benefits. Ms. Lister indicated that health insurance is not guaranteed like retirees' pensions, so we need to watch this bill.

J. Malloy feels these bills are fighting each other. Do we see one dropping to make another happen? D. Taylor indicated we will need to see DEFAC and then see what happens. D. Taylor indicated we need to keep the Triple A Bond Rating. C. Lister feels the Death Benefit is a small impact compared to the Health Insurance issue. C. Lister also said contributing annually to the health care cost will help keep the states Triple A rating.

**6. House Bill – House Substitute Bill 1 for House Bill 350** – This bill is for the establishment of The Diamond State Review Board. D. Taylor indicated that DSEA and the Troopers Association are in favor of this bill. This bill could cost millions of dollars. C. Lister heard an agreement has been reached between the state and the hospitals so we could see substitute/amended bills coming.

**7. House Bill 266** – J. Adams indicated this bill looks at how overtime compensation impacts the calculation of pension benefits for some employee groups. This bill involves groups that work overtime and how that affects pension calculations. If the overtime is voluntary the pay is calculated on straight time.

**8. Legislation to reinstate organization representatives to the Pension Advisory Council** – We are still working on getting this changed, however DSEA is not returning our calls. We need a legislator to help us get something written as the FOP was dropped and we need to get them reinstated.

**9. Recognizing Jim Testerman** – Mr. Testerman is 90 years old and the Founder of the Pension Advisory Council. Jim has been involved since the beginning in 1972. D. Taylor suggested we ask the organizations we represent to make a monetary donation, or we can make one personally to Jim. We are going to try to get him to attend the June meeting and make a presentation to him.

#### **8. PENSION ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT:**

J. Adams introduced T. LeCates as the new Executive Assistant. She has 20 years’ service with the state. J. Adams reported that Healthcare legislation is being worked on. The RFP for the State Financial Payroll and Pension System is close to being posted. S. Tatman indicated K. Crouse needs to send the meeting minutes to T. LeCates so they can be posted. D. Taylor will sign the minutes.

#### **9. ADJOURNMENT:**

J. Malloy motioned to adjourn the meeting at 2:26 p.m., seconded by C. Lister. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

David Taylor, Chair  
Pension Advisory Council