

MINUTES | BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Public Employees' Retirement System of Mississippi

June 25, 2025 | PERS Board Room and Live Streamed via YouTube

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Board of Trustees Meeting Agenda

Wednesday, June 25, 2025

1:00 P.M.

- I. Call to Order (*Mr. Kelly Breland, Chair*)
 - A. Invocation
 - B. Pledge of Allegiance
 - C. Approval of Agenda
 - D. Approval of Minutes – *April 23, 2025*
 - E. Employee of the Quarter- *July-September 2025*
- II. Report of the Administrative Committee (*Mr. Bill Benson, Committee Chair*)
 - A. Approval of FY 2027 Administrative Budget Request
 - B. Regulation 60: Contribution Rates
 - C. Actuarial Experience Studies and Recommendations
 - D. Board Travel Authorization
 - E. Other
- III. Report of the Defined Contribution Committee (*Dr. Brian Rutledge, Committee Chair*)
 - A. ORP Plan Document
 - B. Other
- IV. Report of the Investment Committee (*Dr. Randy McCoy, Committee Chair*)
 - A. Other
- V. FY 2026 Municipal Retirement Plans Cost-of-Living Certification
- VI. Disability Appeal Committee
- VII. Staff Reports
 - A. Retiree Report
 - B. Investment Report
- VIII. Election of FY 2026 PERS Board Vice Chair
- IX. Adjourn

Board Members:

Mr. Kelly Breland, *Board Chair*
Mr. Bill Benson, *Board Vice Chair*
Mr. George Dale
Mr. Chris Graham
Ms. Kim Hanna

Dr. Randy McCoy
State Treasurer David McRae
Dr. Brian Rutledge
Dr. Jay Smith
Mr. Terrance Yarbrough

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The Public Employees' Retirement System of Mississippi (PERS) Board of Trustees met Wednesday, June 25, 2025, at 429 Mississippi Street, Jackson, MS 39201. This meeting was duly announced to the public Friday, May 23, 2025, at 1:50 p.m., on the Public Meetings Notice website of the Mississippi Department of Finance and Administration, as well as was posted in the PERS lobby, on the PERS website, and on the PERS YouTube channel.

BOARD MEMBER ATTENDEES

In Person: Board Chair Mr. Kelly Breland, Mr. Bill Benson, Mr. George Dale, Mr. Chris Graham, Ms. Kimberly Hanna, Dr. Randy McCoy, Dr. Brian Rutledge, Dr. Jay Smith, and Mr. Terrance Yarbrough.

Via Teleconference: None.

Absent: State Treasurer David McRae.

Current Board Vacancies: None.

LEGISLATIVE LIAISON ATTENDEES

In Person: Senator Daniel Sparks.

STAFF ATTENDEES

In Person: Executive Director Ray Higgins; Chief Investment Officer Charles Nielsen; Counsel and Policy Advisor Davetta Lee; Member and Employer Services Deputy Director Mason Frantom; Benefit Services Deputy Director Lisa Green; Deputy Director Administrative Services Melanie Estridge; David DeGuire and Jason Clark, Investments; Chief Technology Officer Mike Lowry; Billy Means and Khyra Campbell, Information Technology; Comptroller Tracy Day; LaMelody Lewis, Accounting; Benefit Payments Program Administrator Susan Lyon; Member Account Support Program Administrator Chris Hudson; Employer Reporting Program Administrator Alisa Evans; Mya Love, Linda Marshall, Yolanda Beard, and Jacton Nurse, Service Retirement QA; Rikola Lee and Phyllis Harson, Survivor & Disability Retirement; Latrice Knight, Carla Veal Alexander, and Fronza Walker, Service Retirement; Communications Specialist Christine Anderson; and Communications Director Shelley Powers.

GUEST ATTENDEES

In Person: Assistant Attorney General Kristen Jones; Ed Koebel and Darby Carraway, CavMac; Ted Booth, Joint Legislative Committee on Performance Evaluation and Expenditure Review; Shannon Dyse, Empower; Yerger Lurate, Harper, Rains, Knight; Mike Larsen, Mississippi Retired Public Employees' Association; Laurel Lewis and Kaylee McRae, Mississippi Treasurer's Office; and Emily Tschiffely and Colby Spence, Legislative Budget Office.

CALL TO ORDER

Board Chair Breland called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m.

INVOCATION

Smith gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Breland led the Pledge of Allegiance.

AGENDA

- **Motion:** To approve the meeting agenda.
 - **Made by:** Rutledge.
 - **Seconded by:** McCoy.
 - **Discussion:** None.
 - **Voting for:** Benson, Breland, Dale, Graham, Hanna, McCoy, Rutledge, Smith, and Yarbrough.
 - **Voting against:** None.
 - **Absent:** McRae.
 - **Duly Passed.**

MINUTES

- **Motion:** To approve the minutes of the April 23, 2025, PERS Board of Trustees' meeting.
 - **Made by:** Benson.
 - **Seconded by:** Yarbrough.
 - **Discussion:** None.
 - **Voting for:** Benson, Breland, Dale, Graham, Hanna, McCoy, Rutledge, Smith, and Yarbrough.
 - **Voting against:** None.
 - **Absent:** McRae.
 - **Duly Passed.**

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EMPLOYEE OF THE QUARTER

Breland presented the Employee of the Quarter for July 2025 through September 2025 to Mya Love, Service Retirement QA.

As many of Love's coworkers in Service Retirement, Survivor & Disability Retirement, and Service Retirement QA were present, Benson congratulated and voiced appreciation to Green and her entire team on their hard work serving membership.

REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE

Committee Chair Benson reported that the Administrative Committee met the morning of June 25, 2025, and heard an update on the implementation of Tier 5. No committee action was taken on this item; however, the committee held an extended discussion about Tier 5. He also presented to the Board the following:

Approval of FY 2027 Administrative Budget Request

Benson presented the Board with the FY 2027 Administrative Budget Request and asked for adoption.

- **Motion:** To approve adoption of the FY 2027 Administrative Budget Request.
 - **Made by:** Benson.
 - **Seconded by:** Rutledge.
 - **Discussion:** None.
 - **Voting for:** Benson, Breland, Dale, Graham, Hanna, McCoy, Rutledge, Smith, and Yarbrough.
 - **Voting against:** None.
 - **Absent:** McRae.
 - **Duly Passed.**

(Addendum A – Administrative Budget Request)

Regulation 60: Contribution Rates

Benson presented the Board with the following staff-recommended changes to Regulation 60 (effective July 1, 2025) for final approval:

Amend §§ 101 and 104 to update the employer contribution rate for the Public Employees' Retirement System and the Optional Retirement Plan from 17.9 percent to 18.4 percent in accordance with Senate Bill 3231 as passed during the 2024 Legislative Session and House Bill 1 as passed during the 2025 Legislative Session.

- **Motion:** To provide final approval of staff-recommended changes to Regulation 60 to update the employer contribution rate for PERS and ORP from 17.9 percent to 18.4 percent, effective July 1, 2025, in accordance with Senate Bill 3231 as passed during the 2024 Legislative Session and House Bill 1 as passed during the 2025 Legislative Session.
 - **Made by:** Benson.
 - **Seconded by:** Hanna.
 - **Discussion:** None.
 - **Voting for:** Benson, Breland, Dale, Graham, Hanna, McCoy, Rutledge, Smith, and Yarbrough.
 - **Voting against:** None.
 - **Absent:** McRae.
 - **Duly Passed.**

(Addendum B – Regulation 60)

Actuarial Experience Studies and Recommendations

Benson presented the Board with a Review of Experience Study Findings for fiscal years 2020 through 2024, as well as the Experience Study for the Four-Year Period Ending June 30, 2024, for PERS, the Mississippi Highway Safety Patrol Retirement System, and the Supplemental Legislative Retirement Plan.

- **Motion:** To approve the Experience Study for the Four-Year Period Ending June 30, 2024, reports, for PERS, the Mississippi Highway Safety Patrol Retirement System, and the Supplemental Legislative Retirement Plan, including the actuarial recommendations for the economic and demographic assumptions.
 - **Made by:** Benson.
 - **Seconded by:** McCoy.
 - **Discussion:** None.
 - **Voting for:** Benson, Breland, Dale, Graham, Hanna, McCoy, Rutledge, Smith, and Yarbrough.

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- **Voting against:** None.
- **Absent:** McRae.
- **Duly Passed.**

(Addendum C – Experience Studies and Recommendations)

Board Travel Authorization

Benson presented the Board with proposed FY 2026 travel to any potential actuarial training, as well as to conferences, trainings, and meetings held by the National Council on Teacher Retirement (NCTR), National Association of State Retirement Administrators (NASRA), Certificate of Achievement in Public Plan Policy (CAPPP) sponsored by International Foundation of Employee Benefit Plans (IFEBP), Callan College, or other Callan events.

- **Motion:** To authorize board travel in FY 2026 to any potential actuarial training, as well as to conferences, trainings, and meetings held by the National Council on Teacher Retirement (NCTR), National Association of State Retirement Administrators (NASRA), Certificate of Achievement in Public Plan Policy (CAPPP) sponsored by International Foundation of Employee Benefit Plans (IFEBP), Callan College, or other Callan events.
 - **Made by:** Benson.
 - **Seconded by:** Yarbrough.
 - **Discussion:** None.
 - **Voting for:** Benson, Breland, Dale, Graham, Hanna, McCoy, Rutledge, Smith, and Yarbrough.
 - **Voting against:** None.
 - **Absent:** McRae.
 - **Duly Passed.**

(Addendum D – Board Travel FY 2026)

REPORT OF THE DEFINED CONTRIBUTION COMMITTEE

Committee Chair Rutledge reported that the Defined Contribution Committee met the morning of June 24, 2025, and heard a market update and performance review from Callan. He also presented to the Board the following:

ORP Plan Document

Rutledge presented the Board with the following staff-recommended changes to the Optional Retirement Plan for final adoption, effective July 1, 2025.

Amend Section 4.1 *Plan Contributions* to update the employer contribution rate from 17.90 percent to 18.40 percent in accordance with Senate Bill 3231 as passed during the 2024 Legislative Session. In accordance with Miss. Code Ann. § 25-11-411, ORP employers shall contribute the same amount the employer would be required to contribute to PERS if the participant were a member. This amendment also sets the administrative fee at 0.2 percent of earned compensation and adjusts employer contributions to participant accounts based on initial ORP enrollment date in accordance with House Bill 1 as passed during the 2025 Legislative Session.

PERS has confirmed with the Institutions of Higher Learning that all employer contributions will be remitted in accordance with the statutory amounts provided in Miss. Code Ann. § 25-11-411 effective July 1, 2025.

- **Motion:** To approve for final adoption of the Optional Retirement Plan Document amendments as recommended by staff effective July 1, 2025.
 - **Made by:** Rutledge.
 - **Seconded by:** Benson.
 - **Discussion:** None.
 - **Voting for:** Benson, Breland, Dale, Graham, Hanna, McCoy, Rutledge, Smith, Yarbrough.
 - **Voting against:** None.
 - **Absent:** McRae.
 - **Duly Passed.**

(Addendum E – ORP Plan Document Amendment)

REPORT OF THE INVESTMENT COMMITTEE

Committee Chair McCoy reported that the Investment Committee met June 24, 2025. He said the committee heard a market update and performance review from Callan, updates from private equity managers GCM and Pathway, and various

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miscellaneous updates. McCoy noted that the private equity portfolio since inception in 2006 has posted a net rate of return of 15.11 percent. McCoy thanked GCM Grosvenor and Pathway Capital Management. No committee action was taken on those matters.

FY 2026 MUNICIPAL RETIREMENT PLANS COST-OF-LIVING CERTIFICATION

Higgins presented the Board with the FY 2026 Municipal Retirement Plans Cost-of-Living Certification.

- **Motion:** To approve the FY 2026 Municipal Retirement Plans Cost-of-Living Certification.
 - **Made by:** Rutledge.
 - **Seconded by:** Benson.
 - **Discussion:** None.
 - **Voting for:** Benson, Breland, Dale, Graham, Hanna, McCoy, Rutledge, Smith, and Yarbrough.
 - **Voting against:** None.
 - **Absent:** McRae.
 - **Duly Passed.**

(Addendum F – FY 2026 Municipal Retirement Plans COLA Certification)

REPORT OF THE DISABILITY APPEALS COMMITTEE

Higgins presented the recommendations to the Board of the Disability Appeals Committee (DAC).

The DAC heard sworn testimony, received evidence, and gave due consideration to the applicable laws and regulations for the following case:

PERS No. 25-03 – This matter came on for hearing before the DAC May 5, 2025. The DAC submits to the Board of Trustees its Proposed Statement of Facts, Conclusions of Law, and Recommendation that the Claimant's request for duty-related disability benefits be granted.

- **Motion:** To accept the findings of the DAC and approved the DAC recommendations.
 - **Made by:** Benson.
 - **Seconded by:** Hanna.
 - **Discussion:** None.
 - **Voting for:** Benson, Breland, Dale, Graham, Hanna, McCoy, Rutledge, Smith, and Yarbrough.
 - **Voting against:** None.
 - **Absent:** McRae.
 - **Duly Passed.**

(Addendum G – Report of the Disability Appeals Committee)

RETIREE REPORT

Higgins presented the Retiree Report for the Board's approval.

- **Motion:** To approve the Retiree Report.
 - **Made by:** Benson.
 - **Seconded by:** Dale.
 - **Discussion:** None.
 - **Voting for:** Benson, Breland, Dale, Graham, Hanna, McCoy, Rutledge, Smith, and Yarbrough.
 - **Voting against:** None.
 - **Absent:** McRae.
 - **Duly Passed.**

(Addendum H - Retiree Report)

INVESTMENT REPORT

Higgins presented the Investment Report. He requested board approval of this report, as well as of all trades and transactions performed by the PERS Investments division since the April 23, 2025, board meeting. Higgins noted that the estimated FYTD rate of return was above 9 percent.

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- **Motion:** To approve the Investment Report, as well as all trades and transactions performed by the PERS Investments division since the April 23, 2025, board meeting.
 - **Made by:** McCoy.
 - **Seconded by:** Smith.
 - **Discussion:** None.
 - **Voting for:** Benson, Breland, Dale, Graham, Hanna, McCoy, Rutledge, Smith, and Yarbrough.
 - **Voting against:** None.
 - **Absent:** McRae.
 - **Duly Passed.**

(Addendum I - Investment Report)

ELECTION OF THE FY 2026 PERS BOARD VICE CHAIR

Breland advised that the Nominating Committee, which consisted of the chair, the vice chair, and the past chair, met to discuss candidates for the FY 2026 board vice chair. The discussion led to the nomination of Dale for the FY 2026 board vice chair.

- **Motion:** To approve George Dale as the FY 2026 board vice chair.
 - **Made by:** Benson.
 - **Seconded by:** Smith.
 - **Discussion:** None.
 - **Voting for:** Benson, Breland, Dale, Graham, Hanna, McCoy, Rutledge, Smith, and Yarbrough.
 - **Voting against:** None.
 - **Absent:** McRae.
 - **Duly Passed.**

Dale said he looks forward to working with FY 2026 Chairman Benson.

ADJOURN

- **Motion:** To adjourn.
 - **Made by:** Dale.
 - **Seconded by:** Rutledge.
 - **Discussion:** None.
 - **Voting for:** Benson, Breland, Dale, Graham, Hanna, McCoy, Rutledge, Smith, and Yarbrough.
 - **Voting against:** None.
 - **Absent:** McRae.
 - **Duly Passed.**

Breland called the meeting adjourned at 1:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

H. Ray Higgins, Jr.
Executive Director
Public Employees' Retirement System

Mr. Kelly Breland
Chair
PERS Board of Trustees

HRH