

**MINUTES OF THE MEDFORD RETIREMENT BOARD MEETING HELD on
4-24-2025 at 9:30am in room 201 at Medford City Hall**

1. 9:30am Call meeting to order.

Board Members Present: Rick Jordan, Bob Dickinson, and Robert Maiocco,
James Vieira, Patrick Ripley

Absent:

Mark Minervini, Executive Director

NEPC – 9:30 AM

Scott Driscoll, Consultant

Rhumblin – 9:30 AM

Dan Sherman 11:00 AM

Patrick Ripley motion to suspend the normal order of business for NEPC,
Rhumblin and Dan Sherman to present. Motion second by James Vieira. Motion
passed by all voting in favor.

9:30am Sarah Duncan and Drew Zagarri from Rhumblin joined the meeting and
distributed their handout dated April 24, 2025. Ms. Duncan and Mr. Zagarri
reviewed the S&P 400, S&P 500 and the Russell 1000 Value index funds. The
initial contribution and market value as of March 31, 2025 were reviewed. The
portfolio returns YTD through March 2025, trailing year and since inception were
reviewed. The commissions and trading costs were reviewed for each fund. Ms.
Duncan reviewed the firm and said they have \$119B under management. Ms.
Duncan reviewed the firm's organization chart and informed the Board of new
products. 10:00am Rhumblin left the meeting.

Scott Driscoll from NEPC distributed his handout dated April 24, 2025 and
reviewed the fund's performance as of 3/31/2025. Mr. Driscoll said the fund's
market value as of 3/31/2025 is \$258.2M. Mr. Driscoll provided a market update
and reviewed the market for the past week, month to date, quarter to date, year to
date and prior 1, 3 and 5 years focusing on YTD and the difference in performance
between the indexes. Discussion about the value of the dollar, the vix and the need
to possibly rebalance mid May depending on the market. Discussion about value
vs. growth. Mr. Driscoll said the markets continued to trade down in April.
Discussion about tariffs and China. Mr. Driscoll discussed the overpriced US
market and possible rate cuts by the Fed. Patrick Ripley asked if the tariffs pushed
the inflated markets down. Mr. Driscoll said the over value of companies played a
part. Discussion about the 10 year and 2 year bond rate. Mr. Driscoll reviewed the
plan's performance and said April will change considerably. Discussion about
mid May rebalancing without a Board vote. Discussion about mid-month
rebalancing. Mr. Driscoll said he can notify the Board in an email, so they are
aware of the rebalancing recommendation. Mr. Driscoll said the rebalancing will
bring the plan back to policy. Patrick Ripley said he is ok to allow rebalancing if
there is no opposition from the Board.

Patrick Ripley motion to allow a one-time rebalancing in May 2025. Motion
second by Robert Maiocco. Motion passed by all voting in favor.

Discussion about private equity and liquidity of the funds. Discussion about
private equity distributions. Patrick Ripley asked when do we get concerned with
the amount we committed in private equity? Mr. Driscoll said the fund has 14% in
private equity, there would be concern if 20% of the fund was invested in private
equity. Mr. Ripley said, ok we have a 6% buffer. Additional discussion about
rebalancing. 10:40am Scott Driscoll left the meeting.

10:40am Dan Sherman joined the meeting and asked if everyone has a copy of the
preliminary results comparison report? The Board answered yes. Mr. Sherman
reviewed the results of the study and the actuarial gain/losses and said the system
has an unfunded liability of \$108.2M. Mr. Sherman reviewed the funding options.

Mr. Dickinson said if the increase is greater than 4%, the difference would have to come from the city budget. Discussion about increasing the funding schedule one year to 2034 – most members are against increasing – Mr. Dickinson agrees that he rather not increase to 2034. Mr. Dickinson said there have been GIC increases, and the school needs a new HVAC system. Mr. Ripley asked how much is in free cash? Mr. Dickinson said \$25M. Mr. Dickinson said a big chunk will be used for the HVAC and ADA improvements. Mr. Ripley asked if the hvac system had regular maintenance? Chairman Jordan said \$1M was set aside for maintenance but never went into the system. Mr. Jordan continued, Pat and I talked about lowering the assumed rate of return, Mr. Ripley said go to 7.20%. Discussion about lowering the assumed rate of return. Mr. Sherman said there’s a lot of volatility in the market right now and should wait and see what happens before making any changes. Mr. Ripley said after the last discussion that a slow decrease in increments would be better. Robet Maiocco asked if PERAC has any thoughts on this? Mr. Sherman said PERAC has been ok with an assumed rate of return at 7% - 7.25%. Robert Maiocco asked how much money is from the override? Mr. Dickinson answered about \$7M, all going to the school. Discussion about the funding alternatives. Mr. Dickinson said he needs to meet with the mayor to review. Chairman Jordan said he is deadest against increasing the funding schedule. Mr. Dickinson agrees. Mr. Sherman said that rating agencies frown on it. Chairman Jordan said he doesn’t want to hear that cops and firefighters will be layoff. Mr. Dickinson said I’m a numbers guy. 11:15am Mr. Sherman left the meeting.

Patrick Ripley motion to return to normal order of business. Motion second by Bob Dickinson. Motion passed by all voting in favor.

Further discussion about the primary results comparison. Mr. Ripley said you know how I feel, we went to the city for an extra 2% for the retirees, every city that touches Medford gave the 2% increase, but this city said no to the increase. We went to the city to increase the cola base, city said no. Chairman Jordan said we compromised. Mr. Ripley said it’s time to draw the line, I’m looking at the option B funding schedule. The city has to understand that we are not pushing out the funding schedule, especially after negotiations and they said no. When those schools were built, they never had hvac, and now all of a sudden, this comes up – option B looks fair to me and the city. Mr. Dickinson said he is also deadest in increasing the funding schedule beyond 2033. Mr. Ripley said we deal with people not numbers.

- 2. Reading of notice & certificate – Meeting Notice Posted on 4/10/2025
Robert Maiocco motion to place on file the Board meeting notice and certificate that was posted on 4/10/2025. Motion second by Bob Dickinson Motion passed by all voting in favor.
- 3. Reading of Previous Meeting by Secretary
James Vieira motion to waive reading of previous meeting by secretary. Motion second by Bob Dickinson Motion passed by all voting in favor.
- 4. Vote to approve the minutes of the Board meeting held on 3/27/2025
Patrick Ripley motion to approve the minutes of the Board meeting held on 3/27/2025. Motion second by Bob Dickinson. Motion passed by all voting in favor.

5. Bills, Communications, Refunds, Transfers, Payrolls, Etc.

Warrant S17	
Vital Records - April-May 2025	76.83
Law Offices of Michael Sacco - March 2025	776.50
Mark Minervini Reimbursement - Reimbursement Vast Conference	26.54
Boston Retirement Board - 3(8)(c)	8,543.51

MTRS - Erik Bittner - Transfer 4 months service	625.84
Cambridge Retirement Board - Talita Ferro - Transfer 2 years 11 months service	21,348.87
Melissa Deignan - Refund - 3 years 9 months of service	6,949.82
IRS - A/C Melissa Deignan	1,737.45
Vanguard - Adithi Moogoor - Roll over 1 year 2 months of service	9,385.54
Michelle Falzano - Refund - 7 months service	1,386.08
IRS - A/C Michelle Falzano	346.52
Lorraine Hayes - Refund 2 years 11 months of service	6,342.22
IRS - A/C Lorraine Hayes	1,585.56
Roginald St. Fort - Refund 1 year 2 months of service	3,839.44
IRS - A/C Roginald St. Fort	959.86
Boston Time Clock -	190.00
Toshiba - February - March 2025	357.00
Toshiba -	30.00
Primo Brands - Water	25.76
The Hartford - Workman's Comp Insurance	354.00
Formax - Service contract June 2025 - June 2026	565.00
ProShred - March 2025	44.47
Rhumblin - 2025 Q1 SP500MAP	2,737.00
Rhumblin - 2025 Q1 SP400P	667.00
Rhumblin - 2025 Q1 RU1000VP	1,645.00
M&T - February 2025	4,700.57
Sherman Actuarial Services - Work on 2025 Actuarial Valuation	9,000.00
Loomis Sayles - 2025 Q1	26,468.49
-	-
Staff Salaries	5,684.42
Medicare	-
Massachusetts SUI	-
MA Health Ins/EMAC	-
Harpers Payroll Fee	-
Expense Total	116,399.29
Pension	1,725,654.26
Annuity	414,152.70
COLA	-
Retiree Payroll Total	2,139,806.96
Warrant S17 Total	2,256,206.25
Prior Warrants	
Schedule 14	5,801.67
Schedule 15	5,674.95
Schedule 16	8,086.57
Reference Total	19,563.19
Grand Total Warrant S17 with Prior Warrants	2,275,769.44

A motion was made by Patrick Ripley and second by Robert Maiocco to approve all bills, transfers, refunds, staff payrolls and retirement payroll listed above on schedules S14, S15, S16 and S17. Motion passed by all voting in favor.

6. Report of Chairman:

Wire Transmittal Letter Dated 4/16/2025 Transferring \$1,800,000 From M&T Bank to Brookline Bank.

This wire transfer was completed on 4/16/2025 by Mark Minervini to fund April 2025 expenses and pension payroll.

Robert Maiocco motion to approve the Wire Transmittal Letter Dated 4/16/2025 Transferring \$1,800,000 From M&T Bank to Brookline Bank. Motion second by Bob Dickinson. Motion passed by all members voting in favor.

PRIT Confirmation Notice Dated 4/1/2025

Patrick Ripley motion to place on file the PRIT Confirmation Notice Dated 4/1/2025 notifying the Board that a Private Equity Vintage Year Payment of \$98,475.82 has been wired to PRIM on 4/1/2025. Motion second by Robert Maiocco. Motion passed by all members voting in favor.

February 2025 Cash Reconciliation and Accounting Review and Approval

The following February 2025 cash books and accounting reports have been distributed and reviewed by the Board.

- Trial Balance
- General Ledger
- Cash Receipt Journals
- Cash Disbursements Journals
- Adjustments
- Bank Statements
- Bank Reconciliations Reports
- Custodian Cash Account Reconciliation

Robert Maiocco motion to approve February 2025 Reconciliation for Brookline Bank and the February 2025 accounting reports. Motion second by Patrick Ripley. Motion passed by all members voting in favor.

Patrick Ripley motion to approve February 2025 Reconciliation for M&T Bank. Motion second by Bob Dickinson. Motion passed by all members voting in favor.

Patrick Ripley motion to approve February 2025 Reconciliation for M&T Bank. Motion second by Robert Maiocco. Motion passed by all members voting in favor.

February 2025 Accounting Reports Submitted to PERAC

James Vieira motion to place on file the February 2025 Accounting Reports have been Submitted to PERAC. Motion second by Robert Maiocco. Motion passed by all members voting in favor.

Letter to PERAC Requesting an Opinion on Hazmat Stipend

Chairman Jordan said Michael Sacco opined that the stipend was not regular compensation, however Mr. Brennan produced letters from PERAC with an opinion that the stipend is regular compensation. Patrick Ripley said he spoke with Mark Minervini and reviewed the Kelleher case. Mr. Minervini spoke with Mr. Brennan and explained that we would request an opinion from PERAC. Mr. Minervini said a letter has been sent to PERAC on April 15, 2025.

Patrick Ripley motion to place on file the Letter to PERAC Requesting an Opinion on Hazmat Stipend. Motion second by Bob Dickinson. Motion passed by all members voting in favor.

PERAC Memo #12 / 2025 – Recent Investment Fraud Attempts

James Vieira motion to place on file PERAC Memo #12 / 2025 – Recent Investment Fraud Attempts. Motion second by Robert Maiocco. Motion passed by all members voting in favor.

PERAC Memo #13 / 2025 – Extension of Open Meeting Law Waivers

James Vieira motion to place on file PERAC Memo #13 / 2025 – Extension of Open Meeting Law Waivers. Motion second by Patrick Ripley. Motion passed by all members voting in favor.

Pauline Alvares rescinds Rights as Beneficiary for Robert Lima

Mr. Minervini said that Mr. Lima was employed by the school as a security monitor and became a member of the retirement system on 4/4/2022 and terminated employment on 6/30/2023, and did not take a refund. Mr. Lima passed away on 1/23/2025 with \$3,096 in his annuity savings and 14 months of service. Mr. Lima is unmarried with no children and listed his sister, Pauline Alvarez as his Option D survivor. The Option D benefit calculation is approximately \$24/month. Mrs. Alvarez asked to receive a refund of his annuity savings.

Michael Sacco said there is a DALA decision that supports this – that a beneficiary can rescind his or her rights as beneficiary pursuant to Section 90B, then the funds would be paid in a lump-sum to a contingent beneficiary, or if no such beneficiary is designated, to the estate, and if there is no estate, then to the person or persons the Board deems appropriate. Mrs. Alvarez said there is no estate and she is the sole sibling to Mr. Lima.

Patrick Ripley motion to accept that Pauline Alvares rescinded Rights as Beneficiary for Robert Lima and to pay the lump sum to Pauline Alvares based on the advice of our counsel. Motion second by Robert Maiocco. Motion passed by all members voting in favor.

PERAC Acknowledgement for Loomis Sayles Small Cap Value Trust

Robert Maiocco motion to place on file PERAC's Acknowledgement of the Loomis Sayles Small Cap Value Trust. Motion second by Bob Dickinson. Motion passed by all members voting in favor.

Loomis Sayles Side Letter from Sacco & Collins Dated April 23, 2025 can be Executed

Robert Maiocco motion to approve the Loomis Sayles Side Letter from Sacco & Collins Dated April 23, 2025. Motion second by Bob Dickinson. Motion passed by all members voting in favor.

MACRS Spring Conference 6/1/25 – 6/4/25

James Vieira motion to approve attendance to the Spring MACRS Conference. Motion second by Patrick Ripley. Motion passed by all members voting in favor.

Chairman Jordan said if anyone wants to attend, let mark know and he can register them.

Michelle Lajoie Annual Review

Chairman Jordan asked if everyone read the review and if anyone has any questions. Mr. Minervini said Michelle continues to do a great job. Her current compensation is \$1,702/week (CAF-13 step 4) and she is scheduled to move to step 5 on 4/19/25 and her new compensation will be \$1,838.44/week.

James Vieira said the Board commends her. James Vieira motion to recommend advancing her to step 5 with a weekly compensation of \$1,838.44. Motion second by Patrick Ripley. Motion passed by all members voting in favor.

Joseph Albano, III Notice of Hearing at DALA July 24, 2025 at 10:00AM

We are not participating in the appeal unless we are ordered to do so

Patrick Ripley motion to place on file Joseph Albano, III Notice of Hearing at DALA July 24, 2025 at 10:00AM. Motion second by Robert Maiocco. Motion passed by all members voting in favor.

RFP for Legal Services, Actuarial and Consultant

Mr. Minervini informed the Board that our legal services contract with Michael Sacco is coming up on 7 years in November. Michael asked his clients if they can start the process earlier rather than later because he has 22 clients whose contracts will be expiring at the end of the year. We also have two additional contracts that are coming up on 7 years, NEPC and Dan Sherman's contract. I think it's a good idea to get the legal search moving. I have the same RFP we used last time and I can get the process going and possibly have responses by the end of May or June at the latest.

Patrick Ripley motion to Place on file Legal services, Actuarial and Investment Consultant RFPs. Motion second by Robert Maiocco. Motion passed by all members voting in favor.

PERAC OPEN HOUSE - Afternoon of June 11th

10 Cabot Road, Suite 300, Medford, MA

Patrick Ripley motion to place on file PERAC OPEN HOUSE - Afternoon of June 11th 10 Cabot Road, Suite 300, Medford, MA. Motion second by Bob Dickinson. Motion passed by all members voting in favor.

Purchase File Cabinets for the Retirement Office

Chairman Jordan said that Mark has been reorganizing the office and running out of space. He would like to purchase 4 additional file cabinets. There appears that someone has been in the office after hours. Mr. Minervini said we would like 3 vertical security cabinets at a cost of \$450/ea and one small non security file cabinet. Chairman Jordan asked if \$2,000 would be enough for the cabinets. Mr. Minervini said yes and thanked the Board.

James Vieira motion to approve the Purchase of 4 File Cabinets for the Retirement Office at a maximin cost of \$2,000. Motion second by Robert Maiocco. Motion passed by all members voting in favor.

7. Unfinished Business

Received Medical Panel Results for Mercedes Arias Accidental Disability Application and Michael Sacco's Opinion

Mr. Minervini said the opinion letter from Michael Sacco is included in the handouts. Chairman Jordan said Michael agrees that we can approve and asked for a motion to approve. Patrick Ripley said he spent about an hour reviewing this with Mark Minervini, we can send it in, but we can question the two doctors about their objective findings. Chairman Jordan read the following from Michael Sacco's letter:

In light of the foregoing, unless the Board is satisfied with the evidence before it, our recommendation is to seek the Panel majority's clarification as noted above, rather than deny the Application...

Patrick Ripley said I just want you to know that we have other options, but I don't know of any doctor that will change their opinion.

Chairman Jordan said he recommends that we move for retire Ms. Arias.

Robert Maiocco motion to retire Mercedes Arias Accidental Disability. Patrick Ripley said he read all the reports, and we did have other options. Motion second by Patrick Ripley. Motion passed by all members voting in favor.

1/1/2025 Preliminary Actuarial Results with Comparison

Tabled on March 27, 2025

Patrick Ripley motion to place on file 1/1/2025 Preliminary Actuarial Results with Comparison. Motion second by Robert Maiocco. Motion passed by all members voting in favor.

8. New Business

Buyback Matthew Brunet

Mr. Brunet took a refund from Somerville on 5/26/2009. Upon proper completion of buyback, the Somerville Retirement Board will accept liability for 1.5833 years of creditable service. Total Cost = \$19,018.17 (includes interest through 3/31/25)

Robert Maiocco motion to approve Matthew Brunet's Biyback as outlined above. Motion second by Patrick Ripley. Motion passed by all members voting in favor.

Robert Delafano Accidental Disability Application

Patrick Ripley said he read all the reports and everything is in order.

Patrick Ripley motion to convene a medical panel for Robert Delafano. Motion second by Robert Maiocco. Motion passed by all members voting in favor.

New Employees:

Name	Unit	Position	Hire Date	FT/PT
Kristina Halloran	SCH	Nurse	2/24/2025	Full Time
Eileen Moise	SCH	Nurse	3/3/2025	Full Time
Carmen D'Apice	CTY	Traffic Supervisor	3/1/2025	Full Time
Yvette Morales	SCH	Paraprofessional	3/17/2025	Full Time
Melissa Lawrence	CTY	MEO II	3/31/2025	Full Time

James Vieira motion to approve membership for the employees listed above. Motion second by Robert Maiocco. Motion passed by all members voting in favor.

Retirements:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Unit</u>	<u>Option</u>	<u>Retirement Date</u>
Richard Eckert	CTY	Superannuation Option A	7/30/2025

James Vieira motion to approve the retirement of Richard Eckert as listed above. Motion second by Patrick Ripley. Motion passed by all members voting in favor.

9. Executive Session

10. Adjournment

Next meeting scheduled for Thursday May 29, 2025 in City Hall Room 201.

Robert Maiocco motioned to adjourn meeting. Motion second by James Vieira.
Motion passed by all members voting in favor.

On 4-24-2025

A true Record
by:


Mark Minervini

Rick Jordan


Chairman

Robert Dickinson


Ex-Officio

James Vieira



Patrick H. Ripley



Robert
Maiocco

