

**NORTH DAKOTA TEACHERS' FUND FOR RETIREMENT  
GOVERNANCE & POLICY REVIEW COMMITTEE  
MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 7, 2023, MEETING (VIRTUAL)**

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Cody Mickelson, Chair  
Rob Lech, TFFR Board  
Mike Burton, TFFR Board

**STAFF PRESENT:** Missy Kopp, Exec. Assistance  
Jan Murtha, Exec. Director  
Chad Roberts, DED/CRO  
Denise Weeks, Retirement Prog. Mgr.

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Mr. Cody Mickelson, Chair of the Teachers' Fund for Retirement (TFFR) Governance & Policy Review (GPR) Committee, called the meeting to order at 3:45 p.m. on Tuesday, February 7, 2023. The meeting was held virtually.

**AGENDA:**

**IT WAS MOVED BY DR. LECH AND SECONDED BY MR. BURTON AND CARRIED BY A VOICE VOTE TO ACCEPT THE AGENDA FOR THE FEBRUARY 7, 2023, MEETING.**

**AYES: MR. BURTON, DR. LECH, AND MR. MICKELSON  
NAYS: NONE  
MOTION CARRIED**

**MINUTES:**

**IT WAS MOVED BY MR. BURTON AND SECONDED BY DR. LECH AND CARRIED BY A VOICE VOTE TO ACCEPT THE NOVEMBER 10, 2022, MINUTES AS DISTRIBUTED.**

**AYES: DR. LECH, MR. BURTON, AND MR. MICKELSON  
NAYS: NONE  
MOTION CARRIED**

**LEGISLATION UPDATE & DISCUSSION:**

Ms. Murtha provided information on relevant legislation impacting retirement operations. Staff asked the Committee to provide position recommendations to the full TFFR Board for the March 2023 Board meeting. HB 1219, the TFFR Board bill, passed the House. SB 2258, which expands the Critical Shortage Area (CSA) qualifications, passed the Senate. If both bills pass, there will be a need to reconcile the different CSA rules.

SB 2070 extends the length of time non-certified teachers can be permitted. Staff will be asking the actuary to do an analysis which would examine whether expanding the definition of "Teacher" for TFFR, to include permitted teachers, would be beneficial for the fund. This bill has passed the Senate.

Ms. Murtha discussed HB 1040, SB 2239, and HB 1486 which all pertain to the PERS plan. Committee discussion followed.

Dr. Lech left the meeting at 4:07 p.m.

**COMMITTEE WORKPLAN ITEMS:**

Mr. Roberts reviewed the suggested policy changes for the Committee workplan sections that are scheduled for the February meeting. Most of the suggested changes are related to grammar and formatting. Some changes clarify the roles of the Executive Director (ED) and Deputy Executive Director/Chief Retirement Officer (DED/CRO). Wording was changed to incorporate the responsibility of appointing GPR members. Mr. Roberts reviewed the suggested changes which were provided in the memo. At the May 2023 GPR meeting, the Committee will work through the next set of policies according to the workplan. At the June 2023 meeting, the Committee will review all the changes before bringing them to the TFFR Board.

**IT WAS MOVED BY MR. BURTON AND SECONDED BY MR. MICKELSON AND PASSED BY A VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE POLICY CHANGES AS PRESENTED.**

**AYES: MR. BURTON AND MR. MICKELSON**

**NAYS: NONE**

**ABSETN: DR. LECH**

**MOTION CARRIED**

**ADJOURNMENT:**

With no further business to come before the Committee, Mr. Mickelson adjourned the meeting at 4:16 p.m.

Submitted by:

Missy Kopp, Assistant to the Board