

**NORTH DAKOTA TEACHERS' FUND FOR RETIREMENT
GOVERNANCE & POLICY REVIEW COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF THE MAY 9, 2023, MEETING (VIRTUAL)**

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

STAFF PRESENT: Missy Kopp, Exec. Assistant
Jan Murtha, Exec. Director
Chad Roberts, DED/CRO
Rachelle Smith, Retirement Prog. Admin. Assistant

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 2:30 p.m. on Tuesday, May 9, 2023. The meeting was held virtually.

AGENDA:

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. BURTON AND SECONDED BY DR. LECH AND CARRIED BY A VOICE VOTE TO ACCEPT THE AGENDA FOR THE MAY 9, 2023, MEETING.

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

MINUTES:

IT WAS MOVED BY DR. LECH AND SECONDED BY MR. BURTON AND CARRIED BY A VOICE VOTE TO ACCEPT THE FEBRUARY 7, 2023, MINUTES AS DISTRIBUTED.

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

LEGISLATION UPDATE & DISCUSSION:

Ms. Murtha provided information on six relevant legislation bills impacting retirement operations which passed, four of them more extensively than at the last board meeting.

HB 1088 was sponsored by the State Investment Board to change the SIB membership and is now a final bill. Only two members of the TFFR Board and two members of the NDPERS Board will be members on the State Investment Board. The Governance Manual now has language that accounts for the change which will need to be discussed and decided at the July TFFR Board Meeting. In the past, there have been three representatives divided between the retirees, actives, and Administrator role. Discussion followed. Preference is to have one of each, a Retired Member and an Active Member, but ultimately the Board can decide on what is best. Recommendation will be two serving and one alternate so that a Retiree, Active Member, and Active Administrator will be represented.

HB 1150 - Veteran Exemption for TFFR allowing veterans with at least 20 years of military service to opt out of the TFFR their first year of teaching. We will be programing it into the Pioneer Project and developing procedures and protocols to communicate with our employers. There is no further action required from the TFFR GPR Committee at this time.

HB 1219 is the Board sponsored bill. Changes will be incorporated in the governance manual and the new Pioneer system. Any administrative rule updates require that changes occur within nine months after conclusion of the session. Discussion will start at the Board Retreat in June. Administrative rule changes will be made this year and published and finalized by April 2024.

HB 1539 was a delayed, latecomer bill and initially would have eliminated the Employee Benefits Program Committee. TFFR and NDPERS testified and expressed concern for the loss of the committee. We still functionally have that committee in the interim.

Ms. Murtha discussed the HB 2022 RIO Budget Bill and what it covers.

HB 2284 – A DPI bill. Section 14 was added towards the end of the session. The final change is the study is now being conducted by legislative management, not the Superintendent of Public Instruction.

COMMITTEE WORKPLAN ITEMS:

Mr. Roberts reviewed the policy changes for the Committee workplan. Ms. Murtha noted that the governance manual requires two readings before the Board. The finalization of the first reading will be when it goes to the full Board in July. At the September Board Meeting, there will be an opportunity for discussion and adjustments.

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. BURTON AND SECONDED BY MR. MICKELSON AND PASSED BY A VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE POLICY CHANGES AS PRESENTED ON MAY 9, 2023, WITH RECOMMENDATION THE FULL BOARD ACCEPT IN JULY.

AYES: MR. BURTON, DR. LECH, MR. MICKELSON

NAYS: NONE

MOTION CARRIED

ADJOURNMENT:

With no further business to come before the Committee, Mr. Mickelson adjourned the meeting at 3:20 p.m.

Submitted by:

Rachelle Smith, Retirement Program Administrative Assistant