Maryland State Retirement and Pension System
Administrative Committee
Minutes of Open Session

Convened on April 8, 2026 at 10:30 a.m. via a virtual video conference.

Open Session Attendees

Committee members present:

Robert Sandlass, Chair

Richard Norman, Vice Chair

Jamaal Craddock

Treasurer Dereck Davis

Ayana English-Brown

Vernon Reid

Marc Nicole(designee, Secretary Weissmann)

Staff members present:

Jonathan Martin, Acting Executive Director

Gary Burgess

Sarah Carta

Cheryl Davis- Shaw

Anne Gawthrop

Michael Howard

Derrick Johnson

Lisa Jordan

Kate Kemmerer

Courtney Key

Megan Myers

John Lane

Kim O'Keeffe

Nick Pindale

David Rongione

Bonita Rose

Tonia Schutz

Assistant Attorneys General:

Emily Spiering

Other attendees:

Valerie Kwiatkowski Megan Schutz

Open Session

1. Call Meeting to Order

Trustee Sandlass called the meeting to order at 10:31 a.m. after establishing a quorum.

2. Open Session Meeting Minutes

On a motion made by Trustee English-Brown and seconded by Trustee Norman, the Committee approved the minutes from the March 3, 2026 meeting.

3.Legislative Update for the 2026 Session

Anne Gawthrop, Director of Legislative Affairs, reported that the legislative session is progressing, noting that while her report listed several bills as “returned passed,” they are currently on third reader in the Senate and she anticipates their continued advancement and final passage soon.

She highlighted House Bill 1138/Senate Bill 724, noting that the Senate version has already passed and expressing confidence that the companion bill will also pass.

On a motion made by Trustee English-Brown and seconded by Trustee Craddock, the Committee voted to accept the final report for the 2026 Legislative Session. Trustee Norman abstained from SB 768.

4. Update on Governance Consultant Procurement

Kate Kemmerer, Governance and Strategic Projects Manager, reported that RFP for the governance consulting services was issued on March 18 after it was approved by the Board of Public Works and that it will remain open until April 22.

Bonita Rose, Director of Procurement and Contracts, provided an overview of the process after the period of accepting proposals closes on April 22, highlighting key

dates. There will be an evaluation committee comprised of some Administrative Committee members and staff. Following internal review by the evaluation committee, a selection will be submitted to the Administrative Committee by May 27, reviewed at the June 2 meeting, and then forwarded as a recommendation to the Board for consideration at its June 23 meeting. If approved, the contract is expected to be awarded by July 1, followed by a project kickoff meeting. Ms. Rose concluded her report by noting that, due to the expedited nature of the procurement, a post-award package will be submitted to the Office of State Procurement for review by the Board of Public Works within one month after award.

5. Member Services Update

Gary Burgess, Member Services Administrator, reported continued strong performance and positive trends across key metrics in the Member Services Division. For March, the abandonment rate was 2.72%, a 10% improvement from the prior fiscal year. Call wait times remained under 30 seconds, and overall call volume has decreased by about 10% since the chatbot launched in January. At the same time, correspondence volume has increased, and customer satisfaction surveys averaged 4.8 out of 5.

He concluded his report by highlighting the increase in counseling appointments and noted that the improvement was made possible through collaboration across multiple teams, including IT, systems, communications, and marketing, all working together to expand capacity and improve access for members.

6. Benefits Administration Update

Kim O’Keeffe, Retirement Administrator, reported steady processing performance across Special Projects, Data Control, and Benefits Processing. She also noted that all units are preparing for the close of the fiscal year and working to ensure accounts are ready for end-of-year activities.

7. Vacancy Report

Derrick Johnson, Deputy Executive Director, reported that as of March 27, the agency continues to make steady progress in hiring, with four hires anticipated in April. He also

noted that there are 14 active recruitments underway across key areas, including Investments and Benefits Administration.

Jonathan Martin, Acting Executive Director, provided an update on related organizational activities, reporting that Thomas Montanye has been appointed Chief Information Officer after serving in the acting capacity. He also reviewed the results of the supplemental budget request, noting that the agency received funding for 14 of the 17 requested new positions across the Human Resources, Business Operations, Finance, Information Systems, and Benefits Administration divisions.

8. Committee-led Discussion

No discussion.

9. Next Administrative Committee Meeting

The next Administrative Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 2, 2026 at 10:30 a.m.

10. Motion to Adjourn the Meeting

On a motion made by Trustee English-Brown and seconded by Treasurer Davis, the Committee vote to adjourn the meeting at 10:51a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jonathan Martin

Acting Executive Director and Secretary to the Board