

**Ohio Retirement Study Council
30 East Broad Street, 2nd Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215**

**Minutes
November 9, 2023**

The meeting was called to order by Vice-Chairman Plummer at approximately 10:01 a.m. in Room 017, the Ohio Statehouse, Columbus, Ohio.

The following members attended the meeting:

Voting members

Adam Bird
Mary Lightbody
Lora Miller
Ed Montgomery
Phil Plummer, Vice-Chairman
Dr. Anthony Podojil
Mark Romanchuk, Chairman

Non-voting members

Anthony Bradshaw, HPRS
Mary Beth Foley, OP&F
Scott Helkowski, Attorney General
Deborah McCarthy, PERS
William Neville, STRS
Richard Stensrud, SERS

Absent

Bill Blessing, Excused
Paula Hicks-Hudson, Excused

Staff

Jeff Bernard
Bethany Rhodes
Alex Strickmaker

With a quorum present, the meeting was called to order at 10:01 a.m.

Vice-Chairman Plummer moved to the swearing-in of members. Director Rhodes stated that all members have been duly qualified and sworn.

Vice-Chairman Plummer welcomed Senator Romanchuk to the Council and made introductory remarks.

Vice-Chairman Plummer moved to the election of Chairman. Ms. Miller nominated Senator Romanchuk for the position of Chairman and Representative Lightbody seconded. There were no further nominations and nominations were closed. Senator Romanchuk was elected Chairman unanimously.

Chairman Romanchuk made introductory remarks and thanked the members of the Council. He also thanked Senator Schuring for his years of service to the Council.

Representative Lightbody asked for a point of privilege. She congratulated Alex Strickmaker for passing the Ohio Bar Exam.

Chairman Romanchuk appointed himself to the ORSC Advisory Subcommittee.

Chairman Romanchuk moved that the ORSC direct staff to correct several technical issues in the ORSC rules. Ms. Miller seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Chairman Romanchuk moved that Alex Strickmaker's title be changed to Assistant Research Associate/Deputy Legal Counsel upon being sworn in as an attorney. Ms. Miller seconded the motion. Representative Lightbody asked if there would be a commensurate salary increase with the added legal responsibilities. Chairman Romanchuk stated that it is under advisement and may be brought up at the next meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Romanchuk moved to the minutes of the previous ORSC meeting, ORSC Subcommittee on Staff Salary Evaluation, and ORSC Subcommittee on Investment Performance Evaluation Services. Representative Lightbody thanked staff for their diligence in preparing the minutes. The minutes were approved without objection.

Chairman Romanchuk moved to the Actuary and Consulting Services Subcommittee report. Vice-Chairman Plummer stated that the subcommittee recommended that the Actuary and Consulting Services contract be awarded to PTA/KMS/Bolton. He then moved that the contract be awarded to PTA/KMS/Bolton. Ms. Miller seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

Chairman Romanchuk moved to the Subcommittee for the Auditor of State Referral Letter report. Mr. Montgomery reported that staff conducted comprehensive research on the referred items. He stated that staff found no evidence of fraud, theft, or misuse of funds, and stated the subcommittee accepted the report.

Chairman Romanchuk moved to the HB 94 Staff Recommendation. Mr. Bernard presented the recommendation.

Dr. Podojil asked what the impact to either OP&F or PERS would be if they received more transfers than the other system. Mr. Bernard stated that actuarial analysis shows that there would not be a burden to OP&F due to the fact that OP&F can discount the years of service that are being transferred into the system.

Representative Lightbody directed the Council's attention to an email sent by PERS to Council members showing the costs associated with transfers into the system. Director Rhodes stated that those figures are factored into the staff analysis.

Representative Bird asked if other systems had the same active service requirement as OP&F. Mr. Bernard stated that HPRS does have this requirement, but there have been no reported issues with that system. Representative Bird asked for clarification on

whether removing the active service requirement would cost OP&F additional money. Mr. Bernard stated that there is no additional liability due to the discounting of service credit.

Director Foley directed Council members' attention to the letter sent by OP&F and commented on the three hearings the legislation has had before the House Pensions Committee.

Representative Lightbody moved that the ORSC adopt the HB 94 Staff Recommendation. Representative Bird seconded the motion, and it was adopted unanimously.

Chairman Romanchuk moved to the HB 257 Staff Recommendation. Mr. Bernard presented the recommendation. Representative Lightbody moved that the ORSC adopt the HB 257 Staff Recommendation. Representative Bird seconded the motion, and it was adopted unanimously.

Chairman Romanchuk moved to the HB 78 ORSC Recommendation update. Mr. Bernard presented the recommendation. Representative Lightbody stated that student teachers do a great deal of work in the classroom and that it is proper to provide them service credit for that work. Representative Lightbody moved that the ORSC adopt the updated recommendation. Representative Bird seconded the motion, and it was adopted unanimously.

Chairman Romanchuk moved to the FY 2024 PERS Budget. Jennifer Starr presented the budget.

Representative Lightbody congratulated OPERS for its dedication to technological advances and investment in new technology to serve members.

Representative Bird asked for clarification on what expenses come out of the education line item in the budget. Ms. Starr stated that it was for continuing education requirements for staff members holding licenses and certifications. Representative Bird then asked for clarification on travel costs. Ms. Starr stated that this is due to increased costs associated with travel.

Chairman Romanchuk moved to the FY 2024 OP&F Budget. Director Foley presented the budget.

Representative Lightbody asked for clarification on the increase to the budget for banking expenses. Director Foley stated that she will check on the reason and provide the information to the Representative.

Representative Bird asked for clarification on increased expenses for travel and education. Director Foley stated that the reasons for the increases are similar to PERS. She further provided that OP&F's tuition reimbursement program is not included in the

education number. Representative Bird asked for further clarification on the tuition reimbursement program. Director Foley stated that the program is for a degree related to the individual's work at OP&F, it is not full tuition, and there are GPA requirements.

Chairman Romanchuk moved to the FY 2024 HPRS Budget. Brian Fike presented the budget.

Representative Bird praised the reduction in the HPRS operating budget. He asked why HPRS is able to reduce their budget. Mr. Fike spoke to the small staff size. Representative Lightbody asked if this decrease is also due to the completion of the fiduciary audit that no longer needs budgeted for. Mr. Fike stated that this is correct.

Chairman Romanchuk moved to the Issue Brief Update. Mr. Bernard presented the update. Representative Lightbody asked how the issue briefs are circulated externally. Mr. Bernard stated that they are posted to the ORSC website.

Chairman Romanchuk moved to the Rules. Mr. Strickmaker presented the rules.

Chairman Romanchuk moved to Old/New Business.

Representative Lightbody moved that ORSC staff create a comprehensive report analyzing historical trends for Ohio's pension systems. Representative Bird stated that this report will be useful when analyzing the number of bills coming before the legislature. Representative Bird seconded the motion. Representative Lightbody commented that the report will be useful when evaluating legislation dealing with employer contribution increases and asked that the report be sent to the members of the House Pensions Committee, the Ohio Senate President, and the Ohio House Speaker. Dr. Podojil asked that the report also include a historical analysis of the discount rates used by each system and that the report include a digestible executive summary. Mr. Montgomery asked that staff also create an issue brief regarding private equity and internal rate of return. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Romanchuk stated that the next ORSC meeting will be on Thursday, December 14, 2023, or at the call of the Chair.

The Meeting adjourned at approximately 10:52 a.m.

Date Approved

Mark Romanchuk, Chair

Bethany Rhodes, Secretary

Phil Plummer, Vice Chair