



**MEETING NO: 15-01-D  
BENEFIT REVIEW COMMITTEE**

The Regular Meeting of the Benefit Review Committee of the Board of Trustees was held Thursday, January 22, 2015. Present at the meeting were Committee members, Kuehne, Piechocinski, Stanish, Trustee Miller, IMRF medical consultant, Dr. Rao and staff members, Battersby, Davis, Dixon, Duncan, Janicki-Clark, O'Brien and Rockett.

Absent: Trustee Copper

(15-01-01)(Visual roll call)

Mr. Piechocinski presided as chairperson and called the meeting to order at 11:30 a.m.

(15-01-02)(Approval of prior meeting minutes)

The Benefits Manager presented the minutes from the Committee meeting held on December 18, 2014.

After discussion, Ms. Stanish moved to approve the minutes. Seconded by Mr. Kuehne.

Motion passed by unanimous voice vote

(15-01-03)(Hearing Officer Discussion)

General Counsel, Kathy O'Brien discussed the concept of having a hearing officer system in place for certain types of non-disability appeals.

After further discussion, the Committee recommends that the Board direct staff to issue an RFP and thereafter to ask the Board to appoint a hearing officer/hearing officers to hear certain appeals of staff decisions.

Further, the Committee recommends the following types of appeals be directed to a hearing officer:

- Disability eligibility non-medical (including resignations/terminations, service credit issues, and Workers Comp offset issues)
- Eligibility for IMRF participation-elected officials
- Eligibility for IMRF participation-attorneys
- Eligibility for IMRF participation-SLEP and ECO
- Eligibility for IMRF participation-police and fire
- Definition of IMRF-reportable earnings
- ERI violations
- Felony forfeiture
- Contested beneficiary designations
- Accelerated Payment appeals



- Delinquent employers
- Employer rate appeals

**The Committee further moved that it be afforded an opportunity to review and approve any rules related to the hearing officer system.**

Motion: Stulir  
Second: Kuehne  
Ayes: Piechocinski, Stanish, Stulir and Kuehne  
Nays: None  
Motion Passed: 4-0

O'Brien left the meeting

Medical Consultant Dr. Rao joined the meeting

(15-01-04)(Temporary Disability Benefits Termination Pat T. Giorgas – Glenbrook SD 225 - # 1581)

Pat Giorgas appeared by telephone before the Committee. The Committee heard comments from Ms. Giorgas regarding her conditions. Ms. Giorgas answered questions from the Committee. The Committee heard comments from staff. Finally, the Committee reviewed the written materials that were submitted to the Committee by staff.

**After further discussion, the Committee recommends that the Board uphold staff's determination to terminate temporary disability benefits.**

Motion: Kuehne  
Second: Stanish  
Ayes: Stulir, Piechocinski, Stanish and Kuehne  
Nays: None  
Motion Passed: 4-0

(15-01-05)(Total and Permanent Disability Eligibility – Joyce Rambo – Village of Olympia Fields- # 3774)

Joyce Rambo appeared before the Committee in person. The Committee heard comments from Ms. Rambo regarding her conditions. Ms. Rambo answered questions from the Committee. The Committee heard comments from staff. Finally, the Committee reviewed the written materials that were submitted to the Committee by staff.

**After further discussion, the Committee recommends that the Board uphold staff's determination to deny total and permanent disability benefits.**



Motion: Stanish  
Second: Stulir  
Ayes: Stulir, Piechocinski, Stanish and Kuehne  
Nays: None  
Motion Passed: 4-0

(15-01-06)(Temporary Disability Eligibility – Lori Tow – Murphysboro CUSD - #1934)

Lori Tow appeared before the Committee via teleconference on November 20, 2014. The Committee heard comments from Ms. Tow regarding her conditions. Ms. Tow answered questions from the Committee. The Committee heard comments from staff. Finally, the Committee reviewed the written materials that were submitted to the Committee by staff. After further discussion, the Committee recommended that Ms. Tow undergo a Functional Capacity Evaluation to obtain additional documentation regarding the extent of her conditions and her inability to work. Staff made several attempts to get Ms. Tow to provide a prescription from her doctor that would allow her to undergo a Functional Capacity Evaluation. We never received the requested prescription from her.

**After further discussion, the Committee recommends that the Board uphold staff's original determination to deny total and permanent disability benefits.**

Motion: Kuehne  
Second: Stulir  
Ayes: Stulir, Piechocinski, Stanish and Kuehne  
Nays: None  
Motion Passed: 4-0

Dr. Rao left the meeting

Dan Duquette and Connie Fox joined the meeting

(15-01-07)(Staff Reports)

The Annual Report of Committee and Consultant Activities was presented to the Committee by the Benefits Manager.

The Benefits Department Claims and Activity Report for 2014 was presented to the Committee by the Deputy Executive Director.

15-01-08) (Member Services Training Presentation)

Member Service training presentation was presented to the Committee by the Deputy Executive Director and Member and Field Services manager.

(15-01-09)(Public Comments)



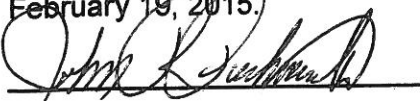
There were no public comments made

(15-01-10)(Adjournment)

Mr. Kuehne made a motion to adjourn at 2:35p.m. Seconded by Mr. Stulir.

Motion passed by unanimous voice vote

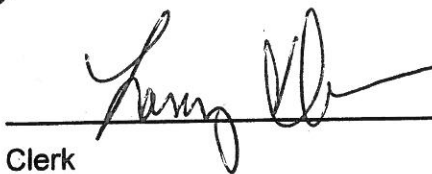
The next regular scheduled meeting of the Committee will be at 11:00 a.m. on Thursday  
February 19, 2015.



Chairperson

2-19-15

Date



Clerk

2-19-15

Date

Minutes – 01/2015