



GOVERNMENT OF GUAM  
**RETIREMENT FUND**  
STABILITY · SECURITY · REWARDS

**Lourdes A. Leon Guerrero**  
Governor

**Joshua F. Tenorio**  
Lieutenant Governor

**Paula M. Blas**  
Director

Trustees:

**Antolina S. Leon Guerrero**  
Chair

**George A. Santos**  
Vice Chair

**Thomas H. San Agustin**  
Secretary

**Artemio R.A. Hernandez, Ph.D.**  
Treasurer  
Chair, Investment Committee

**Katherine T.E. Taitano**  
Trustee  
Chair, Members and Benefits Committee

**David N. Sanford**  
Trustee

**Vacant**  
Trustee

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
**Regular Meeting**  
Friday, June 21, 2024, 12:30 P.M.  
Retirement Fund Conference Room

**MINUTES**

**DEFINED BENEFIT**

**I. ATTENDANCE, QUORUM, AND CALL TO ORDER**

After determining a quorum was present, the Retirement Fund Board of Trustees Regular Meeting for the Defined Benefit Plan was called to order at 12:45 p.m. Friday, June 21, 2024, in the Retirement Fund Conference Room. Acting Chair George A. Santos officiated.

**Board of Trustees Present:**  
George A. Santos, Vice Chair  
Artemio R.A. Hernandez, Treasurer  
Thomas H. San Agustin, Secretary  
Katherine T.E. Taitano

**Board of Trustees Absent:**  
Antolina S. Leon Guerrero, Chair  
David N. Sanford, Trustee

**Staff Present:**  
Paula Blas, Director  
Andrea Atalig, Recording Secretary

## II. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES

### A. May 31, 2024 Regular Meeting

Treasurer Artemio Hernandez, seconded by Secretary Thomas San Agustin, moved to approve the Minutes of the May 31, 2024 Regular Meeting, subject to technical corrections. Without objection, the motion passed.

## III. CORRESPONDENCE

None

## IV. DIRECTOR'S REPORT - EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. *Candelaria Rios, et al. vs. Joseph Ada, et al. (Special Proceeding Case No. SP206-93)* - The Retirement Fund maintains a list of deceased COLA Awardees who did not name a beneficiary, or whose beneficiary may be deceased. COLA award disbursements for these individuals will be made to their respective estates. The Retirement Fund published a list of deceased COLA Awardees with the department they retired from on February 2, 2024 in the Guam Post and on GGRF's website. A second publication will be in July 2024.

2. *Bernstein Litowitz Berger and Grossmann (BLBG)* - BLBG's Litigation Status Report dated June 14, 2024 on the following lawsuits is provided for the Board's information. These cases are highly confidential and BLBG asked that the cases not be discussed in a public forum.

- Apollo Education Group
- EQT Corporation

### Financial Report

1. *Contributions* - Director Paula Blas stated that as of June 18, 2024, all agencies are current with their Fiscal Year 2024 employee and employer contributions.

2. *Financial Statements* - Director Blas stated that the books for the month ended May 2024 are scheduled to close on June 27, 2024.

3. *Fiscal Year 2024 Retirees' Supplemental Benefits* - Director Blas stated that supplemental benefits for retirees and survivors for the month of June 2024 will be paid by the end of the month.

4. *Fiscal Year 2024 Medicare Reimbursements* - Director Blas stated that the Retirement Fund received the June 2024 allotment from the General Fund and reimbursements were processed accordingly.

## V. LEGAL COUNSEL'S REPORT

None

## VI. TREASURER'S REPORT OF FINANCIAL STATUS

Treasurer Artemio Hernandez stated that the Retirement Fund is operating within its current drawdown authority of up to \$7 Million monthly which continues through September 2024. A copy of the Cash Flow Statement is provided for the Board's review.

## **VII. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **A. Investment Committee**

Treasurer Hernandez reported that there was no Investment Committee Meeting this month. Treasurer Hernandez stated that as of June 14, 2024, the size of the Retirement Fund's portfolio was \$2,257,731,457.

#### **Informational Items**

- 1. Asset Allocation Summaries**
- 2. Income summary**
- 3. Securities Lending**
- 4. 5 Year Plan**
- 5. Next Quarterly Performance Review -** Treasurer Hernandez stated that the next Quarterly Performance Review is scheduled for August 28-29, 2024.

### **B. Members and Benefits Committee**

Trustee Katherine Taitano presented the Committee's June 2024 report to the Board of Trustees.

**Trustee Katherine Taitano, seconded by Treasurer Artemio Hernandez, moved to approve the recommendation of the Members and Benefits Committee contained on Pages 4 through 11, based on the Committee's review and findings of the June 2024 report. Without objection, the motion passed.**

#### **DISABILITY CASE**

##### **1. Disability Case No. 23-005**

Director Blas stated the application was picked up on October 2, 2024, the application was received on December 27, 2023, and was completed on May 24, 2024 when the second medical evaluation was received. The applicant is a 55-year-old, Teacher at GDOE with 25 plus years of service. The reason for the application is kidney failure and congestive heart failure. The applicant was examined by two Independent Medical Examiners (IME's): Dr. E. Schroeder on February 22, 2024 and Dr. D. Lim on May 10, 2024. Dr. E. Schroeder estimates the impairment of the whole person at 94% whole-person impairment and indicated that the impairment is permanent and precludes the applicant from work. Dr. Lim gave a rating of 90% whole-person impairment and also indicated that the impairment is permanent and precludes the applicant from work.

At this time Director Blas asked if the applicant is present, noting that if the applicant would like to address the Board, he/she would have to waive his/her right to the privacy of his/her medical records and he/she must state his/her name for the record. Director Blas indicated that no one came forward.

**Trustee Katherine Taitano, seconded by Treasurer Artemio Hernandez, moved to approve a full disability pension for Disability Case No. 23-005, based on the findings of the two (2) Independent Medical Examiners (IMEs) and the review of records. Votes as follows: Yes Votes –**

**Treasurer Artemio Hernandez, Secretary Thomas San Agustin, Trustee Katherine Taitano, and Acting Chair George Santos. With four (4) “Yes” votes, the motion unanimously passed.**

## **2. Disability Case No. 24-001**

Director Blas stated the application was picked up on August 22, 2023, the application was received on January 11, 2024, and was completed on May 24, 2024 when the second medical evaluation was received. The applicant is a 53-year-old, Administrative Assistant at GCC with approximately 16 years of service. The reason for the application is End Stage Renal Disease, Ischemic Cardiomyopathy, Diabetes, and Hypertension. The applicant was examined by two Independent Medical Examiners (IME’s): Dr. E. Schroeder on February 22, 2024 and Dr. D. Lim on May 7, 2024. Dr. E. Schroeder estimates the impairment of the whole person at 91% whole-person impairment and indicated that the impairment is permanent and precludes the applicant from work. Dr. E. Schroeder noted that the impairment will continue “unless the applicant seeks a renal transplant”. Dr. Lim gave a rating of 80% whole-person impairment and also indicated that the impairment is permanent and precludes the applicant from work.

Treasurer Hernandez inquired on how many years the individual will need to be reexamined. Director Blas stated that within the first seven years from the approval for disability they are reexamined twice, it is usually after the first two years and the fourth or fifth year from when the disability is approved. Director Blas stated that after the seven-year period the Board will decide if the applicant will need to continue reexamination, once the applicant reaches the number of years of service (combination of years on disability retirement plus creditable active service) to be eligible for a regular retirement the examinations will stop.

**Trustee Katherine Taitano, seconded by Secretary Thomas San Agustin, moved to approve a full disability pension for Disability Case No. 24-001, based on the findings of the two (2) Independent Medical Examiners (IMEs) and the review of records. Votes as follows: Yes Votes – Treasurer Artemio Hernandez, Secretary Thomas San Agustin, Trustee Katherine Taitano, and Acting Chair George Santos. With four (4) “Yes” votes, the motion unanimously passed.**

## **VIII. OLD BUSINESS**

### **A. FY2025 Group Health Insurance Negotiating Team – Appointment of Alternate Retiree Advocate**

Director Blas stated at the last Board meeting on May 31, 2024, she reached out to the Board for recommendations, in addition, reached out to individuals recommended, however, they are unable to serve as an alternate. Director Blas requested to table the appointment of an alternate for the FY2025 Group Health Insurance Negotiating Team. Treasurer Hernandez inquired if there is a way to be able to reach a larger audience in the future. Director Blas stated in the past GGRF would place an ad in the newspaper which brought in individuals to serve as the Retiree Advocate. Directed Blas pointed out that the Retiree Advocate is a voluntary position.

Acting Chair Santos inquired when the negotiations will conclude. Director Blas stated based on the

time line negotiations are expected to conclude in August 2024. Acting Chair Santos suggested not to place an ad at this time due to the fact that negotiations will conclude soon and the board can try to find a Retiree Advocate for the next fiscal year. Treasurer Hernandez suggest to place an ad after negotiations for FY2025 – 2026.

Treasurer Hernandez inquired if Director Blas sits on the Group Health Insurance Negotiating Team to confirm GGRF has representation. Director Blas confirmed she and the Retiree Advocate are voting members of the team.

**IX. NEW BUSINESS**

**X. OPEN DISCUSSION / GENERAL PUBLIC INPUT**

**XI. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**XII. ADJOURNMENT**

**There being no further business before the Board for the Defined Benefit Plan, on motion of Treasurer Artemio Hernandez, seconded by Trustee Katherine Taitano, and without objection, the meeting was adjourned at 1:04 p.m. Motion passed.**

**I hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true and correct copy of the Minutes of June 21, 2024 Regular Meeting duly adopted and approved by the Government of Guam Retirement Fund Board of Trustees on July 26, 2024.**

  
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**THOMAS H. SAN AGUSTIN, Board Secretary**

**RECORDING SECRETARY:**

  
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**Andrea Atalig**