

**West Virginia
PEIA/RHBT Finance Board
December 5, 2019
DEP Building, Coopers Rock Room, 601 57th Street, SE, Charleston, WV 25304**

MINUTES

PLACE OF MEETING:

The meeting of the Finance Board of the West Virginia Public Employees Insurance Agency (PEIA) and Retiree Health Benefits Trust (RHBT) Fund was held at 601 57th Street, S.E., Charleston, WV 25304, on Thursday, December 5, 2019, 1:00 p.m., pursuant to the online notice filed with the Office of West Virginia Secretary of State Mac Warner.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Allan McVey, Chairman
Michael “Mike” Smith via Conference Call
Jason Myers
Amanda Meadows
Jared Robertson
William “Bill” Milam
Lee Diznoff via Conference Call
Geoff Christian

MEETING BEGAN AT APPROXIMATELY 1:00 P.M. WITH A QUORUM PRESENT

TOPIC: Approval of Minutes from the September 19, 2019 Board Meeting

DISCUSSION: None.

MOTION: A motion was offered by Jason Myers to approve the September 19, 2019 minutes. That motion was seconded by Bill Milam.

ACTION: **The motion to approve the minutes was passed unanimously.**

TOPIC: Included Public Hearing Presentation.

DISCUSSION: Included but not discussed since it was covered in detail at public hearings.

Public Comments:

1. Dale Lee – WVEA

- a. **“Thank you. I appreciate the opportunity to address the Board and Director Cheatham. We want to thank you for presenting a plan that shows no additional costs for the employees and for the last two years by adjusting the tiers so that the pay raise doesn’t cause them to have additional increases in their health insurance is a positive thing. There’s some this year that will see an increase but it’s no fault of anyone except for the fact that math and special ed teachers with**

that bump in the increase and the pay of three steps, there's no way you can figure all that out. So, by doing it with the \$2,700-\$2,800 that we've done has been the fair thing to do for employees. I realize the part of that most of us didn't think about is that with the service personnel they could actually see a decrease in their premiums because their raise was smaller and it may have moved them into a lesser tier, in some cases. But with their salaries and the need for additional salaries that they have, that's a good thing also. So, while we're presenting a plan with no additional costs is a good thing, I'm looking down the road. I'm looking for the future. And, if you recall that the Task Force met several times, and with Director Cheatham, and we talked about, uh, we came up with a plan, a way to look at long term fiscal stability for PEIA. And we had a bill that we recommended be introduced that did that. The bill was introduced, and it didn't get anywhere. So, I'm going to urge you as the Finance Board to join the Task Force, and I see Senator Blair in the back, who was part of that Task Force and helped me draft that legislation, that we look at long term stability for PEIA. While we're doing well now, and I heard Director Cheatham on Hoppy Kercheval this morning saying that we are doing even better right now than we thought; and, we may not need all the \$34 million that was asked for. There are still those long-term projections. And I think if you look three, four, five years down the road, we're going to be back in the same shape we were. So, my ask is that the Board, Finance Board, join us, the association, the educators across West Virginia, into further exploring long term solutions and stability for PEIA. It's something that has to be done. We have educators leaving in droves across the state. And the things that we've done; we still have more than 700-800 positions without certified teachers in them. So, we still have a recruitment problem. We still have a retention problem. It's all with, not only the salaries, but the benefits. This is something that we can solve in the future. It is going to be a cost to all of us. But, it's something that we have explored. We made a good recommendation to the legislature and now it's time to get that moving and provide the long-term stability that the employees of West Virginia need. So thank you so much for that and thank you for the opportunity to speak."

MOTION: A motion was offered by Bill Milam to approve the Fiscal Year 2020-21 Plan as presented at the Public Hearings. That motion was seconded by Jason Myers.

ACTION: **The motion to approve the Fiscal Year 2020-21 Plan was passed unanimously.**

TOPIC: **Old Business**

DISCUSSION: None.

TOPIC: **New Business**

DISCUSSION: None.

TOPIC: **Adjourn**

- ACTION:** There being no further business, the December 5, 2019 meeting of the West Virginia RHBT Fund and PEIA Finance Board adjourned at approximately 1:30 p.m.
- MOTION:** A motion to adjourn the Finance Board was made by Bill Milam and seconded by Jason Myers.
- ACTION:** **A motion to adjourn passed unanimously.**

These minutes were transcribed from recording by Kenna DeRaimo, Administrative Secretary to the Finance Board, and are respectfully submitted.