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## **PUBLIC EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT BOARD MEETING**

**Monday, April 20, 2026; 9:30 a.m.**

A regular meeting of the Public Employees Retirement Board (PERB) convened at 9:30 a.m., Monday, April 20, 2026, in the First Nebraska Administrative Building, Lower-Level, Training and Development Room, 1526 "K" Street, Lincoln Nebraska. The Board members were notified of this meeting by Agenda posted on the PERB SharePoint website on Friday, April 10, 2026. Public notice of this meeting was published in the Lincoln Journal-Star and the Omaha World-Herald on Sunday, April 12, 2026.

J. Elliott chaired the meeting and C. Bryant recorded the minutes.

### **Board Members Present**

Janis Elliott, Chair, School Plan Member  
Gerald Clausen, Vice-Chair, Public Member  
Patrick Bourne, Public Member  
Jacob Curtiss, School Plan Member  
Thomas Dargy, County Plan Member  
Michael Donley, State Plan Member  
Brent Larson, Omaha School Plan Member  
Luke Splattstoesser, State Patrol Member  
Judge Horacio Wheelock, Judges Plan Member  
Ellen Hung, Ex-Officio, State Investment Officer

### **Board Members Absent**

None

### **NPERS Staff Present**

Tag Herbek, Interim Director/Legal Counsel  
Vanessa Hohlen, Internal Auditor  
Coral Bryant, Administrative Specialist  
Johnetta Lang, Data Services Manager  
Melissa Nuss, Retirement Plan Manager  
Jack Hardy, IT Manager  
Dean Gress, IT Applications Developer  
Aaron McArthur, Auditor  
Heather Critchfield-Smith, Marketing & Communications Specialist III  
Brenda Dinges, Retirement Plan Manager  
Tauna Meints, Retirement Specialist I  
Maria Davis, Retirement Specialist II  
John E. Jensen, Attorney III

### **Others Present**

Trevor Fitzgerald, Retirement Systems Committee Legal Counsel  
Ryan Walton, Governor's Budget Office  
Bill Biven, Legislative Fiscal Office  
Josh Ruhnke, Ameritas  
Lora Toepfer, Public

Ted Ford Webb, Ford Webb Associates  
Rachel Biar, NPERS Director Finalist  
Martin Noven, NPERS Director Finalist  
Thomas Pfeifle, NPERS Director Finalist

**Agenda Item 1 – Meeting Called to Order:** J. Elliott called the April 20, 2026, Board Meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

**Agenda Items 2 and 3 – Open Meetings Law and Roll Call:** J. Elliott stated this meeting will follow the Nebraska Open Meetings Act and a copy of the Act is provided electronically, via a link on the final agenda posted on the Nebraska Public Employees Retirement Systems' (NPERS) website, on the Attorney General's website, and a copy of the Act is located on the table by the door. Present at meeting: J. Elliott, G. Clausen, P. Bourne, J. Curtiss, T. Dargy, B. Larson, L. Splattstoesser, H. Wheelock, and E. Hung. Absent: M. Donley.

**Agenda Item 4 – Approval of Minutes:** P. Bourne moved for approval of the minutes of the March 16, 2026 Board Meeting. Motion was seconded by J. Curtiss. Members voted as follows: J. Elliott, G. Clausen, P. Bourne, J. Curtiss, and B. Larson. Against: None. Abstain: T. Dargy, L. Splattstoesser, H. Wheelock. Motion carried.

**Agenda Item 5 – Approval of Budget Status Report & February Retirement Report:** P. Bourne moved to approve the Budget Status Report and the March 2026 Retirement Report. Motion was seconded by G. Clausen. Members voted as follows: For: J. Elliott, G. Clausen, P. Bourne, J. Curtiss, T. Dargy, B. Larson, L. Splattstoesser, and H. Wheelock. Against: None. Motion carried.

**Agenda Item 6 – Public Comments or Correspondence from Citizens:** L. Toepfer asked the board to reconsider her appeal regarding Case Review No. A-25-1.

**Agenda Item 7 – NPERS Director Finalist Interviews:** J. Elliott stated that the PERB Personnel Committee and T. Ford Webb would interview three finalists for the NPERS Director position and described the interview process.

The following candidate was interviewed by the Committee: R. Biar.

The Board took a break at 10:21 a.m. and reconvened at 10:30 a.m.

M. Donley joined the meeting.

The following candidate was interviewed by the Committee: M. Noven

The Board took a break at 11:17 a.m. and reconvened at 11:26 a.m.

The following candidate was interviewed by the Committee: T. Pfeifle

**Agenda Item 8 – Executive Session:** At 12:10 p.m. J. Curtiss moved the Board exit Regular Session and convene in Executive Session for the purpose of discussing Applications of Plan Members, Personnel

Matters, Protection of Public Interest, Prevention of Needless Injury to the Reputation of an Individual, and Legal Matters, Personnel Issue – NPERS Director Finalist Candidates, Case Review No. A-25-1, Prevention of Needless Injury to the Reputation of an Individual. Motion was seconded by G. Clausen. J. Elliott repeated the motion for the record. Members voted as follows: For: J. Elliott, G. Clausen, P. Bourne, J. Curtiss, T. Dargy, M. Donley, B. Larson, L. Splattstoesser, and H. Wheelock. Against: None. Motion carried.

P. Bourne left the meeting.

At 2:28 p.m. J. Curtiss moved the Board exit Executive Session and reconvene in Regular Session. Motion was seconded by L. Splattstoesser. Members voted as follows: For: J. Elliott, G. Clausen, J. Curtiss, T. Dargy, M. Donley, B. Larson, L. Splattstoesser, and H. Wheelock. Against: None. Motion carried.

**Agenda Item 9 – Board Action on Executive Session Topics:** J. Curtiss moved that the Retirement Board accept the Hearing Officer’s Recommended Order for Appeal No. A-25-1 (Hearing Officer’s Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law and Order), dated March 24, 2026, which denied the relief requested by the Petitioner in their Notice of Appeal filed on November 17, 2025, and affirm the Director’s decision to deny the Petitioner’s request.

Motion was seconded by L. Splattstoesser. Members voted as follows: For: J. Elliott, G. Clausen, J. Curtiss, T. Dargy, M. Donley, B. Larson, L. Splattstoesser, and H. Wheelock. Against: None. Motion carried.

**Agenda Item 10 – Ameritas Annual Report and Annual Stats:** J. Runke gave the Ameritas Annual Report and Annual Stats.

Presentation materials were included in the meeting materials. Discussion followed the presentation.

G. Clausen moved to receive the Ameritas Annual Report and Annual Stats. Motion was seconded by T. Dargy. Members voted as follows: For: J. Elliott, Clausen, J. Curtiss, T. Dargy, M. Donley, B. Larson, L. Splattstoesser, and H. Wheelock. Against: None. Motion carried.

**Agenda Item 11 – Legislative Update:** T. Herbek gave a Legislative Update.

With the passage of LB 824 NPERS staff have provided a video seminar, FAQs, Employer Manual updates, Handbook updates, Eligibility Checklist updates, and were to present at a NASBO conference to inform members of the changes.

For LB 820 staff has had change management meetings, Ed Services has been sending out communications, and IT is in the process of implementing programming changes.

Discussion followed the presentation.

G. Clausen moved to receive the Legislative Update. Motion was seconded by T. Dargy. Members voted as follows: For: J. Elliott, G. Clausen, J. Curtiss, T. Dargy, M. Donley, B. Larson, L. Splattstoesser, and H. Wheelock. Against: None. Motion carried.

**Agenda Item 12 – Interim Director’s Report:** T. Herbek gave the Interim Director’s Report.

Three Retirement Specialist I positions and an IT Applications Developer position were filled. Interviews for an Office Tech position will be conducted.

Education Service’s Webex webinar registrations were cancelled by OCIO and NPERS had to readjust to Teams presentations. Everyone registered previously would need to re-register.

The Employee Engagement Committee, comprised of Caitlen Glenn, Zach Peterson, Jon Tidwell, and Aaron McArthur, successfully organized fundraising activities which collected over \$2,000 for the State Campaign Against Hunger putting NPERS in third place among State agencies.

Discussion followed the presentation.

G. Clausen moved to receive the Interim Director’s Report. Motion was seconded by B. Larson. Members voted as follows: For: J. Elliott, G. Clausen, J. Curtiss, T. Dargy, M. Donley, B. Larson, L. Splattstoesser, and H. Wheelock. Against: None. Motion carried.

**Agenda Item 13– Board Committee Reports:** There were none.

**Agenda Item 14 – Board Education/Travel Requests:** There were none.

**Agenda Item 15 – Future Meetings/Agendas:** The next PERB meeting is May 18, 2026.

**Adjournment:** G. Clausen moved to adjourn the meeting. Motion was seconded by T. Dargy. Members voted as follows: For: J. Elliott, G. Clausen, J. Curtiss, T. Dargy, M. Donley, B. Larson, L. Splattstoesser, and H. Wheelock. Against: None. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 3:18 p.m.