

Central Massachusetts Collaborative

Central Office
14 New Bond Street
Worcester, MA 01606
Telephone (508) 538-9100
Fax (508) 854-1689

Dr. Susan Farrell, Executive Director
Beverly Tefft, Finance Director
www.cmasscollaborative.org

CMC OPEB Trust
Tuesday, April 27, 2021 at 2:30 P.M.
14 New Bond St., Worcester, MA 01606

Meeting Minutes

Trust Members Present: Dr. Susan Farrell, Executive Director, CMC
Brian Allen, Chief Financial & Operations Officer, Worcester Public Schools
Monique Pierangeli, Business Manager, Webster Public Schools
Paul Rosen, Retiree Representative, CMC
Mark Sivazlian, Employee Representative, CMC
Joseph Meichelbeck, Treasurer, CMC

1. Dr. Farrell called the Meeting to Order at 2:37 p.m.

2. Organize Board

Dr. Farrell introduced each of the OPEB Trust members and discussed the designation of the OPEB Board of Trustees. As agreed upon by the CMC Board of Directors, the OPEB Trust Board shall consist of the CMC Executive Director, a duly elected CMC employee, a duly elected CMC retiree and two Chief Financial and Operations Officers from CMC member districts. Dr. Farrell asked the OPEB Board Trustees to designate one member as the Trust Chair and another member as the Trust Secretary. Mr. Sivazlian volunteered to be the OPEB Trust Secretary. Mr. Meichelbeck recommended Dr. Farrell as the OPEB Trust chair. All OPEB Trust Board members were in favor of these designations.

3. Review Terms of Trust / Trustee Responsibilities

Dr. Farrell reviewed the Declaration of Trust with the fundamental purpose being to hold, manage, and preserve assets to meet the current and future liabilities of CMC retirees and their dependents. On behalf of retirees, Mr. Rosen inquired about the status of the OPEB Trust should the Collaborative terminate operation. Dr. Farrell and Mr. Meichelbeck will review the Collaborative agreement and update the OPEB members.

4. Adopt Trust

Dr. Farrell made a MOTION to adopt the Central Massachusetts Collaborative Other Post-Employment Benefits Liability Trust Fund Declaration of Trust.

MOTION was passed unanimously.

5. Investment Policy

Mr. Meichelbeck reviewed the Hometown Bank CD maturity schedule representing the assets of the current trust. He also presented the Worcester Retirement System investment policy as an example of an investment policy which CMC may wish to use.

Dr. Farrell explained the current practice of the Collaborative paying the annual benefits by directly withdrawing from the OPEB Trust Fund. The Collaborative is looking to replenish what has been drawn down annually from the fund. Dr. Farrell will work with the CMC Board of Directors through the budget process each year to ensure the issue is being addressed.

As an advocate for retirees, Mr. Rosen requested to advise the CMC Board of Directors about level funding for the OPEB Trust fund. Next steps will be to draft a policy that has a large portion invested and a portion that is set aside if needed. Dr. Farrell and Mr. Meichelbeck will formulate a policy to be reviewed at the next meeting.

The next OPEB Trust meeting will be held on Monday, July 12 at 9am.

6. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Lynn NeJaime