

PAROCHIAL EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM
Board of Trustees Meeting – September 7, 2025, 8:30 AM, Westin Hotel, New Orleans

AGENDA

Board Members:

R. Bruce Kelly, Chair, Region 1
Kelly Fontenot, Region 2
Phillip Bourgoyne, Region 3
Brigette Horton, Region 4

M. Larry Richard, Designee, Police Jury Association
Senator Bob Owen
Representative Josh Carlson

Meeting Called to Order by the Chair:

1. Invocation
2. Roll Call
3. Public Comment Period (must relate to agenda item)
4. Approval of the June 17, 2025, Minutes
5. Disclosure of Conflicts
6. Investments
 - A. Investment Summary and Performance Update
 - B. Public Equity Portfolio Update
 - C. Other Business
 1. Timeline
7. Approval of Retirements, July, August, & September 2025
 - A. Option 4 Request – Joseph Thibodeaux
8. Requests for Transfer of Service Credit - July, August, & September 2025
9. Region 3 Election Results
10. Technology Update – Michele Perez
11. Administrative Director's Report
 - A. PERS Personnel Manual
 - B. Monthly DROP Entry/Exit Dates Policy
 - C. Act 22 – Reemployment of Court Reporters
 - D. New Employer Requests
 1. Sabine Parish Water Works District 1 (Plan B)
 2. Lafayette Housing Authority (Plan B)
 - E. Q3 Operating Budget Update
 - F. Training
 1. 2026 Enhanced Training & Education (See also SR 176)
 2. PERS Administrative Training, October 28, 2025, Renaissance Hotel, BR
 - G. 2026 Regular Legislative Session, General Session, March 9 – June 1
 - H. LAPERS Retirement Seminar
12. Proposed Meeting Dates for 2026

March 17; June 9 or 23; Sunday, September 13 (LAPERS), December 8
13. Other New Business
 - A. Recognition Resolution
14. Adjourn

Next Meeting:
December 9, 2025, 9:00 AM
PERS Headquarters

PAROCHIAL EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM
Board of Trustees Meeting – September 7, 2025, 8:30 AM, Westin Hotel, New Orleans

AGENDA

The Board of Trustees met on the above date at Westin Hotel in New Orleans, LA. Vice Chairman Phillip Bourgoyn presided and called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

Members present were Ms. Kelly Fontenot, Mr. Phillip Bourgoyn, Mr. M. Larry Richard, and Ms. Bridgette Horton. Members absent were Chairman Bruce Kelly, Senator Bob Owen, and Representative Josh Carlson. There was a quorum.

Also present were Ms. Kristi Spinosa, Administrative Director/General Counsel, Mr. Chris Burke, Chief Investment Officer, Ms. Michele Perez, Chief Operating Officer, and Trustee-elect Ms. Christine Buras-Dodd, Ms. London Baudoin, Mr. Greg Curran, Mr. Rob Hungerbuhler, and Mr. Jeffrey Boucek.

Vice Chair Bourgoyn noted that the Board would take public comment at this time. No one appeared for public comment.

Vice Chair Bourgoyn asked if there were Board member conflicts to be disclosed; none were reported.

Mr. Richard moved to approve the minutes of the June 17, 2025, Board meeting; the motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

Mr. Burke, assisted by Mr. Hungerbuhler and Mr. Boucek presented the investment update on the PERS portfolio since the June meeting. Global markets climbed higher during the month of July, led by the continued rally of concentrated tech mega-caps focused on artificial intelligence and strong earnings for S&P 500 companies. President Trump's domestic agenda continued to take shape with passage of the omnibus tax and spending package known as, One Big Beautiful Bill Act, that sets fiscal policy. Despite uncertain global economic conditions impacted by ongoing tariff and geopolitical tensions, risk assets were mostly positive in the month and year to date. Through the month of August, the PERSLA investment portfolio has returned approximately 8.25% year-to-date.

We have been working with Segal to review the construction of our public equity portion of the portfolio (47% of assets). We currently have 10 public equity strategies including one index strategy. The two largest positions have been very successful over time and each now represents about 20% of the equity portfolio. Our objective is to investigate how we can pare those down to a more palatable size from a risk perspective and then redeploy the proceeds within the public equity space. We would like to add one or possibly two new managers with an eye towards further diversifying our existing landscape of managers.

There is more than one way to solve this problem. The more traditional approach is to define specifically what type of manager you are looking for by size, geography, style or a combination thereof. Run the traps and see what falls in. Maybe you have a handful of great potential managers or maybe you have one or two mediocre managers that happen to meet your overly strict search criteria. We would like to place the bar a bit higher than that.

Our approach is to start with a list of our (Segal researches) highest conviction managers across any public equity strategy. Once compiled, examine the impact each has on the existing line-up of managers from a risk and return standpoint. Consider the process and approach and whether it adds something new, different, or complementary to the current roster. And then as a final check, look at the result of adding the manager to the portfolio through a total portfolio characteristics lens versus the benchmark.

The goal is to find a world class manager we have a high level of conviction in that is also the most complementary manager to our existing portfolio. Doing this should maximize our chances of accomplishing our mission. Afterall, our mission is the single most important objective and much more critical than managing our portfolio to an ever-changing benchmark index.

U.S. Equities had a 2.2% return for the month, as the S&P 500 Index reached 10 all-time highs given strong corporate earnings, despite losing momentum near month-end given pending August 1st tariff/trade deadlines. On a sector basis for the month, Information Technology (+5.2%) was the top contributor and Health Care (-3.3%) was the weakest. On a year to date basis, the only negative portion of U.S. markets remains small capitalization stocks (S&P 600 Index at -3.6%).

International Equity markets were mixed, with developed markets declining 1.4% and the emerging markets increasing 1.9%. Within the developed markets, Pacific (-0.5%) outperformed Europe (-1.8%) on a regional basis with the highest return from Hong Kong (+4.8%). Within the emerging markets, Eastern Europe (+3.1%) outperformed Asia (+2.5%) and Latin America (-4.4%) on a regional basis, with the highest return from Thailand (+14.3%). International markets have outperformed the U.S. year to date in part due to the weakening of the U.S. Dollar.

The bond market was generally resilient despite the macro concerns around fiscal deficits, inflation, and tariffs. Fixed Income returns were mixed with U.S. Treasury yields rising (inversely prices fell, hence negative returns) across the curve with 2-year U.S. Treasury bonds up 23 bps to 3.9% and 30-year Treasuries up 10 bps to 4.9%. Investment grade, high yield and mortgage-backed securities all saw slightly tighter spreads contribute to positive results across the risk spectrum.

Although July finished on a relatively positive note, the months ahead loom with some degree of uncertainty as US trade deals and deadlines continue to shape the global economy. Given an anticipated consumer spending slowdown if prices begin to creep higher, and with employment showing signs of sagging, the probability of more Federal Reserve rate cut(s) appear to be on the horizon.

Ms. Spinoza then presented retirements for approval. Motion made by Mr. Richard, seconded by Mrs. Fontenot to approve retirement from July, August, and September 2025; unanimously approved.

Ms. Spinoza next discussed the Option 4 beneficiary request from Mr. Joseph Thibodeaux – Discussion was had. No vote was taken. Mrs. Fontenot requested that Ms. Spinoza and Ms. Sullivan research the issue further and present at the next Board meeting. A policy or legislative change is a possibility.

The Director then presented all pending requests for Transfer of Service Credit from July, August, & September 2025. Motion made by Kelly Fontenot, seconded by Bridgette Horton. Approved unanimously.

Ms. Spinoza next formally announced the Region 3 election results. Mrs. Christine Buras-Dodd from Terrebonne Parish won the election. She is the first Plan B representative. Ms. Spinoza introduced her to the Board. The vote to accept the results was passed until the end of the meeting.

Mrs. Perez next presented a technology update. She stated that the AS400 pension software has been moved to a cloud based instead of a physical server. The performance results have been outstanding. CMA technology manages the AS400 now, and they have expertise on the platform. They also support the same software for two other La. pension systems.

Ms. Spinoza explained her hesitation with moving too quickly onto new pension software. She noted that CMA has helped tremendously to alleviate any need to rush the process. She specifically praised their programmer, Laurne Heaslip, for her invaluable programmatic changes to the existing platform. It was further reported that the next program updates to the pension software will focus on uploading employee onboarding information and creating member and employer modules.

Ms. Spinosa began her Administrative Director's Report by presenting the latest version of the PERS Personnel Manual, developed in consultation with Emergent Method, our HR consulting firm. She stated that very few substantive changes are suggested and that the document primarily brings multiple existing PERS policies together into one document. It also has the benefit of being reviewed by outside experts. Discussion was had and no vote was taken. Mrs. Fontenot said that she would like to meet with Ms. Spinosa prior to the next meeting to discuss her questions. She also asked that Ms. Horton participate. The manual will be added to the December agenda.

Ms. Spinosa informed the Board that the monthly DROP Entry/Exit Dates policy will be introduced at the upcoming PERS admin training. She also let the Board know that she has been getting several inquiries about Act 22, reemployment of court reporters. She will update the Board if any issues arise.

PERS has received new employer requests from Sabine Parish Water Works District 1 (Plan B), and the Lafayette Housing Authority (Plan B). Motion to accept both was made by Mrs. Kelly Fontenot, Mr. Larry Richard seconded, and the motion was approved unanimously.

Ms. Spinosa updated the Board on the Q3 operating budget. It was noted that the percentage of budget used to date for imaging, office supplies, and the Office of Group Benefits are a bit high. Ms. Spinosa stated that rapid progress on the imaging project is largely driving some of this. She will follow up and report further in December on the OGB issue.

A brief training update was given and Ms. Spinosa also noted that the 2026 Regular Legislative Session will be from March 9 – June 1, 2026. Ms. Spinosa also reported that the LAPERS Retirement Seminar begins this afternoon, and all members present have been registered and checked-in.

Ms. Spinosa presented the proposed meeting dates for 2026: March 17; June 23; Sunday, September 13 (LAPERS), and December 8. Larry Richard requested the meetings begin at 9am for travelers. Upon motion of Mrs. Kelly Fontenot, seconded by Mrs. Bridgette Horton, the proposed dates were approved unanimously.

Ms. Spinosa presented the Board with a resolution recognizing Mr. Bourgoyne's service to PERS and read it into the record. It reads:

WHEREAS, Mr. Phillip Bourgoyne has faithfully served as a member of the Board of Trustees of the Parochial Employees' Retirement System of Louisiana (PERS) since 2019, including distinguished service as Vice-Chairman and member of the Investment Committee; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Bourgoyne graduated from Louisiana State University in 1991 with a degree in Accounting, and began his professional career with United Parcel Service as an Account Executive before transitioning to the Louisiana Department of Corrections as an Accountant; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Bourgoyne has been employed by West Baton Rouge Parish since 1995, and since March 1997 has served with distinction as the Director of Finance, where he oversees daily operations and multi-million dollar budgets; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Bourgoyne has been an active member of the Government Finance Officers Association of Louisiana, demonstrating his commitment to the principles of sound fiscal management and public service; and

WHEREAS, throughout his tenure on the PERS Board, Mr. Bourgoyne has dedicated his knowledge, leadership, and expertise to the advancement and protection of the System, faithfully representing the interests of the membership and ensuring the financial soundness of the plan.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of the Parochial Employees' Retirement System of Louisiana hereby extends its deepest gratitude and recognition to Mr. Phillip Bourgoyne for his years of devoted service, leadership, and commitment to excellence; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution be entered into the official minutes of the Board and that a copy be presented to Mr. Bourgoyne as a token of appreciation and respect for his contributions to the Parochial Employees' Retirement System of Louisiana.

Upon motion of Mr. Richard, seconded by Mrs. Fontenot, the resolution was unanimously adopted. Mr. Bourgoyne expressed his thanks to the Board.

Next, Mr. Richard moved to officially adopt the election results for Region 3, naming Christine Buras-Dodd as the new trustee for the region. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Fontenot, and unanimously adopted.

The meeting was adjourned.


Chairman, Bruce Kelly


Kristi Spinosa, Director

12/9/25

Next Meeting:
December 9, 2025, 9:00 AM
PERS Headquarters

22/10/51