

**Municipal Police Employees' Retirement System
Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Trustees
January 28, 2026**

The Board of Trustees of the Municipal Police Employees' Retirement System held a meeting on Wednesday, January 28, 2026, at the system's office at 7722 Office Park Boulevard in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 11:50 a.m. by Lt. (Retired) Chad King.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

Chief Christopher Wilrye led the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. Roll Call

Members Present

Chief David Addison
Chief Edwin Bergeron, Jr.
Major Raymond Burkart, Jr.
Mr. Craig Cassagne, Commissioner of Administration's Designee
Asst. Chief Jason DiMarco
Mayor Lee Dragna, LMA Appointee
Major (Retired) Kelly Gibson
Lt. (Retired) Chad King, Chairman
Mr. Julius Roberson, State Treasurer's Designee
Mayor Jonathan Taylor
Lt. Tyrone Warren
Chief (Retired) Beth Westlake
Chief Christopher Wilrye

Members Absent

Representative Tony Bacala
Senator Bob Hensgens

Others Present

Mr. Benjamin Huxen II, MPERS, Executive Director and General Counsel
Ms. Taylor Camp, MPERS, Chief Financial Officer
Ms. Melissa Frazier, MPERS, Benefits Analyst
Ms. Emily Thurston, MPERS, System Analyst
Mr. David Barnes, NEPC
Ms. Sheri Morris, Attorney, Daigle, Fisse, & Kessenich
Ms. Laura Gail Sullivan, Attorney
Mr. Gregory Curran, Curran Actuarial Consulting, Ltd., Actuary
Ms. Kay Burke, BLB&G
Ms. Cathy Smith, BLB&G

Mr. Brad Kelly, GGA (remote)
Mr. Peter Landers, GGA (remote)
Mr. Kevin Balaod, With Intelligence (remote)
Ms. Christie Ziadeh, MPERS, Benefits Analyst (remote)
Ms. Karen Correll, MPERS, Membership Analyst (remote)
Ms. Sarah Daniel, MPERS, Accounts Analyst (remote)
Ms. Erin Estilette, Curran Actuarial Consulting, Ltd. (remote)

IV. Public Comment

There were no public comments.

V. Approval of the December 17, 2025, Board Meeting Minutes (Action Item)

Motion by Major (Retired) Kelly Gibson, seconded by Asst. Chief Jason DiMarco, to approve the minutes of the meeting held December 17, 2025. Without objection, the motion passed.

VI. Reports of Committees

A. Report of the Legislative Committee and Consideration Thereof (Action Item)

B. Report of the Investment Committee and Consideration Thereof (Action Item)

Mr. Huxen asked the Board to approve the reports and recommendations of the Legislative and Investment Committees.

Motion by Chief Christopher Wilrye, seconded by Asst. Chief Jason DiMarco, to accept the Report and Recommendations of the Legislative and Investment Committees, as presented. Mr. Julius Roberson abstained from the motion to accept the Legislative Committee recommendations. Without objection, the motion carried.

VII. New Business

A. 2026 Board Effectiveness Assessment Results and Recommendations (Action Item)

Mr. Landers explained that GGA has been conducting the Board effectiveness assessment. He stated that, in 2020, an in-depth assessment was conducted which led to the implementation of additional policies, plans, and assessments. The current process involved an updated questionnaire which reviewed how MPERS felt it has performed in these last five years. He reviewed the rating scale used in the questionnaire. Mr. Landers reviewed the results with the Board and stated that they scored quite well. Compared to their score in 2020, this current score signals an improvement in the overall view and comfort of MPERS' current governance capabilities and operations.

Mr. Kelly then reviewed the foundational elements of the Board. He explained that the Board members are committed to the success of the organization and value diversity. MPERS has a vast community and plays an important role in the economy. The Board has spent several years improving the overall framework and capabilities which, Mr. Kelly stated, is evident. Mr. Kelly stated that governance oversight may not always be top of mind; however, as fiduciaries, Board members must remain committed to and responsible for it. He then reviewed the composition of the Board and reviewed the importance of diversity. The MPERS Board should ensure that diversity goes beyond just gender or professional diversity, including other considerations, such as disability status. Mr. Kelly stated that the Board's size is much larger than peer norms and recommended an optimal size of 11 members. He explained the Board should consider lowering the number of trustees gradually over time. Mr. Kelly then discussed the effectiveness of policies. He recommended that the Board should maintain a constant state of understanding and awareness. He briefly discussed continuing education and potential topics. Strategic communication and stakeholder engagement are areas in which public pensions have historically been somewhat passive, so Mr. Kelly stated that it's important to be more proactive. He explained ways to do this. He then discussed management and Board succession by stating the Board needs to make sure they are prepared for risks and have ways to mitigate risks proactively. He reviewed ways to manage the ideal composition of the Board. Mr. Kelly reviewed the effectiveness of the Board and attendance and stated ways to help with building team familiarity and strength. Short-term, Medium-term, and Long-term recommendations were discussed. The proposed next steps were briefly reviewed and Mr. Kelly stated that this work should be assigned to the Governance Committee. No action was taken.

B. Actuarial Comments (Action Item)

There were no actuarial comments.

C. Executive Director & General Counsel Comments

1. Update on Delinquent Municipalities/Employers and Certifications to Treasurer (Action Items)

Mr. Huxen stated he had one settlement he would like the Board to approve for the Town of Oberlin. The proposal would have all of the standard provisions as well as the payments they have paid already and would grant Chief Grady Haynes his prior service credit since the principle has been paid for and the Town has been working to resolve its compliance issues.

Motion by Chief Christopher Wilrye, seconded by Major (Retired) Kelly Gibson, to approve the settlement with the Town of Oberlin, pending acceptance of provisions and language. Without objection, the motion carried.

D. Legal Strategy Regarding Noncompliant Employers (Action Item)

There are approximately 15 cases pending. Of those cases, only one employer is not represented by RMI. She stated that they have successfully defeated all but three exceptions filed by the RMI attorneys. She added that, in two cases, MPERS has a writ pending with the appellate court. The Jonesville case was reviewed and will go back to the trial court. Cheneyville's hearing resulted in a court ordered writ of mandamus ordering the town to pay \$493,620.52 from the actuarial calculation. The court found that the applicable prescriptive period is ten years. Ms. Morris stated this was a big win for MPERS.

Ms. Morris went on to discuss other cases and the status of where they are now. She reviewed dates, pending litigation, and settled suits. A question was asked regarding Cheneyville and the fact that they are a small town and may not be able to pay the amount stated previously. The Board continued discussions on different situations with different municipalities.

E. Discussion, Consideration, and Possible Approval of Proposed Settlement Agreements, Current Litigation, and/or Prospective Litigation (Action Items)

1. **MPERS vs. Kelvin McCoy, In His Official Capacity as Mayor for the Town of Boyce, et al., 19th JDC, Number 753207, Section 32**
2. **MPERS vs. Town of Cheneyville, et al., 19th JDC, Number 730043, Section 22**
3. **Town of Cheneyville, Town of Springfield, Town of Lecompte, Town of Elton, and Town of Grand Coteau v. MPERS, 19th JDC, Number 765982, Section 22**
4. **MPERS vs. Town of Cullen, et al., 19th JDC, Number 764860, Section 22**
5. **Town of Dubach v. MPERS, et al., 19th JDC, Number 768178, Section 34**
6. **MPERS v. Town of Dubach, et al., 19th JDC, Number 768258, Section 34**
7. **MPERS vs. Town of Elton, et al., 19th JDC, Number 729135, Section 31**
8. **MPERS vs. Town of Erath, et al., 19th JDC, Number 766251, Section 25**
9. **MPERS vs. Town of Glenmora, et al., 19th JDC, Number 731063, Section 31**
10. **MPERS vs. City of Grambling, et al., 19th JDC, Number 749512, Section 26**
11. **MPERS vs. Town of Grand Coteau, et al., 19th JDC, Number 734857, Section 32**
12. **MPERS vs. Town of Greensburg, et al., 19th JDC, Number 729284, Section 26**

13. **MPERS vs. Town of Henderson, et al., 19th JDC, Number 741228, Section 21**
 14. **MPERS vs. Loria Hollins, in Her Official Capacity as Mayor for the Town of Jonesville, et al., 19th JDC, Number 753206, Section 21**
 15. **MPERS vs. Town of Lecompte, et al., 19th JDC, Number 741267, Section 23**
 16. **MPERS vs. City of Marksville, et al., 19th JDC, Number 753210, Section 21**
 17. **Town of Oakdale**
 18. **Town of Oberlin**
 19. **Pearl River Lawsuits (Action Items)**
 - a. **Michael Alquist, Peter Hermann, Guy Butterworth, Cameron Hillhouse, Police Chief Jack Sessions, Jayson Germany, and Courtney Badon vs. Town of Pearl River, et al., 19th JDC, Number 756906, Section 26**
 - b. **Michael Alquist, Peter Hermann, Guy Butterworth, Cameron Hillhouse, Police Chief Jack Sessions, Jayson Germany, and Courtney Badon vs. Town of Pearl River, et al., 22nd JDC, Number 2025-10102, Div. "C"**
 - c. **MPERS vs. Town of Pearl River, et al, 19th JDC, Number 771486, Section 27**
 20. **Village of Sicily Island**
 21. **Village of Sun**
 22. **MPERS vs. Village of Turkey Creek, 19th JDC, Number 768383, Section 34**
 23. **MPERS vs. Village of Varnado, et al., 19th JDC, Number 739462, Section 24**
 24. **Town of Wisner**
- F. City of New Orleans Lawsuits (Action Items)**
1. **City of New Orleans v. MPERS, et al., 19th JDC, Number 724562, Section 24 and City of New Orleans v. MPERS, et al., 19th JDC, Number 767063, Section 26 Subject Matter: Leave Conversion Issues**
 2. **City of New Orleans vs. MPERS, 19th JDC, Number 732243, Section 24 Subject Matter: Earnable Compensation**
 3. **City of New Orleans vs. MPERS, 19th JDC, Number 751911, Section 25 Subject Matter: Partial Dissolution**

G. If Necessary, Executive Session (Pursuant to La. R.S. 42:17(A)(2) and (10), to Discuss Legal Strategy, Settlement, and Privileged Attorney-Client Communications Under La. Code Evid. art. 506) Regarding Item VII.H and Items VII.I through VII.J.

VIII. Other Business

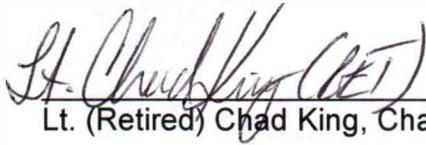
No other business was brought before the Board.

IX. Adjourn

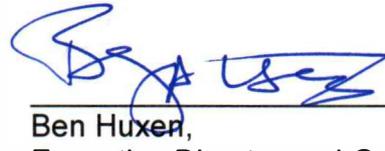
Motion by Chief Christopher Wilrye, seconded by Asst. Chief Jason DiMarco, to adjourn at 12:48 p.m. Without objection, the motion carried.

Next Meeting Date is February 25, 2026, in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

To the best of my knowledge, the foregoing minutes accurately represent the actions taken at the meeting held on January 28, 2026.



Lt. (Retired) Chad King, Chairman



Ben Huxer,
Executive Director and General Counsel