

2026- 26
HAMPSHIRE COUNTY RETIREMENT BOARD MINUTES
May 13, 2026

A meeting of the Hampshire County Retirement Board convened on **Wednesday, May 13, 2026** at 99 Industrial Drive, Suite 2, Northampton, MA 01060. The meeting was **called to order** at 9:00 a.m.

ROLL CALL showed Chairman Patrick E. Brock, Elected Members Jennifer LaFountain and Sean Mangano, Appointed Members Jane Wolfe and Joe Cook, Administrator Mary G. Baronas and Assistant Administrator Patricia M. Rutkowski were present. Attorney Gerald McDonough was also present from 9:10 a.m. to 9:36 a.m.

Upon Mr. Mangano's motion and Mr. Cook's second, the Board voted unanimously to approve the **minutes of April 15, 2026 and April 15, 2026 Executive Session**.

The following **DISBURSEMENTS** were reviewed and approved.

\$	3,339,054.21	Retirement Allowance Payroll, April 2026 (Paid 4/30/2026)
		Annuity \$667,726.31
		Pension \$2,671,327.90
\$	24,745.88	Staff Payroll, April 2026.
\$	3,500.00	Board Member Stipend, Month of May 2026.
\$	9,565.32	Hampshire County Group Insurance Trust, June 2026 Health Insurance Premium.
\$	259.30	ACSA Group Insurance, May 2026 Dental Insurance Premium. (Paid 4/28/2026)
\$	56.95	Boston Mutual, May 2026 Life Insurance Premium. (Paid 4/28/2026)
\$	250.20	Comcast, For the period of 4/25/2026 – 5/24/2026. (Paid 4/22/2026)
\$	377.18	Comcast, May 2026 Business VoiceEdge.
\$	4,500.00	Conz Street Realty, Inc., June 2026 Lease.
\$	183.75	Donnegan Systems, Inc. File Folders.
\$	190.62	Eversource, Bill date 4/16/2026.
\$	177,254.23	Hampden County Regional Retirement Board, 2025 3(8)(c) Reimbursement.
\$	1,776.12	Integrus, May 2026 Complete Support and Server Backup.
\$	42.00	Integrus, May 2026 O365 Agreement.
\$	2,002.00	Integrus, HPE Pointnext 1-year server warranty.
\$	1.39	LexisNexis Risk Solutions FL Inc, Person Search (Paid 4/28/2026)
\$	484.00	MACRS, Conference Registration for Patricia Rutkowski (Paid 4/28/2026)
\$	484.00	MACRS, Conference Registration for Mary Baronas (Paid 4/29/2026)
\$	234.00	Marcus Company, Inc, Letterhead.
\$	635.00	Mass Commercial Cleaning, Inc., April 2026 cleaning services.

2026- 27
HAMPSHIRE COUNTY RETIREMENT BOARD MINUTES
May 13, 2026

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\$	69.01	MedRecs Management , Medical Records for Angela Danger. (Paid 5/7/2026)
\$	821.68	National Grid , Period of 3/23/2026 – 4/22/2026.
\$	4,863.75	South Hadley Housing Authority , Overpayment of member deductions.
\$	387.35	W.B. Mason Co. , Supplies.
\$	290.52	Xerox Corporation , Copier lease for the period of 3/21/2026 – 4/21/2026.
\$	5,697.95	Return of Accumulated deductions received in error for the following retiree: M. Bushee, D. Messeck, M. Tzambazakis, R. Whitney, D. Wolf.
\$	105,413.77	Return of Accumulated deductions for the following inactive members: G. Baker, G. Claudio, I. Clements, S. Cusson, M. Hastings, S. Hutkoski, M. Kotfila, T. Pease, T. Perez, C. Provost, D. Tanner, O. Was.

The following **SUPERANNUATION RETIREMENT APPLICATIONS** were reviewed. Upon Ms. Wolfe's motion and Mr. Cook's second, the Board voted unanimously to approve the applications for Superannuation Retirement as follows:

	Unit	DOR:	Creditable Service	Annual Allowance
William L. Schenker	South Hadley	04/22/2026	Opt C Pop-Up	\$69,070.92
Charles N. Miller	Westhampton	6/30/2017	9.0000	\$2,114.64
Richard S. Adamcek	Pelham	3/8/2026	32.0000	\$59,855.04
Ra Tim	Amherst/Pelham Reg School Dist	4/10/2026	19.1667	\$15,482.40
Richard P. Fleurent	Belchertown	4/21/2026	28.0000	\$28,767.96

The following **PAYMENTS OF RETIREMENT BENEFITS** were reviewed and approved for disbursement:

\$	6,992.85	Mark Mercier , Retroactive payment for the benefit of March 2025 – April 2026.
\$	8,124.42	Todd R. Dewkett , Retroactive payment for the benefit of March 2025 – April 2026.
\$	8,923.59	Richard S. Adamcek , Retroactive payment for the benefit of March 2025 – April 2026.
\$	890.76	Ra Tim , Retroactive payment for the benefit of April 2026.
\$	788.15	Richard P. Fleurent , Retroactive payment for the benefit of April 2026.
\$	2,560.61	Barbara A. Johnson , Retroactive payment for the benefit of April 2026.

2026- 28
HAMPSHIRE COUNTY RETIREMENT BOARD MINUTES
May 13, 2026

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The following **PAYMENTS TO BENEFICIARES** were reviewed and approved for disbursement:

\$	350.96	Marilyn Niedbala , Beneficiary of Richard Niedbala , Payment for the benefit of April 2026.
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The list of **DISABILITY RETIREMENT APPLICATIONS** were reviewed.

Upon Ms. Wolfe's motion and Mr. Cook's second, the Board voted unanimously (Ms. Wolfe, yes; Ms. LaFountain, yes; Mr. Mangano, yes; Mr. Cook, yes; Mr. Brock, yes) to enter into Executive Session under Purpose 7 of the Open Meeting Law: to comply with Exemption (c) of the Public Records Law – G.L. c. 4, § 7(26)(c) – exempting personnel and medical files or information and other materials or data relating to a specifically names individual, the disclosure of which may constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy. Review of Accidental Disability Retirement Application of Robert Reinke. The Board entered into executive session at 9:10 a.m. The Board will reconvene to Regular Session immediately following the conclusion of the Executive Session.

The Board returned to open meeting at 9:36 a.m. Upon Mr. Mangano's motion and Mr. Cook's second, the Board voted unanimously to deny the Accidental Disability Application under the Heart Law Presumption for Robert Reinke.

Upon Mr. Mangano's motion and Mr. Cook's second, the Board voted unanimously to table the Involuntary Accidental Disability Application for **Brian Morris**.

The list of **PENDING RETIREMENTS** was distributed for Board review.

The following **MAKE-UPS AND REDEPOSITS FOR CURRENT MEMBERS** were reviewed.

Upon Ms. Wolfe's motion and Mr. Cook's second, the Board voted unanimously to approve the following make-ups/redeposits for current members as noted:

Janelle R. Seitz , request for a makeup of 4 months for service with the Town of Hadley during the period of 8/7/2016 – 12/30/2016.
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Bonnie S. Charpentier , request for a makeup of 4 months for service with the Gateway Regional School District during the period of 2/23/1998 – 11/22/1998.
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Upon Ms. Wolfe's motion and Mr. Cook's second, the Board voted unanimously to deny the following make-ups/redeposits for current member as noted:

Aidan J. Brooks , request for a make-up for service with the Town of Amherst during the period of 2/1/2021 – 5/26/2023. Mr. Brook's earnings are less than \$5,000 annually, therefore is not eligible for purchase.

The following **TRANSFERS** were reviewed. Upon Ms. Wolfe's motion and Mr. Cook's second, the Board voted unanimously to approve the following transfers as individually noted:

Transfer to <u>Northampton Retirement Board</u>

\$	396.40	Luca O. Lyons-Sosa , transfer with liability acceptance of 2 months for service with the Amherst/Pelham Regional School District during the period of 1/15/2026 – 3/20/2026.
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2026- 29
HAMPSHIRE COUNTY RETIREMENT BOARD MINUTES
May 13, 2026

Transfer to <u>Massachusetts State Retirement Board</u>		
\$	17,072.80	Sara H. Jaber , transfer with liability acceptance of 2 years 7 months for service with the Town of Hadley during the period of 2/13/2023 – 10/3/2025.
Transfer to <u>Massachusetts Teachers' Retirement System</u>		
\$	130,986.10	Charlene M. Desjardins , transfer with liability acceptance of 1 year 6 months for service with the Town of Hadley during the period of 8/26/2022 – 4/30/2024.
Transfer to <u>Hampden County Regional Retirement Board</u>		
\$	5,234.83	Mary E. Pappas , transfer with liability acceptance of 2 years 4 months for service with the Gateway Regional School District during the period of 8/28/2017 – 6/17/2020.

The following **MAKE-UPS AND REDEPOSITS FOR NON-MEMBERS** were reviewed. Upon Mr. Mangano's motion and Ms. Wolfe's second, the Board voted unanimously to deny the following make-ups/redeposits for non-members as noted:

Massachusetts State Retirement Board requesting liability acceptance for Linda Gross who wishes to makeup prior service with the Town of Belchertown during the period of 9/22/1994 – 1/31/1996. Ms. Gross did not qualify for membership and was not erroneously excluded.
Massachusetts State Retirement Board requesting liability acceptance for Risa Silverman who wishes to makeup prior service with the Gateway Regional School District during the period of 2/26/1991 – 6/29/1991. Ms. Silverman did not qualify for membership and was not erroneously excluded.

Upon Ms. Wolfe's motion and Mr. Cook's second, the Board voted unanimously to accept **25 new members** for May 13, 2026, as summarized:

Group 1	Group 2	Group 4	Total
25	0	0	25
*note: dual or reinstated members not included in count of new members			

The following **INVESTMENT & FINANCIAL STATUS REPORTS** were discussed and action was taken as individually noted:

The Board reviewed the **Investment Custody Reports** for the Months of March 2026 – May 2026.

The Board reviewed the **Cash Flow Report & Administrative Budget Report**.

The Board reviewed the **Accounting Reports** for January 2026 – March 2026.

The Board reviewed the **Bank Reconciliations** for the Month of April 2026.

2026- 30
HAMPSHIRE COUNTY RETIREMENT BOARD MINUTES
May 13, 2026

The following **ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES** were discussed and action was taken as individually noted:

A discussion was held on the **FY2027 Cost of Living Adjustment for retirees**. Patrick Brock reported that on 5/12/2026, the Advisory Council met and approved the Board's recommendation and vote to increase the COLA base from \$13,000 to \$14,000. Upon Mr. Mangano's motion and Mr. Cook's second, the Board voted unanimously to approve the FY2027 COLA at 3% on the first \$14,000 under Chapter 32 Section 103(i) to be effective July 1, 2026.

Ms. Rutkowski reported that a data entry error was recently discovered relative to the date of birth of **Charles N. Miller's** spouse and Option C beneficiary. The calculation for an Option C benefit depends on the birthdates of both the member and the beneficiary. Correction of this error requires that his Superannuation benefit be recalculated retroactive to his date of retirement on June 30, 2017. The result of the recalculation is such that Mr. Miller was overpaid by \$1,058.04. Mr. Miller's monthly benefit is very small (a little over \$200.00/month). Ms. Rutkowski and Ms. Baronas confirm that the overpayment was due to data entry and was not the fault of Mr. Miller, nor was the error such that Mr. Miller would have reasonably known he was being overpaid and the error in payment existed for more than 1 year. The error in the benefit payment has been corrected prospectively. Under these circumstances the Board does have the discretion to waive repayment of excess benefits paid.

Upon Mr. Cook's motion and Mr. Mangano's second, the Board voted unanimously to waive the \$1,058.04 that is due by Mr. Miller.

The Board reviewed the Annual Performance Evaluation for **Lorna DiSantis**. Upon Mr. Mangano's motion and Mr. Cook's second, the Board voted 4-0-1 (Ms. Wolfe abstained) to accept the evaluation as written and grant a salary increase of 6%.

The following **PERAC Memo/News** were noted as having been distributed, upon their receipt, for Board review.

COLA Reform Language in the House Ways and Means FY27 Budget

Future Board meetings are scheduled for:

June 10, 2026 – Monthly Meeting & 1st Quarter Investment Meeting
July 8, 2026 0 Monthly Meeting

Upcoming Events:

***2026 MACRS Kevin J. Regan Spring Conference**, May 31, 2026 – June 3, 2026, Springfield, MA

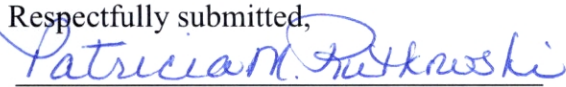
Emerging Issues Forum, September 17, 2026 in Westborough, MA

* Noted programs have been approved by the Board for attendance and expenses.

2026- 31
HAMPSHIRE COUNTY RETIREMENT BOARD MINUTES
May 13, 2026

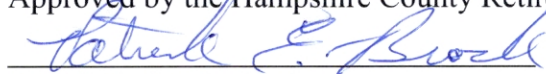
Upon Ms. Wolfe's motion and Mr. Cook's second, the Board voted unanimously to **adjourn** the meeting at 10:25 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Patricia M. Rutkowski, Assistant Administrator

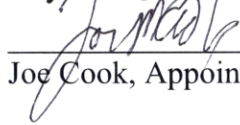
Approved by the Hampshire County Retirement Board:



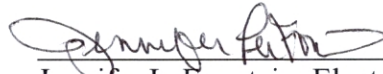
Patrick E. Brock, Chairman



Sean Mangano, Elected Member



Joe Cook, Appointed Member



Jennifer LaFountain, Elected Member



Jane Wolfe, Appointed Member