



NEW MEXICO
EDUCATIONAL RETIREMENT BOARD

5211 Las Soleras Drive
Santa Fe, NM 87507
1-800-663-1919
www.erb.nm.gov



MINUTES OF THE
NEW MEXICO EDUCATIONAL RETIREMENT BOARD OF TRUSTEES
REGULAR MEETING

February 27, 2026

1. a. **ROLL CALL: QUORUM PRESENT**

A Regular Meeting of the New Mexico Educational Retirement Board was called to order on this date at 10:05 a.m. at the Educational Retirement Board Main Office, 5211 Las Soleras Drive, Santa Fe, New Mexico. A quorum was established following roll call.

Members Present:

Mr. H. Russell Goff, Chair
Ms. Mary Lou Cameron, Vice Chair
Mr. Max Baca, Secretary
The Hon. Laura M. Montoya, New Mexico State Treasurer
Dr. Matías Fontenla
Ms. Renee Ward
Dr. Reilly White

Members Excused:

Secretary Stephanie Rodriguez
Mr. Antonio Ortiz

Staff Present:

Mr. David Archuleta, Executive Director
Mr. Bob Jacksha, Chief Investment Officer
Mr. Steve Neel, Deputy CIO, Alternative Assets
Mr. Ian Padilla-Salazar, Executive & HR Assistant
Ms. Renada Peery-Galon, Deputy Director
Mr. G. Alan Myers, Portfolio Manager, Securities & Credit
Mr. Raul Duran, Member Services Director

Mr. Jacob Maule, General Counsel

Others Present:

Mr. Sam Austin, NEPC

Ms. Emily Moran, NEPC

Ms. Judith Beatty, Board Recorder

b. Approval of Agenda

Mr. Baca moved approval of the agenda, as published. Dr. Fontenla seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

c. Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes: December 5, 2025

Mr. Baca moved approval of the minutes of the December 5, 2025, meeting. Treasurer Montoya seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

2. PUBLIC FORUM AND INTRODUCTIONS

Attendees introduced themselves.

3. CONSENT AGENDA: BOARD TRAVEL

No requests.

4. ANNUAL COMPREHENSIVE FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2025: KORY HOGGAN, PARTNER; AARON HAMILTON, SENIOR MANAGER, BAKER TILLY

[Mr. Hamilton was not present.]

Mr. Hoggan presented this report.

Mr. Baca moved to accept the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report, as presented. Treasurer Montoya seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

5. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT: DAVID ARCHULETA, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

a. Agency Activities

Mr. Archuleta reviewed highlights from his report on activities during the recent legislative session.

Mr. Archuleta reported that Senate Memorial 31 (PERA Work Group), which passed without opposition, asks the LFC to create a work group to study the PERA fund and examine annual COLA adjustments paid to PERA retirees. COLA adjustments have continued to decrease over the years and are now a fraction of what they were originally. Although this does not affect NMERB retirees, there will be considerable discussion that staff will be presenting to NMERB board members during the interim for their consideration in anticipation of the 2027 legislative session. He commented that there will be a unique opportunity for board members to meet with gubernatorial candidates and discuss the opportunity for NMERB to get one-time payments directed to the fund for the members. There has been consideration by the UNM Retirees Association and different groups about getting people on the lower end more money versus retirees who are receiving, in some cases, \$20,000 a month under the Qualified Excess Beneficiary Arrangement. He said there are people below the median end who are receiving \$1,800 or less a month. Proposals will be evaluated for the board's endorsement so they can be presented to the Interim Investments & Pensions Oversight Committee next fall for final presentation to the legislature in 2027. NMERB will be working with stakeholder groups in the interim to get their feedback.

b. Retiree Health Care Authority

Mr. Archuleta reported that the NMRHCA fund is approaching \$2 billion and is more than 55 percent funded. He said the agency is going through the RFP process for selection of a medical/dental/vision carrier.

c. Other

Mr. Archuleta recognized Renee Garcia, who will be traveling to San Diego this weekend to receive a Communicator of the Year award from the National Council of Public Employees Retirement Association.

**6. PENSION ADMINISTRATION SYSTEM MODERNIZATION PROJECT UPDATE:
KEVIN SWINSON, INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DIRECTOR; DAVID
ARCHULETA, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Mr. Swinson presented this update.

7. RETIREMENTS: RAUL DURAN, MEMBER SERVICES DIRECTOR

a. Disability Retirement

Mr. Duran reported that there were 3 new claims during the December-January bimonthly period. For the calendar year (January 2025, through January 2026) there was a total of 50 claims.

b. Age & Services

Mr. Duran reported that, for the December-January bimonthly period, there have been 5 disability retirements, 32 reciprocity retirements, and 193 regular retirements, for a grand total of 230 retirements.

Ms. Cameron moved for approval of the retirements. Treasurer Montoya seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

8. INVESTMENT REPORTS: BOB JACKSHA, CHIEF INVESTMENT OFFICER

a. NMERB Secretary's Certificate Approval

[Presenter: Alan Myers]

Mr. Myers stated that Northern Trust has a policy that requires the NMERB board to certify the authority given to each staff member of the Investment Committee anytime there is a change on the staff. NMERB reached a compromise so that the board only certifies the authority of the executive office. In the future, the executive office will certify staff authority whenever there are changes in staff.

Treasurer Montoya said she would like to see the certificate the board approved previously because the list of employees seems a lot longer than before. She said she was confident that she didn't agree to approve so many people to have signature authority.

Mr. Baca said it would have been helpful to have a cover memo explaining what changes were made.

Mr. Myers stated the board approved the certificate at the June 2025, meeting. Treasurer Montoya recommended changes at that meeting, and the board approved those changes at the August meeting.

Mr. Myers responded that the 10 employees on the list have the authority to transact business with the customer. All authority is within the bank and not outside the bank. He read: "These employees are designated as Senior Approvers in relation to all cash movements (inside and outside the custody bank) and capital call transactions. The four employees on the second page are designated as Initiators and First Approvers in relation to all cash movements. All cash movements and capital call transactions require two approvals: the first at the operational level and the second at the senior level. The Initiator cannot provide the first approval."

Treasurer Montoya expressed concern that the junior portfolio manager on the list could initiate a transaction and have it approved by the fixed income analyst on the same list.

Mr. Myers responded that, with capital calls, for example, Operations would initiate the capital call in the Northern Trust system, and another member of Operations would give first approval, after which it would go to the senior level.

Treasurer Montoya commented that this is the internal process, which is very different from the document stating that ten employees are being given the authority to initiate or approve any one deal. She questioned why the NMERB would allow a junior portfolio manager to approve a \$150 million deal without someone at the higher level giving approval.

Mr. Myers responded that he understood this particular junior portfolio manager did not have the ability to initiate a transaction and could only approve.

Treasurer Montoya responded that she was concerned about titles, not names, since the names could change. Even more concerning was that a junior employee had the ability to approve a \$150 million deal when a senior or the chief investment officer should be the one who is approving. The same person shouldn't be initiating and approving.

Mr. Baca said he would like to see a more detailed description of what process is followed by each of the employees on the list in executing these deals.

Mr. Baca asked if the individuals on the list received financial background checks, and if not, can NMERB impose that as a requirement.

Mr. Archuleta responded that the employees had not specifically received financial background checks. He asked Mr. Maule if making this a requirement would necessitate a rule change or statutory change.

Mr. Maule stated that he was not aware of any authority, state board rule or other rule that would allow the NMERB to do a financial background check, although he wasn't aware of anything that would prohibit it. He didn't know that this was routinely done in any other agency or other staff, so it would likely be an uphill battle to require it.

Treasurer Montoya said transferring money between funds wasn't an issue for her. The issue for her is that the initiator should be the staffer who works under the chief investment officer or deputy chief investment officer, and that either of those two individuals should give final approval.

Mr. Jacksha explained that the way staff intends this to work is that the four people on the second page will initiate a capital call, for instance, and the people on the previous page will approve it based on the information received from the manager. There is a separation between operations and portfolio management. The reason for the large number of people on the first page is to make sure enough people are available, and preferably in the office, to participate in the transactions.

Treasurer Montoya stated that she could not support this. She said she didn't agree with so many people having signature authority, since it was poor internal controls and a liability for NMERB.

Treasurer Montoya moved to table. Mr. Baca seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

b. Q4 2025 Investment Report

NEPC advisors Sam Austin and Emily Moran presented this report.

Fixed Income portfolio manager Pete Werner introduced Michael Trent, a Santa Fe native who joined the NMERB fixed income investment team as an intern last fall.

Treasurer Montoya stated that she and Dr. White plan to ask Mr. Archuleta and available investment staff to assist them in their plan to partner NMSU and UNM to create a certificate with a concentration in government accounting, budgeting and investing. The idea is to keep New Mexico graduates in the state by creating a bridge for them to go from the university to the SIC, NMERB, PERA, DFA, State Treasurer's Office, and other state agencies, which desperately need them. They are hoping to schedule something in mid-April with the executive directors of the SIC, NMERB and PERA.

c. Staff Selection Committee Report

Mr. Neel presented this report.

d. Investment Committee Report

[The Investment Committee did not meet.]

e. Other Investment Reports

None.

9. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

a. Limited Personnel Matters (Session closed per § 10-15-1(H)(2))

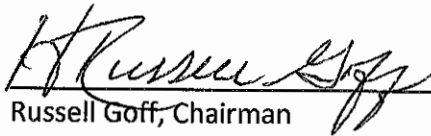
None.

10. ACTION FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

None.

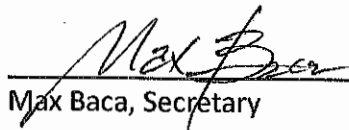
11. NEXT MEETING: FRIDAY, APRIL 24, 2026 – 5211 LAS SOLERAS DRIVE, SANTA FE

12. ADJOURN: 1:00 p.m.



Russell Goff, Chairman

ATTEST:



Max Baca, Secretary