

**FRESNO COUNTY EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION (FCERA)
BOARD OPERATIONS POLICY**

I. Purpose

- 1) This Board Operations Policy provides guidelines describing:
 - a) The appointment of Board Officers;
 - b) The establishment of board committees; and
 - c) The manner in which meetings of the Board and its committees will be conducted so as to ensure that such meetings are efficient and productive.

II. Definitions

- 1) The *1937 Act* shall mean The County Employees Retirement Law of 1937. (*Cal Gov. Code, § 31450 et seq.*)
- 2) *PEPRA* shall mean the California Public Employees' Pension Reform Act of 2013. (*Cal Gov. Code § 7522 et seq.*)
- 3) *The Brown Act* shall mean the Ralph M. Brown Act, (*Cal Gov. Code § 54950 et. seq.*), also known as the Open Meeting Laws.
- 4) The *Bylaws* shall mean FCERA's *Bylaws and Regulations of the Board of Retirement*.

III. Policy Guidelines

- 1) Board Officers
 - a) Annually at the last regular meeting in December, the Board shall elect one of its members as Chair, and one of its members as Vice-Chair. Board Officers shall hold office for a term of one year or until a successor is duly elected and qualified. (Bylaws § 2.2.1)
 - b) If a Board Officer fails for any reason to complete his or her term, the Board shall select a successor for the balance of the unexpired term at its next regular meeting. (Bylaws §2.2.1)
 - c) Officers may be removed by a two-thirds vote of the entire Board (i.e., six board members). (Bylaws § 2.2.1)
 - d) A board member may be elected to the position of Chair for up to two consecutive terms, unless approved for additional terms by a two-thirds vote of the entire Board.
 - e) The Retirement Administrator shall serve as Secretary of the Board. (Bylaws § 2.2.3)

2) Committees of the Board

- a) The standing committees of the Board shall be as follows:
 - i. Audit Committee
 - ii. Budget Committee
 - iii. Disability Committee
 - iv. Personnel Committee
- b) Annually at the first regular meeting in January, the Chair shall recommend to the Board for appointment committee Chairs, members and a committee alternate to each standing committee on an annual basis, and to each ad hoc committee as needed. In recommending committee appointments, the Chair shall seek input from the Board during board meetings and shall consider the following factors:
 - i. The need to maintain a level of continuity in committee membership;
 - ii. The need to rotate the composition of committees to provide diversified experience to board members;
 - iii. The need to ensure that, to the extent possible, board members' committee appointments reflect their areas of interest;
 - iv. The need to maintain balance between the elected and appointed members of the Board; and
 - v. The need to minimize conflicts of interest.
- c) The Board may approve the establishment of new standing and ad hoc committees in consultation with the Retirement Administrator.
- d) Standing committees shall be composed of three board members and one committee alternate and ad hoc committees shall be composed of at least two board members. Committee members shall be selected from among the board members and alternate board members of the Board.
- e) The primary function of committee alternates is to serve as voting committee members at committee meetings when necessary to satisfy quorum requirements, but alternates may attend any meeting of the committee as an observer.
- f) In the event that the committee chair is unable or unwilling to complete his or her term, the committee shall elect a replacement from among its members to serve for the balance of the unexpired term.

- g) The Retirement Administrator shall ensure board committees receive adequate support from staff, and shall assign a designated staff contact to each committee.
- h) The Retirement Administrator shall recommend and the Board shall adopt a charter for each standing and ad hoc committee, that provides a description of the committee's mandate, specifies a staff contact, and, in the case of ad hoc committees, contains a provision for disbanding the committee once it has fulfilled its mandate. These materials require board approval.

3) Attendance

- a) Board members shall make every reasonable effort to attend all meetings of the Board and all meetings of committees on which they serve. Should a board member be unable to attend a meeting of the Board or a committee on which they serve, the board member shall notify the Retirement Administrator as soon as possible to help ensure that a quorum will be achieved.
- b) Board members who are not members of a standing committee may attend any meeting of that standing committee, as observers. Board members who are not members of an ad hoc committee may not attend a non-public meeting of that committee, but may attend a public meeting of that committee, as observers.
- c) If the Chair is absent from a board meeting, the Vice-Chair shall preside. If the Chair and Vice-Chair are both absent from a board meeting, the Board shall elect a Chair pro tem for the meeting. Alternate members of the Board are eligible to serve as Chair pro tem when sitting for a regular member. (Bylaws § 2.2.2).
- d) If a committee chair is unavailable to attend a meeting, then he shall designate another member of the committee to serve as committee chair in his or her absence in writing via memo or email. If the committee chair is unable to do so, the remaining committee members may appoint a pro tem committee chair from among themselves for the meeting.
- e) The Retirement Administrator shall provide a report to the Board annually, and more often if requested by the Board or a committee, of attendance at meetings. (Bylaws § 2.3.3)

4) Scheduling of Meetings

- a) Regular meetings of the Board shall be held on the first and third Wednesdays of each month at 8:30 a.m. Meetings shall generally be held in the Board room of the FCERA offices. (Bylaws § 2.7.1).
- b) Special meetings of the Board may be called at any time by the Chair or by a majority of the members of the Board only as provided in the Brown Act (Bylaws § 2.7.2.a).

- c) Emergency meetings of the Board may be called by the Chair, the Administrator, or by a majority of the members of the Board only as provided in the Brown Act (Bylaws § 2.7.2.b).
- d) At its first meeting each year, each standing committee may establish a schedule of meetings for the balance of the year, unless it expects to meet on an irregular basis. The committee chair, in consultation with the Retirement Administrator, may cancel or reschedule a meeting, if it is apparent that there will not be a quorum or it is deemed that there are insufficient issues to warrant a meeting. Attempts will be made to provide all committee members at least one week's notice of cancellation of any meeting.

5) Agenda

- a) The agenda shall be posted in accordance with the provisions of The Brown Act. Accordingly, the Secretary to the Board shall prepare and post a written agenda for all regular meetings of the Board, at least 72 hours in advance of the subject meeting. Agendas for special board meetings and committee meetings shall be prepared and posted at least 24 hours in advance of the subject meeting.
- b) The agenda and materials for board and standing and ad hoc committee meetings shall generally be distributed to board members at least 72 hours in advance of the subject meeting. Said materials shall also be made available to members of the public in accordance with The Brown Act.
- c) Items may be placed on the board or committee meeting agenda, prior to the agenda being posted, by any of the following means:
 - i. By action of the Board or committee at a previous meeting;
 - ii. By the Board or committee chair;
 - iii. By the Retirement Administrator; or
 - iv. At the request of a board member, a plan member or any other party, with the approval of the Board, Board Chair, appropriate committee chair, or the Retirement Administrator.
- d) Once posted, items may be added to a board or committee meeting agenda only in accordance with The Brown Act.

- e) As more particularly stated in the Brown Act, no action or discussion shall generally be undertaken on any item not appearing on a meeting agenda, except that members of the Board or the committee, as the case may be, or its staff may:
 - i. Briefly respond to statements made or questions posed by members of the public during Public Comment;
 - ii. Ask a question for clarification, make a brief announcement, or make a brief report on his or her own activities;
 - iii. Provide a reference to staff or other resources for factual information, request staff to report back to the body at a subsequent meeting concerning any matter, or take action to direct staff to place a matter of business on a future agenda. (The Brown Act, Cal Gov. Code § 54954.2. (a))

6) Public Comment

- a) As more particularly stated in The Brown Act:
 - i. Every agenda for regular board or standing committee meetings shall provide an opportunity for members of the public to directly address the Board or committee on any item of interest to the public, before or during the body's consideration of the item, that is within the subject matter jurisdiction of the body, provided that no action shall be taken on any item not appearing on the agenda (unless the action is otherwise authorized by subdivision (b) of Cal Gov. Code § 54954.2 of The Brown Act.)
 - ii. Every notice for a special meeting shall provide an opportunity for members of the public to directly address the legislative body concerning any item that has been described in the notice for the meeting before or during consideration of that item.
- b) As more particularly stated in the Brown Act, with respect to any item that is already on the agenda, the public will be given the opportunity to comment before or during the Board or committee's hearing of the item. When a member of the public raises an issue not yet before the Board or committee, the Board may engage in limited discussion of the item, but no action shall be taken on the item (unless the action is otherwise authorized by subdivision (b) of Cal Gov. Code § 54954.2).
- c) At the discretion of the presiding officer, the duration of any address by a member of the public may be limited to five minutes.
- d) Members of the public shall be encouraged to inform FCERA in advance of their intention to address the Board or a committee of the Board at a public meeting, so that FCERA may set or modify the agenda to best accommodate the public.

- e) If the Board or a committee expects that a number of public members may wish to address the Board on a particular matter at an upcoming meeting, it may call a special meeting devoted strictly to public comment if it believes that a special meeting may be more convenient or effective for the Board and the public.
- f) In the event that more than one member of the public wishes to address the Board or a committee on an issue, the Board or committee will generally allow all such members to speak consecutively before addressing any of them.
- g) Notwithstanding the immediately preceding paragraph, the Board will generally refrain from immediately responding to or taking action on comments from the public, but will instead, where appropriate, direct staff or advisors to consider the comments and provide the Board or committee with recommendations at a subsequent meeting.

7) Rules of Order

- a) Except as otherwise provided in this policy, the By-laws and Regulations of the Board of Retirement, or The Brown Act, Robert's Rules of Order (most recent edition) shall guide the Board in its proceedings. (Bylaws § 2.5)
- b) The order of business shall be set in the Chair's discretion, unless otherwise directed by the majority of the Board. (Bylaws § 2.5)

8) Quorum and Voting

- a) The Board can have up to two alternate members, one elected by the safety members and one elected by the retired members. For purposes of this policy, "voting members" include any alternate member who is serving in the absence of another board member, in accordance with the 1937 Act.
- b) Five voting members of the Board shall constitute a quorum for board meetings. (Bylaws § 2.4).
- c) A majority vote of the quorum present at the time of voting shall govern the decisions of the Board, unless otherwise specifically provided for in the 1937 Act, other applicable law, or the Bylaws. (Bylaws § 2.4)
- d) The Chair shall have a vote on all questions and shall not be required to relinquish the officer position in order to participate in discussion (Bylaws § 2.2.4).
- e) A majority of voting members shall constitute a quorum for committee meetings.
- f) All formal actions taken by a committee must be approved by the Board at a scheduled board meeting, unless the committee's charter specifically authorizes independent action by the committee.

9) Reconsideration

- a) When the Board has adopted a resolution making determinations or has taken action on any item brought before it for determination, any person, including a Board member, or affected agency may file a written request with the Retirement Administrator requesting amendments to or reconsideration of the resolution or Board determination. The request shall state the specific modification to the resolution or determination being requested and shall state what new or different facts that could not have been presented previously are claimed to warrant the reconsideration. Any request that, on its face, fails to state new or different facts that could not have been presented previously shall not be deemed to be a complete request.
- b) The person or agency shall file the written request with the Retirement Administrator or his or her designee no later than thirty (30) days of the date of Board action. If no person or agency files a timely and complete request, the Board shall not take any action pursuant to this section.
- c) Upon receipt of a timely and complete request by the Retirement Administrator, the time to file any action, including, but not limited to, an action pursuant to any provisions governing the time within which the Board is to act, shall be tolled for the time that the Board takes to act on the request.
- d) The Retirement Administrator shall place the timely and complete request on the agenda of the next meeting of the Board for which notice can be given. The Retirement Administrator shall give notice of the consideration of the request by the Board in the same manner as for the original proposal. The Retirement Administrator may give notice in any other manner as he or she deems necessary or desirable so long as such notice complies with Board policy and state law.
- e) At that meeting, the Board shall consider the request and receive any oral or written testimony. The consideration may be continued from time to time but not to exceed thirty-five (35) days from the date specified in the notice. The person or agency that filed the request may withdraw it at any time prior to the conclusion of the consideration by the Board.
- f) At the conclusion of its consideration, the Board may approve or disapprove the request. If the Board disapproves the request, it shall not adopt a new resolution making determinations or take any action to alter its original determination. If the Board approves the request, the Board shall adopt a resolution or action, as appropriate, making determinations that shall supersede the resolution previously issued or determination previously made.

- g) The determinations of the Board shall be final and conclusive. No person or agency shall make any further request for the same matter or a substantially similar matter, as determined by the Board.
- h) Notwithstanding subdivision (h), clerical errors or mistakes may be corrected without further action by the Board.

10) Minutes and Records

- a) The Secretary to the Board shall cause to be recorded in the minutes of board meetings the following:
 - i. The time and place of each meeting of the Board;
 - ii. The names of board members present;
 - iii. The names of staff present, and any service providers present, and the firm they represent;
 - iv. The time at which a board member arrived or left the meeting after its commencement or prior to its conclusion; and
 - v. All official acts of the Board, together with the votes thereon, except for action that is unanimous; and when requested, a member's dissent or approval with his or her reasons. (Bylaws § 2.6.1)
 - vi. Minutes of closed sessions, when appropriate under the Brown Act, Cal Gov. Code § 54957.2.
- b) The Secretary shall cause the board minutes to be written and presented for approval no later than the second succeeding regular meeting. The minutes or a true copy thereof submitted and signed by the Secretary after approval by the Board shall form part of the permanent records of the Board. (Bylaws § 2.6.0)
- c) Minutes of committee meetings shall be similarly prepared by the committee's staff contact, and presented for approval at the next committee meeting. The minutes or a true copy thereof submitted and signed by the Secretary after approval by the committee shall form part of the permanent records of the Board.
- d) Both board and committee minutes shall focus on describing any actions that occurred, and shall provide sufficient detail to evidence the Board's deliberations in the matter.
- e) Staff will provide the Board with a regular report that enables the Board to track, from meeting to meeting, the status of prior Board directions to staff.

IV. Policy Review

- a) The Board shall review this policy at least every three years to ensure that it remains relevant and appropriate.

IV. Policy History

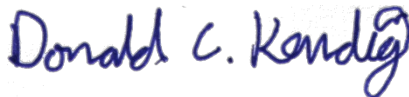
- a) This policy was adopted by the Board on April 4, 2007.
- b) The Board of Retirement reviewed and modified this policy on September 19, 2007, August 4, 2010, December 16, 2015, July 20, 2016, December 5, 2018, July 17, 2019, and October 6, 2021.

V. Secretary's Certificate

I, Donald Kendig, the duly appointed Secretary of the Fresno County Employees' Retirement Association, hereby certify the adoption of this Policy.

October 6, 2021

Date of Action:



By: Retirement Administrator