

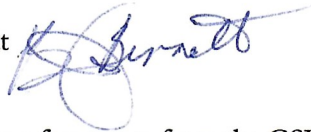
# BOBBIE J. BENNETT

January 7, 2024

## Memorandum

TO: Robert Riddle Jr.; Beverly Littlefield; Chuck Freedman; Help

FROM: BJ Bennett



Attached are 4 pages of excerpts from the GSRA Board/P&O Meeting Minutes in 2015. It is a historical report of actions and notices regarding retirees' contractual rights for a COLA. These are submitted to you since the contractual issue has again become a "hot topic" and most of the current Board is unfamiliar with the actions taken in 2015 by the GSRA Board.

I am also mailing to Beverly (so she can have the information scanned for posterity). I would scan, but my current computer/printer is acting badly and I can't seem to get it to scan. These documents are as follows:

1. Copy of requests from Phyllis Grimes and responses from staff at ERS dated 10/23/03 about the requirement of a COLA.
2. A notice dated 1/24/92 from Rudolph Johnson to modify the ERS regulations as reflected regarding COLAs. Attached to this file are copies of specific pages from the ERS Handbooks that reflect "Cost of Living." The handbooks in question are the 1977, undated, 1984, 1988, 1990, 1992, and a 1987 statement about medical care benefits. Also attached to this notice is a listing (probably prepared by me) for ERS handbooks that were submitted or would be submitted (if needed) to GSRA. These were probably collected around 2014-2015, and I have a "sack full" of the handbooks.
3. A letter dated February 2/1/2008 of "Advice" to ERS from the Attorney General's office regarding the issue of ERS changes (increased employee contributions and/or decreases/elimination of COLAs). This document is in the mail being transmitted via the US postal service to Beverly Littlefield for her scanning and further distribution. I suggest that the document be placed on the GSRA website (maybe in a secure place of historical information).
4. The other letter dated November 18, 2008 is that of "Advice" to the TRS – showing the differences in laws and/or policies with ERS. This document is being placed in the US mail on Monday to Beverly Littlefield. I trust that she will have it scanned and appropriately retained as historical information.

On a different issue – State Health Benefit Plan—I feel compelled to mention a couple of historical issues. The 1<sup>st</sup> is that the State's policy for contributions for the SHBP is 75% state and 25% employee. This policy is a Joint Legislative Resolution (policy) in 1982. It was approved by the Governor on April 14, 1982. The Resolution is No. 104, House Resolution No.

562. Presumably, DCH is maintaining this type of split in finances.

Another issue regarding the SHBP that may “raise it’s head) in the next short period regarding the finances of the SHBP and/or the Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB). I have stated several times that I think that the Community Health Board doesn’t have a clue about the SHBP, nor does DCH Commissioner/staff have a satisfactory management of the SHBP finances. O.C.G.A. 45-18-25 provides for the creation of the OPEB Fund.

The subpart (j) provides for an “annual report of fund activities for the board, the House Committee on Appropriations, and the Senate Appropriations Committee. Such reports shall include, but not be limited to, audited financial statements. The reports shall . . the obligations of the fund, earnings on investments, and such other information . . . . This report is due September 30 . . . .

I mention this legal provision simply because DCH avoids release of information that allows a person to see how finances are being handled. However, DCH has changed Commissioners and employed former OPB staff to strengthen the financial aspects of the SHBP. My opinion remains that DCH should be producing “Much” more information than is available to the members—granted most of the members would not understand much of the financial information.

I will be available to discuss any of these documents at your convenience via “Zoom”.

BJB