

State and School Employees Health Insurance Management Board

Minutes of the Standing Monthly Meeting January 22, 2020

The standing monthly meeting of the State and School Employees Health Insurance Management Board convened on Wednesday, January 22, 2020, in Room 139 in the Woolfolk Building located at 501 North West Street in Jackson, Mississippi, at 9:00 a.m. The presiding officer was Ms. Liz Welch, Chairman of the Board. A quorum was present.

Voting Members Present

Ms. Liz Welch, Chairman
Mr. Christopher Burkhalter, Vice-Chairman
Mr. Mike Chaney
Mr. Mark Formby
Mr. Larry Fortenberry
Mr. Kelly Hardwick
Dr. Andrea Mayfield

Non-Voting Members Present

The Honorable W. Briggs Hopson
- Chairman, Senate Appropriations Committee

Voting Members Absent

Mr. Ray Higgins
Dr. Alfred Rankins
Dr. Carey Wright (*Represented by Dr. Felicia Gavin*)

Non-Voting Members Absent

The Honorable J. Walter Michel
- Chairman, Senate Insurance Committee
The Honorable Gary Chism
- Chairman, House Insurance Committee
The Honorable John Read
- Chairman, House Appropriations Committee

Department of Finance and Administration Staff Present:

Mr. Richard Self
Ms. Cindy Bradshaw
Ms. Latasha Holmes
Ms. Amanda Murphy
Mr. John Anderson
Ms. Terri Ashley
Mr. Chris Shaman

Attorney General's Office Staff Present:

Ms. Romaine Richards, Esquire

Call to Order

The meeting was chaired and called to order by Ms. Liz Welch, Chairman of the Board.

Executive Session

At this time, Chairman Welch announced that there was a need to enter into a closed session. A motion was made by Mr. Chris Burkhalter that the meeting be closed for the Board to consider going into executive session. Mr. Mike Chaney seconded the motion. The motion passed by a 6 – 0 vote, with members Burkhalter, Chaney, Formby, Fortenberry, Hardwick, and Mayfield voting affirmatively.

The public was excused from the room while the Board went into closed session. Board members, staff of the Department of Finance and Administration, and staff from the Attorney General's Office remained in the room. A motion was made by Mr. Burkhalter that the Board go into executive session in accordance with the Mississippi Open Meetings Act to discuss potential litigation. Mr. Larry Fortenberry seconded the motion. The motion passed by a 6 – 0 vote, with members Burkhalter, Chaney, Formby, Fortenberry, Hardwick, and Mayfield voting affirmatively.

Chairman Welch reopened the meeting and announced publicly that the Board had voted to enter into executive session so that the Attorney General's Office could update Board members on potential litigation. The public was excused from the room and the Board entered into executive session at approximately 9:02 a.m. Board members, staff of the Department of Finance and Administration, staff and contract counsel from the Attorney General's Office, remained in the room. No action was taken by the Board in executive session.

A motion to adjourn the executive session and reopen the meeting was made by Mr. Burkhalter. The motion was seconded by Mr. Chaney and passed by a 6 – 0 vote, with members Burkhalter, Chaney, Formby, Fortenberry, Hardwick, and Mayfield voting affirmatively. The executive session ended at approximately 9:30 a.m. and members of the public returned to the room. Chairman Welch announced that no action was taken during executive session.

Agenda Item 1: Minutes of the Standing Board Meeting of November 20, 2019

Chairman Welch announced that minutes of the Board's standing monthly meeting of November 20, 2019, had been provided to all Board members for their review in advance of today's meeting. A motion was made by Mr. Kelly Hardwick for the Board to approve the minutes as presented. Mr. Mark Formby seconded the motion. The motion passed by a 6 – 0 vote, with members Burkhalter, Chaney, Formby, Fortenberry, Hardwick, and Mayfield voting affirmatively.

Agenda Item 2: Election of Vice-Chairman

Chairman Welch advised that election of a vice-chairman was in order. A motion was made by Mr. Fortenberry to elect Mr. Christopher Burkhalter as Vice-Chairman to the State and School Employees Health Insurance Management Board. Mr. Hardwick seconded the motion. The motion passed by a 6 – 0 vote, with members Burkhalter, Chaney, Formby, Fortenberry, Hardwick, and Mayfield voting affirmatively.

Agenda Item 3: Financial Statements

Chairman Welch recognized Ms. Latasha Holmes, Director of Budget and Accounting, who briefly reviewed the financial statements for the State and School Employees' Life and Health Insurance Plan for the months of November and December 2019. Copies of the financial statements were provided to Board members for their review prior to the meeting.

Agenda Item 4: General Schedule

Chairman Welch recognized Ms. Cindy Bradshaw, Deputy Director with the Office of Insurance, who briefly reviewed the schedule of major activities and actions to be taken by the Board for the next several months.

Agenda Item 5: Old Business

Chairman Welch recognized Mr. Richard Self, State Insurance Administrator with the Office of insurance, who reminded the Board of the emergency meeting conducted electronically on December 26, 2019, in order to consider a three-month contract with IBM Watson Health, the Board's then-vendor for decision support services. He stated that based on the Board's electronic approval with nine of the ten voting Board members participating, the three-month contract was executed prior to the old contract expiring on December 31, 2019, and prior to the newly-awarded four-year contract for decision support services with HDMS commencing. Mr. Self reminded the Board that in order to provide a smooth transition and uninterrupted access to vital services and system resources, staff felt it was necessary to enter into the short term overlapping agreement with IBM Watson Health, while the HDMS contract continued implementation and transition activities. Mr. Self requested that the Board ratify this action so that it could be placed upon the Board's minutes. Mr. Hardwick made a motion to approve the contract with IBM Watson Health through the end of March 2020. Dr. Andrea Mayfield seconded the motion. The motion passed by a 6 – 0 vote, with members Burkhalter, Chaney, Formby, Fortenberry, Hardwick, and Mayfield voting affirmatively.

Agenda Item 6: New Business

There was no new business for the Board to consider.

Adjournment

Chairman Welch announced that the next standing meeting of the State and School Employees Health Insurance Management Board is scheduled for 9:00 a.m., on Wednesday, February 26, 2020 in Room 139 of the Woolfolk Building in Jackson, Mississippi.

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:42 a.m.



Liz Welch
Chairman

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