RETIREMENT BOARD
COUNTY OF DELAWARE, PENNSYLVANIA
MEETING MAY 21, 2026
(In-person and hybrid meeting in County Council Conference Room at 1:00 pm)

TO: Members of the Retirement Board

FROM: Louis F. Rosenthal, Board Secretary and County Controller

PRESENT: Board Chair and County Council Vice Chair, Christine Reuther (Zoom); Board Member and County Council Member, Joanne Phillips; Board Member and County Council Member Elaine Schaefer; Board Member and County Treasurer James Hackett; Secretary and County Controller Louis F. Rosenthal; Board Solicitor John Larkin; Bruce Besecker with RBC Wealth Management; Michael Courtney with RBC Wealth Management (Zoom); Janet Werner, Relationship Manager with Principal Custody Solutions

1) Meeting was called to order by Board Member Schaefer at 1:00 P.M.

2) **Public Comment.** There were no public comments.

3) **Approval of Minutes** from meeting of February 26, 2026. Motion made by Board Member Schaefer. Seconded by Board Treasurer Hackett to approve the minutes. <u>**(Motion passed 4-0) (Board Chair Reuther was not present at time of motion.)**</u>.

4) **The Treasurer's Report.** Treasurer Hackett reported that as of March 31, 2026, the value of the fund was $752,979,215 including the annuities. (Annuities were valued at $4,248,079)

5) **New Business.**

   a. <u>RBC Update – Mr. Bruce Besecker.</u>

Mr. Besecker reported on general economic data as of March 31, 2026, addressing the global markets, and U.S markets. He led the Board through the market review and provided an overall analysis by referencing information in the RBC report, which included both the economic outlook and state of the current market.

Mr. Besecker reviewed the economy and pointed out that the unemployment numbers appear to be good, and supportive of the stock market. After reviewing other economic indicators, he went over long term equity market trends which showed the historical market data; 74 positive years and 27 negative years since 1926. The S&P 500 sector composition has changed significantly over the past 10 years, as AI related companies (technology and communication services) are grown such that they now dominate.

The next item Mr. Besecker reviewed was the international global composition, where the United States also dominates in both market cap and as a percent of global GDP. As an aside, the US was also the first to reduce interest rates.

Mr. Besecker reviewed the County's overall portfolio performance and each investment manager's investment performance. Overall, the portfolio is doing very well and has positive investment performance as compared against the benchmark across all time periods. Mr. Besecker also mentioned adding more Fixed Income at a future date.

Mr. Besecker did a comparison of Cumberland versus Birch Run Investments. Cumberland – credit, driven safe, way to make money; Birch Run Investments – also conservative, mostly government and corporate securities. He then compared PGIM versus Ramirez Asset Management. PGIM – Credit, driven safe, way to make money; Ramirez Asset Management – all money, grown quite diversified. Mr. Besecker also reviewed the annual fees that the investment managers charge the County of Delaware.

Since it has been five years since the Board has reviewed the investment policy, Board Member Schaefer suggested that the Board and RBC review and change anything in the investment policy if necessary. Mr. Besecker agreed with Board Member Schaefer. Secretary Rosenthal would like a good understanding of longer-term risks (4-5 years on the horizon). It would be a good discussion to have and relook at policy and see if we need to change anything. Secretary Rosenthal suggested adding the discussion at next Retirement Board Meeting on September 24, 2026.

c. <u>Custodial Bank – Principal Custody Solutions – Ms. Janet Werner</u>

Ms. Janet Werner reviewed the benefits paid to pensioners. As of May 1, 2026, 2,152 benefit payments were made; 2,092 were ACH and 60 checks totaling $3,414,899.58 There are 321 registered users of the Retirement Payment Center.

The total money received for Class Action settlements was $4,156.80 from January 1, 2026 to May 14, 2026, with the largest amount being $1,888.79 for Apple.

Board Member Phillips asked Ms. Werner if she could send a copy of the letter Principal sends out to retirees on signing up for direct deposit so that we can also encourage retired employees to do so.

6) **Old Business.**

a. <u>Litigation Update – John Larkin, Esq.</u>

Board Solicitor Larkin reported that there are no new class action suits or litigation to report on.

Solicitor Larkin did inquire about the Cabot Oil Class Action suit. Secretary Rosenthal reviewed the lawsuit and did reiterate that the Retirement Board took the lead on the case.

7) **Individual Reports of Board members or committees.**

Board Member Schaefer suggested to have an education session on pension for all employees She asked Ms. O'Malley, Executive Director, if we could have it at the Executive Director's All Staff Meeting in July. Board Member Phillips informed Secretary Rosenthal that she will send over the presentation she created for educating employees.

8) **Discussion of correspondence received by the Board.**

No correspondence received by the Board.

9) **Public Comments.** There were no public comments.

10) **Adjourn Public Meeting.**

Motion made by Board Member Schaefer to adjourn the meeting at 1:49 P.M., Board Member Phillips seconded this motion **(Motion passed 5-0)**.

Next meeting – September 24, 2026