

National Council on Teacher Retirement

RESOLUTIONS



Adopted at the

**NCTR 98th Annual Conference
Annual Business Meeting**

**October 5, 2020
11 a.m. (ET)**

Presented by:
The 2020 NCTR Resolutions Committee

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**IN MEMORIAM
JOAN SCHLOSS**

WHEREAS, Joan Schloss has been a dedicated public servant and highly respected and beloved member of the Massachusetts Teachers' Retirement System since her appointment to the agency.

WHEREAS, Ms. Schloss served for over 28 years of dedicated service to said agency as its General Counsel and its Executive Director from which she retired,

WHEREAS, Ms. Schloss's affiliations also include serving as Co-Chair of NCTR's Nominating and Resolutions Committee, Past President and member of the Massachusetts Association of Public Pension Attorneys, Executive Board Member on the Massachusetts Retirees' Association Board, and Board Member of the Susan G. Komen Board; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Retirement Board extends sincere appreciation to Joan Schloss for her over 28 years of exemplary service to the Board, and for her contributions and dedication to the active and retired members and beneficiaries it serves; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the MTRS Board and Staff fondly remember Joan Schloss; and be it further

RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be presented to Ms. Schloss's family and be included in the proceedings of the 98th Annual Convention of the National Council on Teacher Retirement, 2020.

Submitted by: Massachusetts Teachers' Retirement System



**IN APPRECIATION
DONALD (DON) ERIKSON**

WHEREAS, Don Erikson served as a Trustee of the Omaha School Employees' Retirement System from September 1, 2007 through June 30, 2020; and

WHEREAS, Don Erikson served as the President of the Board of Trustees of the Omaha School Employees' Retirement System from September 2014 through June 2020; and

WHEREAS, Don supported the maintenance and refining of retirement benefits for both the active and retired membership while working to preserve the actuarial soundness of the System; and

WHEREAS, in 2018 Don formulated a sustainability study group to investigate the impact of various plan adjustments on the members and the plan sponsor;

WHEREAS, Don faithfully and eagerly performed his duties of Trustee, giving unselfishly of his time to serve on the Board, greatly impacting critical issues surrounding retirement preparedness of all full-time employees of the Omaha Public Schools; and

WHEREAS, Don was an active participant in the National Council on Teacher Retirement throughout his service on the Board of Trustees and was in regular attendance at the annual trustee workshops and annual conferences; and

WHEREAS, Don served as a delegate to the NCTR Annual Meeting and served on and chaired the NCTR Trustee Education Committee; and

WHEREAS, Don diligently served as the representative for the Omaha School Employees' Retirement System at several NCTR business meetings; and

WHEREAS, Don's last day of service to the Board of Trustees of the Omaha School Employees' Retirement System was June 30, 2020; now therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that NCTR expresses its appreciation for Don's contributions to the Council over the years and for his dedicated years of service to the Omaha School Employees' Retirement System; and be it further

RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be presented to Don Erikson and be included in the proceedings of the 98th Annual Conference of the National Council on Teacher Retirement, 2020.

Submitted by: Omaha School Employees' Retirement System



**IN APPRECIATION
GREG GIBSON**

WHEREAS, Dr. Greg Gibson was appointed to the Board of Trustees of the Teacher Retirement System of Texas (TRS) by Gov. Abbott in May 2016 and served through April 2019, mindful of his duty as caretaker of a trust to those who teach or otherwise serve our state’s children and thereby shape its future; and

WHEREAS, he provided leadership during a time when the retirement system grew from approximately 1.5 to more than 1.6 million members and annuitants and the net position of the fund increased from \$134 to \$158 billion; and

WHEREAS, he served as a member and chair of the Budget Committee as well as served as a member of the Audit, Compliance and Ethics, Benefits, and Compensation Committees; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Gibson’s parents were educators, which inevitably led him to the same profession for over 30 years; and

WHEREAS, his career began in small to mid-size districts as a teacher, bus driver, coach, principal, and assistant superintendent before becoming superintendent of Graham, Crowley and Schertz-Cibolo-Universal City ISDs; and

WHEREAS, he proudly served his term when TRS continued progress on the TRS Enterprise Application Modernization (TEAM) Program; redesigned the website; promoted financial awareness and member education through a series of videos; offered members the option of either a remote or in-person appointment with a TRS benefit counselor; completed an updated Pension Benefit Design Study and Compact with Texans; annually received the “Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting” from the Government Finance Officers Association for the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report; conducted member satisfaction surveys and sent new membership cards to members and retirees in a continuous effort to improve customer service; and annually hosted the largest Emerging Managers Conference in the country with over 1,000 attendees; and

WHEREAS, he contributed greatly to the national discussion on retirement security for teachers and other public employees by representing TRS at the National Council on Teacher Retirement (NCTR) and served on NCTR’s Education Committee; and

RESOLVED, That the National Council on Teacher Retirement hereby expresses its appreciation to Dr. Greg Gibson for his dedicated service to the Teacher Retirement System of Texas as a trustee and fiduciary and recognizes his exemplary career in public education of over thirty years; and further be it further

RESOLVED, That this Resolution be presented to Dr. Greg Gibson and that it be included in the proceedings of the 98th Annual Conference of the National Council on Teacher Retirement, 2020.

Submitted by: Teacher Retirement System of Texas



**IN APPRECIATION
JOHN G. PARAUKA**

WHEREAS, John G. Parauka has served as a member of the Board of Trustees of the Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana for eight years, from January 5, 2012, through December 31, 2019, representing active members employed in Orleans, St. Tammany, and Washington parishes; and

WHEREAS, during his time on the board, Mr. Parauka served with distinction on the Budget & Finance, Elections, Executive, Investment, Legislative, Membership & Entitlements, and Personnel committees, and held the positions of vice chair of the Elections committee and chair of the Membership & Entitlements committee; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Parauka has been a commendable trustee, providing strong leadership that has enabled the System to continue to be recognized for excellence in the areas of pension administration and investment performance; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Parauka has been a constant and credible advocate for retirement benefits that meet the needs of the educational community, including supporting legislation that ensures the continued fiscal soundness of the System, while opposing efforts that sought to negatively affect the efficacy of the plan or its operational and investment functions; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Parauka has worked diligently to strengthen the System's investment position, which has enabled the program to achieve remarkable returns and record assets, most notably during FY 2018 when the System's 11.56% market return made TRSL the highest performing pension fund among public plans with assets greater than \$1 billion, and whose staunch support of sound investment principles resulted in a growth of System assets from \$14.2 billion in FY 2012 to an all-time high of \$21.2 billion in FY 2019; and

WHEREAS, during Mr. Parauka's tenure on the Board, he has steadfastly exhibited a commitment to preserving the defined benefit as the appropriate retirement plan structure for career educators and their beneficiaries; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Parauka has dedicated 45 years of service to the educational community, making a meaningful impact in the public schools of Orleans Parish, where he is a teacher, and coordinator for both student activities and alumni at Benjamin Franklin High School; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Parauka's service to the Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana has been characterized by his dedicated and uncompromising commitment to honor, duty, and excellence; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the National Council on Teacher Retirement hereby expresses its appreciation to Mr. John G. Parauka for eight years of dedicated service to the Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana as a trustee and fiduciary; and be it further

RESOLVED, That this Resolution be presented to Mr. John G. Parauka, and that it be included in the proceedings of 98th Annual Conference of the National Council on Teacher Retirement, 2020.

Submitted by: Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana



**IN APPRECIATION
LANCE PURDY**

WHEREAS, Lance Purdy served as a Trustee of the Omaha School Employees' Retirement System from September 1, 2003 through June 30, 2020; and

WHEREAS, Lance Purdy served as the active member representative on the Board of Trustees of the Omaha School Employees' Retirement System; and

WHEREAS, Lance supported the maintenance and refining of retirement benefits for both the active and retired membership while working to preserve the actuarial soundness of the System; and

WHEREAS, Lance faithfully and eagerly performed his duties of Trustee, giving unselfishly of his time to serve on the Board, greatly impacting critical issues surrounding retirement preparedness of all full-time employees of the Omaha Public Schools; and

WHEREAS, Lance was an active participant in the National Council on Teacher Retirement throughout his service on the Board of Trustees and was in regular attendance at the annual trustee workshops and annual conferences; and

WHEREAS, Lance served as a delegate to the NCTR Annual Meeting, and served on the NCTR Trustee Education Committee, the NCTR Resolutions Committee, and served as Chair for the NCTR Credentials Committee; and

WHEREAS, Lance diligently served as the representative for the Omaha School Employees' Retirement System at several NCTR business meetings; and

WHEREAS, Lance's last day of service to the Board of Trustees of the Omaha School Employees' Retirement System was June 30, 2020; now therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that NCTR expresses its appreciation for Lance's contributions to the Council over the years and for his dedicated years of service to the Omaha School Employees' Retirement System; and be it further

RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be presented to Lance Purdy and be included in the proceedings of the 98th Annual Conference of the National Council on Teacher Retirement, 2020.

Submitted by: Omaha School Employees' Retirement System



**IN APPRECIATION
DOLORES RAMIREZ**

WHEREAS, Dolores Ramirez has served as a member of the Board of Trustees of the Teacher Retirement System of Texas (TRS) from Oct. 18, 2013 until Oct. 22, 2019, mindful of her duty as caretaker of a trust to those who teach or otherwise serve our state's children and thereby shape its future; and

WHEREAS, she provided leadership during a time when the retirement system grew from approximately 1.3 to more than 1.6 million members and annuitants and the net position of the fund increased from \$117.4 to \$158 billion; and

WHEREAS, she was unanimously elected Vice Chair in 2016 and served as Vice Chair until the end of her service. She also served as chair of the Ethics committee from 2016 to 2018 and served as a member of the Benefits, Budget, Compensation, Investment Management, and Policy Committees; and

WHEREAS, she helped guide the agency through organizational changes to focus on key challenges such as health care fund solvency, pension trust fund sustainability, long-term investment returns, and replacing legacy technology systems; and

WHEREAS, she served during a time when special emphasis was given to promote the agency's core values: Customer Satisfaction; Collaboration and Teamwork; Accountability; Respect; Ethics; Excellence; and Employee Fulfillment; and

WHEREAS, she proudly served her term when TRS continued progress on the TRS Enterprise Application Modernization (TEAM) Program; promoted financial awareness and member education through a series of videos; opened an investment office in London; completed an updated Pension Benefit Design Study and Compact with Texans; annually received the "Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting" from the Government Finance Officers Association for the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report; conducted biennial member satisfaction surveys and sent new membership cards to members and retirees in a continuous effort to improve customer service; annually hosted the largest Emerging Managers Conference in the country with over 1,000 attendees; and oversaw TRS executives as they provided information and testified to the 86th Texas Legislature which passed historic legislation leading to the actuarial soundness of the TRS Pension Fund resulting in raises for teachers and others, funding to keep TRS-Care solvent and a 13th check for retirees; and, whereas, she contributed greatly to the national discussion on retirement security for teachers and other public employees by representing TRS at the National Council on Teacher Retirement (NCTR) and served as chair of NCTR's Resolution Committee; and now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the National Council on Teacher Retirement hereby expresses its appreciation to Ms. Dolores Ramirez for her dedicated service to the Teacher Retirement System of Texas as a trustee and fiduciary and recognizes her exemplary teaching career of over forty years; and further be it further

RESOLVED, That this Resolution be presented to Dolores Ramirez and that it be included in the proceedings of the 98th Annual Conference of the National Council on Teacher Retirement, 2020.

Submitted by: Teacher Retirement System of Texas



**IN APPRECIATION
JEFFREY WULFSON**

WHEREAS, Jeffrey Wulfson has been a dedicated public servant and highly respected Chairman of the Massachusetts Teachers' Retirement Board since his 2007 appointment to the Board.

WHEREAS, Mr. Wulfson provided 38 years of dedicated service to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, most recently as Deputy Commissioner for the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, from which he retired,

WHEREAS, Mr. Wulfson also served as the Director of Administration for the Department of Revenue's Division of Local Services, where he also served as Chairman of the Finance Control boards for the cities of Brockton and Lowell. He was a member of the American Finance Association and a past president of the Massachusetts chapter; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Retirement Board extends sincere appreciation to Jeffrey Wulfson for his 13 years of exemplary service to the Board, and for his contributions and dedication to the active and retired members and beneficiaries it serves; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the MTRS Board and Staff wish Jeffrey Wulfson and his family good health and happiness, now and in the future; and be it further

RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be presented to Jeffrey Wulfson and be included in the proceedings of the 98th Annual Convention of the National Council on Teachers Retirement, 2020.

Submitted by: Massachusetts Teachers' Retirement System Board

