



# TRS Board of Trustees

## Meeting Summary

Feb 16-17, 2023

The TRS Board met **Thursday, Feb. 16 and Friday, Feb. 17, 2023** in-person at our Austin headquarters. A [recorded webcast](#) of all the public meetings is now available on our website. Once you've opened the link, just click on the board segment you'd like to watch. [Read board meeting books](#) (presentations).

### Meeting Highlights

This marked the first meeting for new trustees! Welcome to **Brittney Allred** and **Elvis Williams**, who were appointed in January by **Governor Greg Abbott**. Trustee **John Elliott** was reappointed to a new, six-year term (Read more under Executive Director's Report below).

### What the Division Heads Discussed

#### Benefit Services

The Chief Benefit Officer reported very good news about the effort to fill open positions across the division. The right number of talented people on the job now means TRS **met or exceeded ALL service levels** in January 2023 in every single area in Benefit Services.

The phone contact center ended January answering 94% of calls within three minutes. The goal is 80%. January is typically a very high-volume month for TRS' Contact Center ([See page 55](#) of the board book). The team also presented the onboard and training process for staff in Benefit Services. This process is extensive and prepares the team to provide excellent service to our members.

**Trustee Robert Walls, Jr.** was among those who applauded the effort. He told the meeting how it is a true testament to management and the team leaders to get new people trained and the numbers down so quickly.

#### Health Care

The Chief Health Care Officer presented the division's [annual health report](#). A key theme: How TRS drives value for our health plan participants—99% of participating employers chose to remain with TRS-ActiveCare for the

2023-24 plan year. Fresh fact: TRS is the largest purchaser of health insurance in Texas for more than 670,000 people, or one in 43 Texans. ([See page 24](#) of the board book).

Trustees voted to approve a **new pharmacy benefits manager** for all TRS health plans. Express Scripts (ESI) will begin providing pharmacy benefits for TRS-Active-Care, TRS-Care Standard, and TRS-Care Medicare at the beginning of each of their respective new plan years. The TRS health division regularly reevaluates their benefits contracts. This ensures the best pricing and services for members and employers. The new contract will generate savings to help sustain health care benefits for participants and employers. (Find [online resources](#) for participants at the link, to include answers to FAQ about the change.)

#### Investment Management

The Chief Investment Officer (CIO) shared the Dec. 31, 2022 market value of our pension trust fund: **\$179.7 billion**. And, in a volatile year, the fund's one-year return was **-10.3%**, only the third negative year in the past 15 (others were 2008 and 2018). ([See page 75](#) of the board book).

Trustees applauded the official end of the five-year **Fleet** hiring program. The initiative to hire more in-house investment talent has kept more than \$300 million in the pension fund, money that would have otherwise gone to fees to pay outside money managers.

#### Executive Director's Report

**Executive Director Brian Guthrie** said it was exciting to see a full board quorum (nine members) thanks to the governor's recent appointments. A TRS-sized welcome goes to **Brittney Allred** and **Elvis Williams** whom **Governor Greg Abbott** appointed in January while **John Elliott** was reappointed to a new, six-year term. [Read their bios](#) on our website. Here is the [news release](#) on the appointments. Also, elections for the retiree and at-large seats will be underway soon.

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Mr. Guthrie updated trustees on **recent legislative appearances** where TRS leadership has testified on agency priorities. Mr. Guthrie reminded trustees that TRS cannot advocate for our members, but agency staff remain an educational resource for lawmakers on issues such as funding a benefit enhancement for our retirees. Among the priorities, as health care costs rise: is securing new funding to help lessen the impact of an Active-Care premium increase.

### General Topics Discussed

Your trustees approved new [committee assignments](#). Also, the board voted to have Trustee **Nanette Sissney** continue in her role as vice chair.

### Next Board Meeting

The next board meeting will be **Thursday, April 27 and Friday April 28, 2023**, in person at our Austin headquarters. [Click here](#) to access all board materials, including agendas, board books, and a link to the live and recorded webcasts. View the full board schedule on our [board meetings calendar page](#).

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