

School Employees Benefits Board
Meeting Minutes

April 3, 2025
Health Care Authority
Sue Crystal Rooms A & B
Olympia, Washington
9:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

The Briefing Book with the complete presentations and an audio recording of the meeting can be found at:
<https://www.hca.wa.gov/about-hca/programs-and-initiatives/school-employees-benefits-board-sebb-program/meetings-and-materials>

Members Present in Olympia

Lou McDermott
Myra Johnson
Alison Poulsen
Kerry Schaefer

Members Present via Zoom

Dawna Hansen-Murray
Terri House
Pamela Kruse
Lara Christopherson
Omeid Heidari

Members Absent

None

SEB Board Counsel

Michael Tunick, AAG filling in for Katy Hatfield

Call to Order

Lou McDermott, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Sufficient members were present to allow a quorum. Board members and the public were able to attend either in person or virtually via Zoom.

Meeting Overview

David Iseminger, Director of the Employees and Retirees Benefits (ERB) Division provided an overview of the agenda.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Myra Johnson moved, and Alison Poulsen seconded a motion to approve the March 6, 2025 meeting minutes. Minutes were approved as written by unanimous vote.

Legislative Update and Budget Update

Cade Walker, Policy, Rules, and Compliance Section Manager in the Employees and Retirees Benefits Division and Tanya Deuel, ERB Finance Section Manager in the Finance Services and Health Purchasing Administration presented on the latest updates from the legislative session and state budget work. The legislative update presentation included bill analyses by the ERB Division, high priority bill status, agency requested legislation, and current legislation tracked by the ERB Division. The budget update presentation included the budget timeline, 2025 supplemental budget information, 2025-27 biennial budget information, as well as additional budget items that were similar in the House and Senate proposed budgets. The budget update also included proposals for addressing the state budget deficit that were similar between the House and Senate proposed budgets, and the proposed SEBB Program funding rates for each proposed budget.

2025 Annual Rulemaking Briefing

Stella Ng, Policy and Rules Coordinator gave an overview of the annual rulemaking efforts for the SEBB Program. The overview included a rulemaking timeline, and the year's focus on rulemaking categorized into three sections: administration and benefits management, regulatory alignment, and amendments within HCA's authority.

Benefits 24/7 Update

Brett Mello, Chief Information Officer in the Enterprise Technology Services (ETS) Division gave an update on the Benefits 24/7 system. The update included a stabilization update continued progress and ERB IT staffing, as well as next steps for Benefits 24/7 stabilization efforts.

SEBB Program Annual Renewal Process

Christine Davis, SEBB Program Procurement Manager in the Employees and Retirees Benefits Division provided an overview of the annual plan renewal process for the SEBB Program. The overview included details of the annual renewal process containing information regarding evaluating the SEBB Program portfolio, the ERB request for renewal workplans and drafting, negotiations with the carriers on their proposals, and presenting benefit changes to the SEB Board for authorization.

General Public Comment

No members of the public provided comments.

An audio recording for the April 3, 2025 SEB Board meeting can be found at: <https://www.hca.wa.gov/about-hca/programs-and-initiatives/school-employees-benefits-board-sebb-program/meetings-and-materials>

Next Meeting

May 8, 2025

Starting time 9:00 a.m.

Preview of May 8, 2025 SEB Board Meeting

Dave Iseminger, Director, Employees and Retirees Benefits (ERB) Division, provided an overview of potential agenda topics for the May 8, 2025 Board meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 10:20 a.m.