



**Pace, the Suburban Bus Division of the Regional Transportation Authority
550 West Algonquin Road
Arlington Heights, Illinois
Minutes of the Open Session Meeting of the Pace Board of Directors
December 20, 2023**

The Board of Directors of Pace, the Suburban Bus Division of the Regional Transportation Authority, met in open session on Wednesday, December 20, 2023 at 9:30 a.m. at Pace corporate headquarters, 550 West Algonquin Road, Arlington Heights, Illinois, pursuant to notice.

Chairman Kwasneski led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Kwasneski called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

Roll Call

Directors physically present: Arfa, Canning, Carr, Guerin, Hastings, Marcucci, McLeod, Schielke, Smith, and Chairman Kwasneski.

Directors absent: Wells.

Director Guerin moved and Director McLeod seconded a motion to allow Directors Noak and Soto to attend via Zoom. The motion passed with a unanimous vote. Directors Noak and Soto joined the meeting via Zoom immediately following the vote.

SBD #23-99 – Resolution approving the open session meeting minutes of November 8, 2023.

Director Schielke moved, and Director McLeod seconded a motion to approve the Resolution. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Public Comment

Ryan Sinwelski representing the Harvey Historical Society raised equity concerns about the public feedback process on the new Harvey Multimodal Transportation Center. Mr. Sinwelski claims that none of the proposed architectural designs complement the historic downtown. He asked Pace to demand a better design to demonstrate that they care about communities of color. Mr. Sinwelski provided similar comments at recent board meetings of the RTA and Metra.

Chairman's Report

Richard A. Kwasneski, *Chairman*

Rachel Arfa Christopher S. Canning Terrance M. Carr David B. Guerin Kyle R. Hastings Thomas D. Marcucci
William D. McLeod John D. Noak Jeffery D. Schielke Erin Smith Linda Soto Terry R. Wells

Board of Directors

Melinda J. Metzger, *Executive Director*

Chairman Kwasneski reported on attending the budget presentation for Will County with Metra and RTA. They discussed the fiscal cliff, service, the rollout of RAP paratransit service in the six-county region, and the status of driver recruitment. The county reported on their own recruitment issues with positions that are open for months with no applicants. Pace retains about 50% of the drivers it hires/trains. Will County supports securing additional funds for Pace.

Chairman Kwasneski reported on the launch of Pace's first fixed route electric bus on January 19th. The bus will operate on 95th Street from Southwest Division. He reported that on January 24th, Pace will honor graduates of its CDL training program at South Suburban College. Pace will hold a graduation ceremony for each of its 10 community college CDL training programs.

Directors' Reports

Director Arfa recognized Melinda Metzger, staff, and the board for their hard work providing public transportation and wished them all a restful holiday to gear up for 2024.

Director Canning wished fellow board members, Pace employees, riders, and their families a wonderful holiday and happy new year.

Director Carr hopes everyone has a joyful holiday season.

Director Guerin wished a Merry Christmas to all.

Director Hastings wished a Merry Christmas to all.

Director Marcucci reported on his budget presentation to the DuPage County Board where he highlighted the approaching fiscal cliff. For 2024, Pace is covering a \$56 million operational shortfall (about 20% of the overall budget) with federal Covid relief money, which will run out by 2026. He asked DuPage County Board members for their help appealing to the Illinois Legislature. He explained to them that we do not want to cut 20% of our service and we cannot cover the shortfall at the farebox. Director Marcucci praised Pace's innovative solution to supplement ADA service in DuPage County during the driver shortage by using Uber. Uber did not understand Pace's first proposal two years ago, and they are now advertising ADA rides on TV. Finally, Director Marcucci reported that College of DuPage is participating in Pace's CDL course program. He thanked DuPage County Chair Conroy for her efforts and support.

Director McLeod reported that he and Melinda Metzger met with Senator Duckworth, a resident of Hoffman Estates, to discuss Pace issues.

Director Noak sends his holiday greetings to all.

Director Schielke reported on the Pace, RTA, and Metra budget presentation to the Kane County Board. They were complimentary towards the new Dial-a-Ride service "Ride In Kane" for seniors. Director Schielke asked for the County's help talking to the state legislature. Kane

County and Pace plan to discuss CMAP's PART proposal to reorganize and combine the service boards. Director Schielke believes that PART has been given to Springfield without any direction about how the reorganization would occur who would control a consolidated transit agency. He urged the Board to understand the services offered within the areas they represent and communicate the need for those services to the General Assembly and the state Senate.

Director Smith wished everyone a safe and happy holiday and explained that she will be abstaining from a vote on today's agenda due to a potential conflict of interest.

Director Soto reported that it is a pivotal time for transportation and we have a lot of challenges ahead. She looks forward to working with everyone on a dynamic 2024.

Executive Director's Report

Melinda Metzger stated her appreciation for the operators and mechanics who will be working over the holiday season putting service on the road. She thanked the board for their advocacy for Pace to legislators and their local communities.

Melinda reported on a meeting with Senator Duckworth and Director McLeod to discuss Pace projects, public transportation access, and how important Pace is to the suburbs and the city.

Melinda reported on partnering with the DuSable Museum of African American History for their Martin Luther King, Jr. Day event on January 15th. Pace will have a hiring table there, as well as a 1949 GMC legacy fleet bus with a storyteller on board talking about Rosa Parks.

Melinda reported that Pace received two integrated marketing campaign awards from the Public Relations Society of America for ADA paratransit campaigns that promoted the TAP program, TripCheck, and Ventra on ADA. She thanked Director Marcucci for his involvement.

Melinda reported on Project Zero. Pace will hold a ribbon-cutting for the first fixed route electric bus that will operate along 95th Street on January 19th. Pace will continue to test the technology and learn about battery power. Pace is progressing on the installation of charging stations at Pace Park-n-Rides, so customers can plug in their cars, hop on the bus, and go to their destination; chargers at headquarters will be complete by year's end. Pace has touched base with the new company that has purchased Proterra regarding our order of 22 battery electric buses, which will go on the production line in March and will roll out summer of 2024. On January 8, Pace will receive our first electric paratransit vehicle, which will be housed at River Division.

Melinda reported on Pulse. Since launching full service in October, the combined ridership of Pulse Dempster and Roue 250 is up 21% compared to last year. The first corridor advisory group meeting for Pulse Cermak attracted more than 40 attendees including partner agencies, elected officials, municipalities, and property owners. The advisory group will meet again in March. The procurement process for design services is underway for Pulse 95th Street and Pulse Halsted.

Melinda reported that to attract more ridership, Pace no longer requires Pace Connect trips to start or end at the Harvey Transit Center. Since June, 2700 rides have been taken. Melinda provided an update on recruitment. Pace extended 29 offers at Hire on the Spot events at Pace headquarters and hosted its first recruitment event at College of DuPage.

Melinda reported on the year-to-date budget performance through October, which is positive for both suburban and ADA service. November 2023 systemwide ridership is up 17.2% over November 2022 to 1.8 million riders. This is the highest weekday ridership since the pandemic.

Melinda recognized twenty-four employees retiring from Pace in 2023, each with over twenty years of service. Melinda also introduced Pace's 18 one-million miler inductees and 2 two-million miler inductees for 2023. Sponsored by the National Safety Council, the program recognizes bus operators for driving one million miles without a preventable accident.

Director Schielke inquired about the charging stations that Pace is installing in Park-n-Rides open to the public. He explained that when the City of Batavia installed a free public charging station, it was met with complaints from residents whose electric bills had increased to an unaffordable rate, while the City was allowing people driving luxury cars to charge their vehicles for free. Batavia now charges for use of its charging station. Melinda explained that Pace will charge a rate comparable to what Pace pays for electricity.

Director Marcucci asked for an approximate cost to electrify a Pace garage. Melinda said every facility is different, but about \$100 million - \$300 million per garage. Director Noak brought up that that cost might not include additional electrical capacity or substations that need to be constructed in order to meet electric needs. Chairman Kwasneski added that the substations that will serve Pace garages also need to serve other businesses and manufacturing facilities. ComEd needs to make improvements for the entire region, not just for Pace. The legislature needs to decide who pays for what. Chairman Kwasneski brought up the new legislation this year that mandated all vehicles purchases by government bodies be electric starting in 2026, which is only possible if the grid is ready.

Items removed from the Consent Agenda

None.

Approval of Consent Agenda

SBD #23-100 – Resolution honoring Pace's 2023 Retirees with over 20 years of service.

SBD #23-101 – Ordinance authorizing an annual update to the Safety Plan in accordance with the Federal Transit Administrator's Final Rule and the changes required under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.

SBD #23-102 – Ordinance adopting the Third Amended Bylaws of Pace's Suburban ADA Advisory Committee.

SBD #23-103 – Ordinance authorizing the award of a contract to Bridgestone Americas Tire Operations, LLC for tire leasing and services in an amount not to exceed \$6,279,614.40.

SBD #23-104 – Ordinance authorizing the award of a contract to Y&S Technologies, Inc. for desktops, laptops, and accessories in an amount not to exceed \$1,216,870.00.

Director McLeod moved, and Director Guerin seconded a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion passed with the following roll call vote: Directors Arfa, Canning, Carr, Guerin, Hastings, Marcucci, McLeod, Noak, Schielke, Smith, Soto, and Chairman Kwasneski. All directors voted aye.

Action Items

SBD #23-105 – Ordinance authorizing Board Member travel and business expenses for October 2023 - November 2023 pursuant to Public Act 099-0604 Local Government Travel Expense Control Act – Richard Kwasneski.

Director Carr moved, and Director Schielke seconded a motion to approve the Ordinance. The motion passed with the following roll call vote: Directors Arfa, Canning, Carr, Guerin, Hastings, Marcucci, McLeod, Noak, Schielke, Smith, Soto, and Chairman Kwasneski. Chairman Kwasneski abstained. All other directors voted aye.

SBD #23-106 – Ordinance amending the 2023 Operating and Capital Program Budget (Amendment #3).

Kris Skogsbakken, Director of Capital Grants, presented. Director Canning sought clarification on how money that the FTA allocated to Wisconsin is coming to the Round Lake Beach Area.

Director McLeod moved, and Director Schielke seconded a motion to approve the Ordinance. The motion passed with the following roll call vote: Directors Arfa, Canning, Carr, Guerin, Hastings, Marcucci, McLeod, Noak, Schielke, Smtih, Soto, and Chairman Kwasneski. All directors voted aye.

SBD #23-107 – Ordinance authorizing the award of a sole source contract to Oracle America, Inc., a subsidiary of Oracle Corporation, for Oracle Market-Driven interim support for Oracle Enterprise Business Suite (EBS) software in an amount not to exceed \$165,000.00.

Scott Kinsella, Chief Information Officer, presented. Director Canning and Chairman Kwasneski led a discussion on the eventual need to integrate EBS to a cloud-based software upon the completion of this contract.

Director McLeod moved, and Director Carr seconded a motion to approve the Ordinance. The motion passed with the following roll call vote: Directors Arfa, Canning, Carr, Guerin, Hastings, Marcucci, McLeod, Noak, Schielke, Soto, and Chairman Kwasneski.

Director Smith abstained. All other directors voted aye.

SBD #23-108 – Ordinance authorizing Change Order No. 3 to Contract No. 230822 with Holabird & Root, LLC for architectural and engineering services for the River Division expansion and improvements. This change order extends the contract for four years, five months, and increases the contract total from \$2,788,718.24 to \$6,280,712.89, an increase of \$3,491,994.65.

Josh Berger, Department Manager of Capital Infrastructure, presented. Chairman Kwasneski and Director Canning confirmed that the change order is being proposed to incorporate findings from the PPMO Facilities Plan Study. Director Marcucci clarified that Pace's commitment is to zero emissions, not electric vehicles. Pace is pursuing hydrogen fuel cell as well. Director Marcucci believes we need help at the federal level to achieve expensive zero emission goals while dealing with the fiscal cliff. Chairman Kwasneski suggested presenting the Facilities Plan to the Board at a future meeting to get a sense of the big picture, acknowledging that it is a living document that will be implemented over a twenty-year period; technology may change. Director Smith applauded Pace for taking steps available now towards zero emissions instead of standing still to see what the future brings, otherwise we would never move forward.

Director McLeod moved, and Director Marcucci seconded a motion to approve the Ordinance. The motion passed with the following roll call vote: Directors Arfa, Canning, Carr, Guerin, Hastings, Marcucci, McLeod, Noak, Schielke, Smith, Soto, and Chairman Kwasneski. All directors voted aye.

Director Hastings left the meeting at 10:42 a.m.

SBD #23-109 – Ordinance authorizing Change Order No. 3 to Contract No. 230644 with Luminator Technology Group, Inc. for Vehicle Information Management (ViM) software and Gold Service Fleet maintenance for on-board equipment. This change order increases the contract total from \$1,816,205.75 to \$1,878,014.75, an increase of \$61,809.00.

Jane Swider, Chief Procurement Officer, presented on how this change order is the extension of the existing contract as Pace negotiates a new contract, which is the next item on the agenda.

Director Schielke moved, and Director Carr seconded a motion to approve the Ordinance. The motion passed with the following roll call vote: Directors Arfa, Canning, Carr, Guerin, Marcucci, McLeod, Noak, Schielke, Smtih, Soto, and Chairman Kwasneski. All directors voted aye.

SBD #23-110 – Ordinance authorizing the award of a sole source contract to Luminator Technology Group Global, LLC for fleetwide preventive and remedial maintenance services for on-board video equipment and software maintenance for the on-board video system in an amount not to exceed \$1,525,254.86

Jane Swider, Chief Procurement Officer, explained that this new sole source contract covers a larger maximum fleet size and the contract term was reduced from six years to three years.

Director McLeod moved, and Director Canning seconded a motion to approve the Ordinance. The motion passed with the following roll call vote: Directors Arfa, Canning, Carr, Guerin, Marcucci, McLeod, Noak, Schielke, Smtih, Soto, and Chairman Kwasneski. All directors voted aye.

SBD #23-111 – Ordinance authorizing the award of a contract to F.H. Paschen, S.N. Nielsen & Associates LLC for design and construction services for electrical upgrades, site work, and installation of charging infrastructure and a concrete outdoor storage area for 12 battery electric buses at Pace North Division in an amount not to exceed \$12,543,862.00.

Charlotte Obodzinski, PPMO Manager, presented. Chairman Kwasneski pointed out that Pace plans to store electric buses outside under a canopy until the fire protection system inside a garage is updated. Director Schielke provided several comments about how the region needs to generate more power to support the vastly increasing demands on the grid. Governor Pritzker recently vetoed legislation that would expand nuclear power throughout the state. Charlotte Obodzinski pointed out that so many businesses have closed in the area surrounding North Division, so Pace is able to pull existing capacity off the grid and reallocate to our site. ComEd has already completed a line extension for additional power for Phases 1 and 2.

Director Schielke moved, and Director Canning seconded a motion to approve the Ordinance. The motion passed with the following roll call vote: Directors Arfa, Canning, Carr, Guerin, Marcucci, McLeod, Noak, Schielke, Smtih, Soto, and Chairman Kwasneski. All directors voted aye.

Issues/Discussion/Reports

Chairman Kwasneski encouraged Directors to review the October 2023 budget reports and financial statements contained in their packets.

Adjournment

Chairman Kwasneski asked for a motion to adjourn into closed session for the purposes of discussing Closed Session Minutes (2-C-21). Director Guerin moved, and Director Smith seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote. All directors voted aye.

The meeting adjourned at 11:04 a.m.

Reconvene

Chairman Kwasneski reconvened the open session of the Pace Board of Directors meeting at 11:13 a.m.

Directors physically present: Arfa, Canning, Carr, Guerin, Marcucci, McLeod, Schielke, Smith, and Chairman Kwasneski.

Directors virtually present: Noak and Soto.

Directors absent: Hastings and Wells.

SBD #23-112 – Resolution approving the closed session meeting minutes of November 8, 2023.

Director Schielke moved, and Director Smith seconded a motion to approve the Resolution. The motion passed with a unanimous vote. All directors voted aye.

SBD #23-113 – Ordinance approving that the closed session minutes of December 15, 2021, February 15, 2023, and September 20, 2023 are available for public inspection, and that the closed session minutes of January 14, 2015, February 11, 2015, March 11, 2015, May 13, 2015, June 10, 2015, September 18, 2019, September 15, 2021, November 10, 2021, March 16, 2022, August 17, 2022, May 17, 2023, June 21, 2023, August 16, 2023, and October 18, 2023 and are not available for public inspection.

Director Canning moved, and Director McLeod seconded a motion to approve the Ordinance. The motion passed with the following roll call vote: Directors Arfa, Canning, Carr, Guerin, Marcucci, McLeod, Noak, Schielke, Smith, Soto, and Chairman Kwasneski. All directors voted aye.

SBD #23-114 – Ordinance approving that the verbatim records of closed sessions for February 16, 2022, March 16, 2022, and June 15, 2022 shall be destroyed.

Director Schielke moved, and Director Canning seconded a motion to approve the Ordinance. The motion passed with the following roll call vote: Directors Arfa, Canning, Carr, Guerin, Marcucci, McLeod, Noak, Schielke, Smith, Soto, and Chairman Kwasneski. All directors voted aye.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Chairman Kwasneski asked for a motion and second to adjourn the Pace Board of Directors meeting.

Director Schielke moved, and Director Guerin seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed with a unanimous vote. The meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

The next regular meeting of the Pace Board of Directors will be held on Wednesday, January 17, 2024 at 9:30 a.m. at 550 West Algonquin Road, Arlington Heights, Illinois.

Elissa Ledvort
Board Secretary, Board of Directors