

**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 21, 2022**

The Board of Directors of Pace, the Suburban Bus Division of the Regional Transportation Authority, met in public session on Wednesday, December 21, 2022, 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, Carr, Guerin, Marcucci, Schielke, Smith, Wells, and Chairman Kwasneski.

Directors virtually or telephonically present: Canning, Hastings, McLeod, Noak, and Soto.

Directors absent: Noak.

Director Noak joined the meeting at 9:31 a.m.

SBD #22-88 – Resolution approving the open session meeting minutes of November 9, 2022.

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

Public Comment

Rodney Flippen of Calumet City asked Pace to consider bringing back Route 355. Without it, Mr. Flippen has either walked two miles to connect to the 358 bus or taken expensive Uber rides. Chairman Kwasneski said a Pace representative would contact Mr. Flippen directly to assist.

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's Report

On behalf of the Pace Board of Directors, Chairman Kwasneski wished all employees and riders a happy holiday. He hopes Pace continues to emerge from the pandemic in the new year.

Chairman Kwasneski reported that the Plainfield Garage Open House held on December 7 was attended by over 60 people. Staff gave tours of each department to elected officials, who may become potential advocates for similar improvement projects in the future. NBC News covered the event; this will hopefully get Pace more good press in the future. The Chairman said the event benefitted staff from other garages by giving them a preview of how a high-tech garage will operate. Chairman Kwasneski congratulated Melinda Metzger and staff on a job well done.

Directors' Reports

Director Arfa wished everyone happy holidays, thanked Melinda for her hard work on exciting changes this year, and thanked staff who make the agency work every single day. She honored the riders, including people with disabilities, who put so much trust in Pace to get them from point A to point B. She said everyone at Pace takes this responsibility very seriously.

Director Canning reported that CFO Lorri Newson, Chief Planning Officer Erik Llewellyn, and himself represented Pace at a City Club of Chicago luncheon entitled the Future of Chicagoland Transit. Leanne Redden spoke on behalf of the RTA covering the three service boards, in addition to other speakers. Director Canning said the event reinforced what we have been saying throughout the pandemic – Pace carries essential workers to essential places. Bus service is important within the city and suburbs.

Director Canning also reported on the Joint Meeting of the Planning and Infrastructure Committees held on December 14th. At the meeting, Erik Llewellyn presented on a network revitalization and system restructuring initiative in which Pace will hire a consultant to formulate a multi-year plan to right-size our agency. More to come on this initiative in the next couple years. PPMO Manager Charlotte Obodzinski presented on the electrification transition and facility plan. The summary included in the board packet can be distributed to elected officials. Director Canning said Pace is making progress, but there is a lot of work to be done, a lot of money to be procured, and a lot of equipment and infrastructure to be built to achieve our goal by 2040. Ryan Ruehle, of Pace's PPMO Office, presented a report card on Pace's Driving Innovation plan to assess how we are progressing towards our goals set forth in the plan; he will present this to the board at the next meeting.

Director Canning concluded by wishing the board, the agency, and riders happy holidays and a happy new year. He hopes staff working during the snowy weekend are safe and careful. He recognized Million Milers and all operators who work every day and year through bad weather.

Director Carr reported that the new Plainfield facility is impressive, an improvement from the former Joliet garage, and an asset to the region. He wished everyone a great holiday.

Director Guerin commended the presentations by staff at the Joint Meeting of the Planning and Infrastructure Committees and wished all happy holidays and a great new year.

Director Hastings said Pace has the best bus agency in the United States and the best employees. He wished all a Merry Christmas.

Director Marcucci reported on his budget presentation to the DuPage County Board on December 13th. He said they were engaged and asked a lot of great questions. DuPage needs about 14 more operators to cover all services in the county including Ride DuPage and Dial-a-Ride, and the Board praised Pace's progress on staffing and CDL programs at various community colleges. The presentation occurred a day after the Chicago Tribune published an article on the dire need for transportation funding in the Chicago metro area; during his presentation to DuPage, Director Marcucci highlighted the budget cliff that Pace will face in 2025. He said the world would be a better place if we all drove electric vehicles, but an electric bus costs double a diesel or CNG bus and the costs of massive infrastructure projects over the next 20 years still need to be determined. Reasonable fare increases will not be enough to support the funds needed. Director Marcucci said we need our local elected officials, county boards, mayors, and the Mayor of Chicago to advocate for additional funds.

Chairman Kwasneski commented that several county boards elected new members and recommended that Pace's government affairs representatives offer to brief newly elected officials on the variety of services Pace provides.

Director McLeod wished everyone a happy holiday. He looks forwards to the new year and to whatever challenges we'll face.

Director Noak wished everyone a happy holiday and thanked all staff, board members, and the Chairman for their hard work this year.

Director Schielke reported that he presented Pace's budget to the Kane County Board and attended the Plainfield open house. As Chairman of the CMAP Council of Mayors, Director Schielke attended an IDOT presentation analyzing the impact of the electric vehicle on highways and how Illinois will make up for lost motor fuel tax revenue when electric vehicles on the roads increase. Illinois needs a tax on electric vehicles but must decide how to collect it. Chairman Kwasneski agreed, saying charging stations are free now, but eventually Illinois will need to charge fees to support the new demand on the electrical grid. The legislature is reviewing this issue. Director Schielke said he asked IDOT if publicly owned electric vehicles, such as buses, police cars, and fire trucks, would be exempt from a tax on electricity, if it was instituted.

Director Smith wished everyone a happy holiday and thanked frontline staff for battling the winter weather this week. Director Smith said she was proud of Pace for uniquely adapting to meet the changing needs of our customers, which was made apparent during her budget presentation to the McHenry County Board. She also commended Pace for working with Crystal Lake and McHenry County to reroute Route 550, coming to a compromise that she believes will enhance safety, improve access to transportation, and respect the concerns of some residents.

Director Smith commented on the December Joint Planning and Infrastructure Committee Meeting, commending Pace's remarkable progress towards *Driving Innovation*/zero-emission goals.

Director Soto also extended season's greetings to staff and fellow Directors. She reported on the listening tour and program on College of Lake County's new Waukegan campus building, which she visited with Pace Community Rep. Ed Gallagher, CFO Lorri Newson, and Melinda Metzger. She was impressed with the building, which overlooks a busy Pace Bus terminal. She noted that Pace was invited to the event by former employee and current transit-supportive State Rep. Rita Mayfield, who heads the House's Black Caucus. She believes Pace made connections that would bear fruit, and she was happy with Melinda's presentation. Director Soto also echoed Directors Canning and Smith's positive thoughts on the Joint Planning and Infrastructure Committee Meeting.

Director Wells began his report with comments on Pace's efforts to partner with community colleges on recruitment and CDL licensure. He told the board he convinced South Suburban College, whose board he chairs, to participate in this program in the near future. He encouraged employees to stay safe in upcoming cold weather and to enjoy the holidays.

Executive Director's Report

Melinda Metzger wished the Board a happy holiday season and expressed her gratitude for the Board's (and Pace staff's) flexibility and openness to change. She thanked Pace's Divisions for the extra work involved in preparing for winter weather.

Melinda updated the Board on earmark grants in the FY23 Federal Budget. All five items Pace applied for made it into the final budget, which include electric vehicles for the Waukegan and Elgin areas; a park-n-ride facility in Bolingbrook; and traffic signal priority technology for Harlem, Cermak, and 95th St. in west and southwestern Cook County.

Melinda reported that the RTA board formally adopted Pace's budget. She thanked Pace Directors for presenting Pace's budget to various county boards. She noted particular interest among these boards in Pace's CDL/recruitment programs and commented that seven such programs are now active or in development.

Melinda echoed Director Soto's positive comments on the College of Lake County listening tour event and several Directors' reports on the recent Joint Planning and Infrastructure Committee meeting, stressing the importance of the recently completed Zero-Emission Bus Transition Plan.

Melinda reported on a 2.4% increase in system ridership over the last year, noting Vanpool's 31% year-to-date growth. She also called attention to the 3,000 monthly riders on Pace's new DuPage Access Program partnership with Uber as well as the impressive growth of the new UZURV TNC program. She noted Pace's strong end-of-year budget performance.

Melinda summarized the agenda items, highlighting a real-time departure board currently being demonstrated at Chicago Lighthouse and corresponding Trapeze upgrades. Melinda's presentation ended with a brief video showcasing Pace's accomplishments in 2022, before which she thanked staff and the Board once more for their hard work over the past year.

Items removed from the Consent Agenda

None.

Approval of Consent Agenda

SBD #22-99 - Ordinance authorizing the approval of Change Order No. 5 to Contract No. 225875 with Cellco Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless for mobile broadband wireless communication services. This change order extends the contract for three years, through October 2, 2025, and increases the contract total from \$4,769,270.47 to \$8,180,073.21, an increase of \$3,410,802.74.

SBD #22-100 - Ordinance authorizing the approval of Change Order No. 5 to Contract No. 224837 with ADP, LLC for payroll processing services. This change order extends the contract for one year, through December 31, 2023, and increases the contract total from \$1,265,620.09 to \$1,480,974.36, an increase of \$215,354.27.

SBD #22-101 - Ordinance authorizing Pace's Executive Director to execute the Amendment to the Intergovernmental Agreement Implementing a Reciprocal Riding Privileges Program among Pace, the CTA, and Metra.

SBD #22-102 - Ordinance authorizing the award of a contract to Mansfield Power and Gas, LLC for the purchase of pipeline quality compressed natural gas (CNG) and related broker management services for 13 Pace facilities in an amount not to exceed \$3,653,346.26.

SBD #22-103 - Ordinance authorizing the Executive Director to execute Pace's updated Safety Plan which meets the requirements of the Federal Transit Administration's final rule and the changes required under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.

Director Schielke moved, and Director Smith 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, Wells, and Chairman Kwasneski. All directors voted aye.

Action Items

SBD #22-104 - Ordinance authorizing Pace's Executive Director to execute the First Amendment to the Intergovernmental Agreement (Omnibus) between Pace and the CTA.

Director Guerin 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, Hastings, Marcucci, McLeod, Noak, Schielke, Smith, Soto, Wells, and Chairman Kwasneski.

All directors voted aye.

SBD #22-105 - Ordinance authorizing Pace's Executive Director to execute the First Amendment to the Intergovernmental Cooperation Agreement between Pace and the CTA.

Director Schielke moved, and Director Wells 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, Wells, and Chairman Kwasneski. All directors voted aye.

SBD #22-106 - Ordinance amending the Capital Operating Budget (Amendment #4).

Director Smith 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, Wells, and Chairman Kwasneski. All directors voted aye.

SBD #22-107 - Ordinance authorizing the approval of Change Order No. 12 to Contract No. 224410 with Trapeze Software Group, Inc. for Paratransit scheduling and dispatch technology enhancements, customizations, and developments (Task V.). This change order increases the contract total from \$19,367,765.03 to \$19,725,379.03, an increase of \$357,614.00.

Director Schielke 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, Wells, and Chairman Kwasneski. All directors voted aye.

Issues/Discussion/Reports

Chairman Kwasneski encouraged the Directors to review the October 2022 budget reports and financial statements contained in their packets, and to reach out to staff with questions.

Adjournment

Chairman Kwasneski asked for a motion to adjourn into closed session for the purposes of discussing Pending Litigation (2-C-11), Collective Bargaining (2-C-2), and Closed Session Minutes (2-C-21). Director Schielke moved, and Director Smith seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote. All directors voted aye.

The meeting adjourned at 10:44 a.m.

Reconvene

Chairman Kwasneski reconvened the open session of the Pace Board of Directors meeting at 11:17 a.m.

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

Directors virtually or telephonically present: Canning, Hastings, McLeod, Noak, and Soto.

Directors absent: None.

Director Soto left the meeting at 11:18 a.m.

SBD #22-108 – Ordinance approving action on Janusz Gorz, as independent administrator of the Estate of Agata Gorz, deceased v. Pace, the Suburban Bus Division of the Regional Transportation Authority and Ossie Howard; Cook County Case No. 22 L 2959.

Director Schielke 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, Hastings, Marcucci, McLeod, Noak, Schielke, Smith, Wells and Chairman Kwasneski. All Directors voted Aye.

Director Soto rejoined the meeting at 11:19 a.m.

SBD #22-109 – Ordinance authorizing the Executive Director to execute the successor Collective Bargaining Agreement between Pace North Shore Division and the Amalgamated Transit Union, Local #241, and to take whatever steps are necessary or appropriate to implement and administer the Collective Bargaining Agreement.

Director McLeod moved, and Director Wells 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, Smith, Wells and Chairman Kwasneski. All Directors voted Aye.

SBD #22-110 – Ordinance authorizing the Executive Director to execute the successor Collective Bargaining Agreement between Pace River Division and the Service Employees International Union, Local #73, and to take whatever steps are necessary or appropriate to implement and administer the Agreement.

Director Schielke 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, Soto, Smith, Wells and Chairman Kwasneski. All Directors voted Aye.

SBD #22-111 – Resolution approving the closed session meeting minutes of November 9, 2022.

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

SBD #22-112 – Ordinance approving that the closed session minutes of June 15, 2022 and September 21, 2022 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, December 15, 2021, March 16, 2022, and August 17, 2022 are not available for public inspection.

Director Soto 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, Soto, Smith, Wells and Chairman Kwasneski. All Directors voted Aye.

SBD #22-113 – Ordinance authorizing the destruction of verbatim records of closed sessions for June 17, 2020, July 15, 2020, August 19, 2020, and September 16, 2020.

Director Schielke moved, and Director Smith 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, Smith, Wells 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 11:24 a.m.

The next regular meeting of the Pace Board of Directors will be held on Wednesday, January 18, 2023 at 9:30 a.m. at Pace Corporate Headquarters, 550 West Algonquin Road, Arlington Heights, Illinois.



Elissa Ledvort
Board Secretary, Board of Directors