

**STATE OF WISCONSIN**  
**Department of Employee Trust Funds**  
Robert J. Conlin  
SECRETARY

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January 31, 2012

JOHN D FORESTER  
DIRECTOR OF GOVERNMENT RELATIONS  
SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS ALLIANCE  
4797 HAYES ROAD SUITE 201  
MADISON WI 53704

Dear Mr. Forester:

I am writing on behalf of the State of Wisconsin Teachers Retirement Board. At a recent meeting of the Board, members expressed concern about the difficulty of getting public school teachers to run for open seats on the Board. Members also discussed the possibility that teachers may find it more difficult to attend Board meetings in the future in light of expiring collective bargaining agreements. They asked that I disseminate information to school districts about the Teachers Retirement Board and its importance to the governance of the Wisconsin Retirement System (WRS). Thank you for agreeing to facilitate the transmission of this information to school administrators across the State.

There are three Boards of Trustees with governance responsibilities over the administration of the WRS, one of which is the Teachers Retirement Board. The Teachers Retirement Board advises the Employee Trust Funds Board on retirement and other benefit matters involving public school, technical college, state and university teachers; acts on administrative rules and hears disability benefit appeals. The Board also appoints four members to serve on the ETF Board and one member to serve on the State of Wisconsin Investment Board (SWIB). Eight of the 13 members are directly elected by active teachers around the state and one is elected by retired teachers. We are currently seeking nominations for one open seat on the Board. Information about the nomination process is included in the January edition of the WRS News.


Members attend meetings in Madison four times a year (March, June, September, and December). They regularly review actuarial reports on the financial health of the WRS, receive updates on SWIB's investment of WRS funds, and keep tabs on legislative activity affecting the WRS. They also provide guidance to the Department and the ETF Board by voicing participant and employer concerns and identifying ways to improve service to participants and employers. Members also serve as liaisons and information conduits with teachers around the state.

John D. Forester  
January 31, 2012  
Page 2

The WRS is an important fringe benefit for public school districts in Wisconsin. A solid governance structure has helped make the WRS the strong, cost-effective pension plan that it is today. While I understand that it is difficult to free up staff time to participate in Board meetings in Madison, I would like to encourage district administrators to support teachers in their districts who may consider serving on the Teachers Retirement Board.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Conlin', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Robert J. Conlin  
Secretary

CC 12-006