

**METRO RTA
ANNUAL & MONTHLY BOARD MEETING MINUTES
ROBERT K. PFAFF TRANSIT CENTER BOARD ROOM
TUESDAY, AUGUST 27, 2024 9:00 AM**

Trustees Present: Mark Derrig, Dana LaGarde, Renee Greene, Robert DeJournett, Christine Marshall, Chuck Rector, Bob Konstand, John Valle, Gary Spring, Donald Christian, David Prentice and Nicole Squire

Trustees Excused:

Trustees Absent:

METRO Team

Members Present: Dawn Distler, Lauren Zidones, Gert Wilms, Jarrod Hampshire, Angela Neeley, Tatia Harris, Molly Becker, Laura Adkins, Nathan Leppo, Bambi Miller, DeHavilland, Jay Hunter, Laura Adkins, Romale Shelton and Dietra Goggins

Guests Present: Apostlett Prophetess

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Mark Derrig called the meeting to order at 9:01 am.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Ms. Apostlett Prophetess spoke for five minutes.

RECOGNITION

CEO: Dawn Distler & CAO: Jay Hunter

Congratulations Mr. Romale Shelton 25 Years of Safe Driving as a METRO Bus Operator.

Congratulations Mr. Jarrod Hampshire named a member of Leadership Akron's Signature class number 41.

Congratulations Ms. Dietra Goggins selected for the 9th class of Diversity on Board program for Leadership Akron.

BOARD MINUTES Mr. Robert DeJournett a motion to approve the minutes from the June meeting. Ms. Renee Greene 2nd the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved.

COMMITTEE REPORTS & RESOLUTIONS

CUSTOMER EXPERIENCE & SERVICE PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Chair: John Valle

The Committee met on August 15th and KPIs were reviewed. There were two resolutions recommended by the committee.

RESOLUTION 2024-13 a resolution authorizing the disposal or transfer of certain assets owned by METRO Regional Transit Authority.

The resolution was discussed. Introduction of Mr. Ben Capelle, CEO of Laketran. He extended his gratitude to METRO for the support and assistance we provided to Laketran

Mr. John Valle on behalf of the committee made a motion to approve the resolution. Ms. Renee Greene 2nd the motion.

All presented voted “aye”.

The resolution was approved.

RESOLUTION 2024-14 a resolution authorizing the first of three Guaranteed Maximum Price contracts for the construction of the Maintenance Operations Facility.

The resolution was discussed. Mr. John Valle acknowledged the outstanding presentation by Mr. Jarrod Hampshire who provided a comprehensive explanation of the project at the meeting held a few weeks ago. The major challenge we are encountering is Build America Buy America, something we didn't anticipate.

Mr. Gary Spring inquired about strategies to prevent additional cost from affecting future projects. Mr. Jarrod Hampshire explained that a review of all capital projects planned for the next five to ten years is necessary. We will depend on professional services to ensure that all aspects are thoroughly addressed. Mr. Gary Spring then asked whether this situation represents a unique convergence of issues occurring simultaneously.

Ms. Dawn Distler mentioned described the situation as a “perfect storm”, noting that inflation rate has been outrageous over the past two years. Like changing the rules in the middle of the game. She pointed out that everyone is struggling to adapt to these new regulations. Looking ahead, a key consideration will be how the U.S. responds to these challenges, as administrative changes could lead to shifts in regulations at any time.

Mr. Donald Christian noted that during the committee meeting, the team delivered a very detailed presentation on the project. Mr. Gary Spring expressed that while he has no objections to the done thus far, his concern is how we will handle similar issues in future projects.

Mr. John Valle on behalf of the committee made a motion to approve the resolution. Mr. Chuck Rector 2nd the motion.

All presented voted “aye”.

The resolution was approved.

INTERNAL & EXTERNAL ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

Chair: Chuck Rector

The Committee met on August 15th and KPIs were reviewed. There were no resolutions recommended by the committee.

SAFETY, EQUITY & PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT

Chair: Robert DeJournett

The Committee met on August 15th and KPIs were reviewed. There were no resolutions recommended by the committee.

FINANCE & TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE REPORT

Chair: Bob Konstand

The Committee met on August 15th and the dashboard was reviewed. There were no resolutions recommended by the committee.

OTHER BUSINESS

OFFICERS' REPORTS

Board President:

Mr. Mark Derrig thanked everyone who attended the recent Board Retreat. Your participation was invaluable, and we covered a lot of detailed information regarding future projects. Greystone always does a phenomenal job.

Congratulations to Dawn Distler for being honored with the Outstanding Transportation CEO of the Year Award from APTA. This prestigious award is presented to only one individual each year.

Chief Executive Officer:

Ms. Dawn Distler mentioned that the type of leader you are doesn't matter if you don't have a great team; success depends on the team you build. She feels fortunate to have worked with outstanding teams throughout her career, and she considers her current team to be one of the best, if not the best. Ms. Dawn Distler expressed her deep appreciation and humility for receiving this honor.

Ms. Dawn Distler highlighted that as we look toward the future, one key focus is the Maintenance and Operation Facility. We now have our Guaranteed Maximum Price for the project. Without this new building, our future would be challenging. The Maintenance and Operation team will be thrilled once this project is completed, as it will provide them with the necessary tools to help us become a premier system. She also thanked the Board for their support on this important matter.

Ms. Dawn Distler mentioned our participation in Akron's Pride & Equity March over the weekend. It's always uplifting to see everyone come together and celebrate. Our focus remains on ensuring that our system is equitable and serves the needs of all its users. She thanked everyone who came out and supported all the events.

Ms. Dawn Distler expressed her gratitude to the planning department for the valuable data they provided. This data is instrumental in allowing us to allocate our resources effectively where they are

most needed. The team remains dedicated to improving our services based on what the data reveals and continues to direct our resources appropriately.

Ms. Distler also highlighted the opportunity we've created for many individuals in our committee to become involved with our organization. She shared a personal experience from the Pride & Equity March, where she marched alongside one of our new operators. When asked how things were going, the operator shared that this is the best job she's ever had and that she is preparing to buy a house for her family. The operator also expressed gratitude for the financial literacy information provided by EEC, appreciating how it goes beyond just securing a job to include planning for a successful future.

The next scheduled Board Meeting is September 24th.

NOTE: Mr. Mark Derrig began to transition to the Executive Session but he was interrupted by Ms. Pamela Pinkey-Butts (Apostlett Prophetess), who insisted on receiving information from him. Despite his repeated assurances that he would make sure she had his information. Ms. Pamela Pinkey-Butts (Apostlett Prophetess) left her seat in the audience and approached Mr. Mark Derrig to request the information directly. Mr. Mark Derrig explained that he was in the middle of the meeting. Mr. Shawn Metcalf escorted her out of the Board Room.

Mr. John Valle made the motion to go into the Executive Session. Mr. Bob Konstand 2nd the motion.

ROLL CALL FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION

A roll call vote was held to enter Executive Session. All members voted yes.

Executive Session was entered at 9:41 am.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

ROLL CALL TO EXIT EXECUTIVE SESSION

A roll call vote was held to exit Executive Session. All members voted yes.

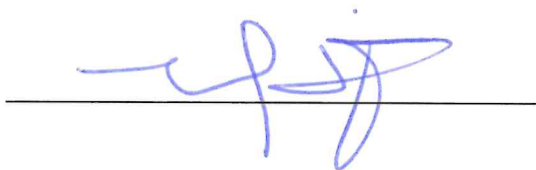
ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 10:20 am.

CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE

Pursuant to Section III, Article 3.2 of the Rules & Regulations of the METRO Regional Transit Authority, METRO has complied with the Notice and Notification to the public and news media.

DATE APPROVED: September 24th



**MARK DERRIG,
PRESIDENT**



**DAWN S. DISTLER,
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER/
SECRETARY-TREASURER**