PERS EMPLOYER ADVISORY GROUP MEETING

Date: 10/23/2026 Time: 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Location: Microsoft Teams

TYPE OF MEETING	Employer Advisory Group (EAG) meeting
FACILITATOR	Sam Paris
NOTE TAKER	Chloe Harris
CALL-IN NUMBER	+1 971-300-4342 Phone conference ID: 881 244 608#
ATTENDEES	**EAG members**: Anne Willis, University of Oregon; Audrey Roberson, Oregon State University; Diana Herb, Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue; Fabiola Flores, Department of Administrative Services; Gina Turner, Portland State University; Jeff White, Marion County; Jon Grover, City of Hillsboro; Matt Warner, City of Tualatin; Robert Tintle, Clackamas County; Sandra LeHoullier, Linn-Benton Community College; Shauna Tobiasson, Department of Administrative Services; Tod Case, Blue Mountain Community College **PERS staff**: Brandon Armatas, Chloe Harris, El Rossman, Ellio Probasco, Ethan Erickson, Heather Case, Jake Winship, Kevin Olineck, Kristi Ivers, Laurel Galego, Matthew Graves, Rachel Schizas, Richard Horsford, Sam Paris, Shawn Harper, Tamie Johnson, Tina Swenson, Troy Phillips **Guests**: Brendan Watkins, Camilla Sparks, Carol Samuels, Donna Chastain, Ian Peterson, Jackie Olsen, Jennifer Jones, Lori Sattenspiel, Morgan Allen, Rhonda Miller

NOTES

TOPIC	**Welcome**	Sam Paris
TIME: 10:00–10:03		
Sam Paris, PERS Chief Operating Officer, welcomed the Employer Advisory Group (EAG) and reviewed the meeting agenda and shared the meeting presentation. Welcomed new EAG Members: Jon Grover from City of Hillsboro and Byron Smith from City of Hermiston.		

TOPIC	**Director's Office update**	Kevin Olineck
TIME: 10:03–10:07		
Kevin Olineck, PERS Director, gave an overview of highlights from the September 2026 PERS Board meeting and provided a preview of the December 4, 2026, PERS Board meeting. The board meeting packets are available on the PERS website.		

September board recap

The September 25, 2026, PERS Board meeting (PDF) topics included results of the 2026 member and employer satisfaction surveys and adoption of 2027-29 employer contribution rates.

December 2026 PERS Board meeting preview

- Board Scorecard Report on agency performance measures.
- Benefits-in-force reconciliation.
- Milliman financial modeling report.

Employer Incentive Fund (EIF) update – deferred to January 29, 2027, meeting.

Topic	**Legislative update**	Heather Case

TIME: 10:07 - 10:10

Heather Case, PERS Senior Policy Advisor, presented a legislative update.

September legislative days

- PERS was instructed to provide a comprehensive report on cloud-based computing strategy and costs to the Emergency Board from a budget item in the June 2026 Emergency Board session. That report was placed on the agenda for the Joint Emergency Board Interim Subcommittee in September.
- Joint Emergency Board Interim Subcommittee on Human Services held on September 8, 2026, where the item was acknowledged. No presentation was needed by PERS.

2027 Legislative Concept update

- PERS is currently working with legislative counsel drafting and revising concepts.
- Final drafts are due to DAS/Governor's Office for approval on November 6, 2026.
- PERS Board will be shown final drafts of the agency concepts December 4, 2026.
- December 11, 2026, is the last day for DAS to file presession bills for the 2027 legislative session.

December legislative days

- Will be held December 1–3, 2026.
- PERS anticipates appearing before the House (and potentially Senate) committees where PERS bills are commonly discussed to give preview of agency bills for the 2027 legislative session.

TOPIC	**Modernization update**	Kristi Ivers/Elli Probasco
TIME: 10:10 - 10:32		

Kristi Ivers, PERS Modernization Program Director and Elli Probasco, Lead Product Owner, presented an update on modernization efforts.

Telephony Modernization Project (*Kristi*)

- Currently working to procure vendor to provide eFax functionality.
- Service order for Amazon Web Services (AWS) phase 3 is complete.
- Phase 3 of Joint Application Design (JAD) sessions begin October 28, 2026, and will focus on enhancing the Interactive Voice Response (IVR) system:
  - 24/7 IVR self-service
  - Streamlined call flows
  - Improved queue management
- Implementation of Phase 3 JAD is planned before June 2027.

Member Identity Access Management (MIAM) Project (*Kristi*)

- Contract negotiations for Identity Verification (IdV) are ongoing.
- End-to-end system integration testing of Identity Provider (IdP) is in progress.
- Internal project team demonstration sessions have been scheduled.
- Phase 1 of IdP implementation planned for April 2027.

Pension Administration System (PAS) modernization (*Kristi*)

- The contract with Segal as the specialized consultant was executed September 18, 2026.
- Vendor kickoff with Segal was held October 22, 2026.
- Project planning and outlining the request for proposal (RFP) are upcoming.
- Employer requirements survey closed August 24, 2026.

Employer Requirements survey results (*Elli*)

- Survey was open for over five weeks.
- Received 348 responses – 43% of survey requests that were emailed.
- 57% of local governments responded.
- 31% of school districts responded, including most community colleges and universities.

Elli reviewed the results of the survey.

- The PERS Product Owner Team will review the requirements gathered from employers, members, and internal staff to determine next steps.

Q: Shauna Tobiasson – What agencies are separate from DAS?
A: Elli – There are about 20 state agencies and councils separate from DAS.
A: Laurel Galego - We call them semi-independent employers.

Q: Shauna Tobiasson – What do you think employers are looking for when they ask for statements?
A: Rachel Schizas – It gets into the finite details of how the system works. Only one person listed gets notified of the reports. If the person in the role changes, or if more than one person wants the report, that could be why.

Q: Shauna – Do you feel overall that the employer interface will still have a massive bulk uploading tool?
A: Kristi Ivers: We have seen new PAS where you can make live edits. Which system we choose and what works best is hard to say at this point.
A: Elli Probasco: We heard that from many employers, so that is a requirement we will prioritize.

TOPIC	**Actuarial update**	Troy Phillips
TIME: 10:32–10:39		

Troy Phillips, PERS Actuarial Business Specialist, presented an update on actuarial activities.

Funded status and unfunded actuarial liability (UAL)

- As of December 31, 2025, the system funding status is 76% without side accounts. With side accounts, funded status is 80%.

Summary of valuation results – contributions

- Average collared base employer contributions will decrease 0.38% of payroll starting July 2027, excluding the effect of Senate Bill (SB) 849 on school district rates.
- Average collared net employer contributions will increase 2.56% of payroll starting July 2027, excluding the effect of SB 849.

Senate Bill (SB) 849

- SB 849 reduced the 2025-27 School District Tier One/Tier Two UAL rate by 1.68% of 2025-27 payroll.
- Preliminary 2027-29 SB 849 offset for schools is 1.37% of 2027-29 payroll. The final offset may be higher.
- Board direction at May 2026 meeting keeps rate collar at 13.95% for 2027-29.

Side Account Expiration project

- Online information session August 25, 2026, had 129 attendees.
  - Slides 2027 Side Account Expiration Process
  - Recording Oregon PERS Side Account Expiration Process
- Online information session September 29, 2026, had 170 attendees.
  - Slides 2027 Side Account Expiration Process presentation for 9/29 info session
  - Recording Side Account Expiration Process Session 2
- PERS Actuarial Services is helping employers through this process by:
  - Tracking side account balances every month.
  - Informing employers if accounts will run out of funds before the end date.
  - Turning off the side account rate offset on the first day of the month after it hits a negative balance.
- 60 side accounts expected to expire before July 1, 2027.

2025 actuarial valuation reports

- Milliman produced individual valuation reports for local governments and school districts with one or more side accounts.
- Valuation reports PERS : Actuarial valuations : State of Oregon
- Employer contribution rates PERS : Contribution rates : Employers : State of Oregon

Q: Sandra LeHoullier – Will the expiration of side accounts result in the increase in employer rates?

A: Jake Winship – Yes, it will increase the amount that employers will have to contribute to offset the loss of the side account.

Topic	**Employer Service Center update**	Laurel Galego/Tamie Johnson

Time: 10:39–10:49

Laurel Galego, Employer Service Center (ESC) Supervisor, and Tamie Johnson, Data Services Section Manager, gave an ESC update.

Reports to support year-end efforts (*Laurel*)

- Employee Eligibility Exception reports.
  - Can be used to determine if corrective action is needed for qualifying employees who may not have enough hours this year or non-qualifying employees who may have too many.
- Inactive Employment report lists all employees who have open enrollment segments and appear to be inactive.
- Suspended records are pulled every Monday, and we are seeing an overall decrease. Thank you for your hard work!

Employer Satisfaction Survey results (*Tamie*)

- Results show clear improvements across all evaluated areas.
- Enhanced training and communication opportunities are being prioritized to better support employer needs.

ESC updates (*Tamie*)

- Revised version of employer guide 11, *Reporting a Leave* is published.
- We assessed member account adjustment scenarios by impact level (high vs. low); PERS staff are identifying changes that may not require supporting documentation.
- Policy Clean-Up Initiative remains committed to refining employer guides and communications.

Q: Shauna Tobiasson – Did the update get sent out in Employer News or should we go find it?

A: Rachel Schizas – It just posted this week, Shawn in Communications will be sending out information shortly.

A: Shawn Harper – The updated guide PDF can be found here.

TOPIC	**Communications update**	Shawn Harper
TIME: 10:49–11:01		

Shawn Harper, Employer Communications Specialist, gave an employer communications update.

2026 PERS Expo

- PERS Expo was hosted online all day on October 7, 2026.
- Largest attendance in history of over 8,000 attendees.
- The website will remain open through the end of the year, but live Q&A features will not be monitored.
- This year was the 20th PERS Expo!

Updated employer materials

- Guide 1, *Overview of PERS*
  - Clarified explanations of wait time and contribution start date.
  - New definition of "major fraction of the month" enacted by SB 851.
  - "Qualifying" hire intent pre-2006 and post-2006.
  - Benefits available for current members, retired members, and nonmembers during their legislative service.
- Guide 7, *Reporting a New Employee*
  - Updated list of types of new hires that need to be reported to PERS and those that do not.
  - Expanded explanation of how to qualify for PERS membership.
  - More information about status checks.
- Guide 11, *Reporting a Leave*
  - New guidelines for leave without pay (LWOP) that must be reported to PERS.
  - Updated definition of earning service credit enacted by SB 851.

Q: Rhonda Miller – Are the new LWOP rules going forward, or are these changes retroactive?

A: Rachel Schizas – The senate bill was effective January 1, 2026. If you need to report an LWOP for a past year, please contact your ESC representative for assistance.

A: Laurel Galego – I wanted to reiterate that cleanup on closed years will require documentation. Something that shows there was a certified leave.

TOPIC	**Additional Items**	Sam Paris
Time: 11:01–11:03		

Sam Paris presented the proposed EAG meeting dates for 2027:

- January 22, 2027
- April 23, 2027
- July 16, 2027
- October 22, 2027

Please reach out to Sam Paris if you have any concern about the dates.

Sam asked for feedback about whether the meetings should remain on Fridays from 10:00 a.m. to noon. The group agreed to keep the meetings as they are.

Topic	**Open discussion**	Sam Paris
Time: 11:03–11:04		
Sam Paris opened the floor for discussion and questions, and none were raised.		

Next meeting facilitator: Sam Paris
Next meeting date and time: Friday, 1/22/2027, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.
EAG information: Employer Advisory Group webpage