

The Retirement Standing Committee of the Ohio Federation of Teachers

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25 **ADVOCATING FOR EQUALITY, TRANSPARENCY, AND OPENNESS of COMMUNICATION**
26 **and INFORMATION FROM the OHIO STATE TEACHERS RETIREMENT SYSTEM BOARD**
27 **TO ITS MEMBERS**

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30 **WHEREAS**, the Ohio State Teachers Retirement System Board is the decision-making body for the
31 investment fund secured through the contributions of Ohio's publicly employed teachers, and

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33 **WHEREAS**, the Ohio State Teachers Retirement System Board is partially composed of seven elected
34 contributing and retired members of the Ohio public educational system who represent the totality
35 of Ohio as well as their home regions, and

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37 **WHEREAS**, the Ohio State Teachers Retirement System Board has recently, and in the past, made
38 decisions and changes to increase the contribution levels of working teachers in Ohio that more than
39 doubles the average percent wage increase realized by teachers in Ohio over the past ten years, and
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41 **WHEREAS**, the Ohio State Teachers Retirement System Board has made the unilateral elimination of
42 the Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) their primary solution for the long-term solvency of the
43 retirement fund, thusly treating all retirees as financial equals, and
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45 **WHEREAS**, the Ohio State Teachers Retirement System Board is no longer contributing to the
46 retirement system healthcare program that provides hospital, medical, dental, vision, and
47 prescription drug coverage to retirees, and
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49 **WHEREAS**, the Ohio State Teachers Retirement System Board has forecast 22, 18, 30, and indefinite
50 years of solvency over the course of 13 months, creating an obvious environment of funding
51 uncertainty, and
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53 **WHEREAS**, the working, contributing, and retired public teachers of Ohio must remain engaged,
54 active, and informed of these changes and how they will impact their hard earned financial and
55 healthy futures, and
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57 **WHEREAS**, the Ohio State Teachers Retirement System Board has within its organization 11 Senior
58 Staff Members and 575 Associate Staff Members in addition to the elected and appointed members
59 of the Board, therefore
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61 **BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Ohio Federation of Teachers demand the Ohio State Teachers Retirement
62 System Board initiate, create, and maintain a system of transparent communication of Retirement
63 Board meetings that includes, but is not limited to the video and audio broadcast of the Board's
64 public meetings that are both digitally streamed live and archived on the STRS public website, and
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66 **THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Ohio State Teachers Retirement System Board
67 initiate, create, and maintain a system of email communication to *individual* Board members so that
68 they may be responsive to the contributing and retired members they represent, similar to those
69 methods employed by elected Ohio legislative representatives with whom any constituent may
70 personally email and receive a digital response from, and
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72 **THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that the Ohio State Teachers Retirement System Board initiate,
73 create, and maintain changes in the STRS regional informational meetings as to how the changes in
74 the retirement pension and healthcare structures will directly affect the financial and health
75 insurance status of retired members and how these changes, coupled with changes at the Federal
76 levels, will affect the retirement planning for working teachers who must plan for an uncertain future
77 that was never disclosed to them as they began their careers.
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