

MINUTES: PUBLIC MEETING ARIZONA STATE RETIREMENT SYSTEM BOARD APPEALS COMMITTEE

HELD Wednesday, October 22, 2025, 9:30 a.m.

The Arizona State Retirement System (ASRS) Board Appeals Committee met in public session in the First Floor Board Room of the ASRS Office, 3300 N. Central Avenue, Phoenix, Arizona 85012.

Ms. Diane Landis, Chairperson of the ASRS Board Appeals Committee, called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

1. Call to Order; Roll Call; Opening Remarks.

Present: Ms. Diane Landis, Chairperson
Mr. Michael Miller, Member

Excused: Ms. Ashley DiMaggio Ruiz, Vice-chairperson

A quorum was present for the purpose of conducting business.

Ms. Mercedes Rodriguez, ASRS Committee Administrator, provided all attendees with meeting guidelines.

2. Consent Agenda

- a. Minutes of the April 09, 2025, Public Meeting of the ASRS Board Appeals Committee
- b. The 2026 Calendar Year Board Appeals Committee Meeting Schedule

Motion: Mr. Michael Miller moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Ms. Diane Landis seconded the motion.

By a roll call vote of 2 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions, 1 excused, the motion was approved.

The Trustee votes were as follows:

Ms. Diane Landis – approved
Mr. Michael Miller – approved
Ms. Ashley DiMaggio Ruiz - excused

3. Approval, Modification, or Rejection of the Administrative Law Judge's Decision Regarding Ms. Diane Meier's Appeal to the ASRS.

Ms. Lynette Evans, Assistant Attorney General, Attorney General's Office, was present to provide independent legal advice to the ASRS Board Appeals Committee if requested.

Ms. Diane Landis introduced the topic of discussion and called on Ms. Diana Meier, Appellant, to address the committee. Ms. Landis verbally confirmed that the ASRS Board Appeals Committee members have received the Administrative Law Judge's (ALJ) decision and all background material, as well as additional submissions by Ms. Meier. Ms. Landis requested that Ms. Meier state the action Ms. Meier would like the Committee to take on the ALJ decision.

Note: There was a momentary audio connectivity issue with Ms. Meier at approximately 09:38 a.m. The issue was resolved at approximately 09:39 a.m.

Ms. Landis confirmed Ms. Meier received her opening remarks.

Ms. Meier stated her background and comments for the record. Her primary complaint is that her retirement is not designated as disabled and it is being taxed. Ms. Landis thanked Ms. Meier for her comments and inquired about any further information to be considered from Ms. Cassie Adams, Assistant Attorney General, or others.

Ms. Adams greeted Ms. Landis and Mr. Miller. She explained the hearing before the ALJ was regarding Ms. Meier's ability to, under the ASRS statutes, retire as disabled. Ms. Adams informed the committee that tax-related matters had not been presented to or considered by the ALJ and therefore would not be appropriate for consideration by the Committee. Ms. Adams further advised the Committee that the primary role of the committee is to approve, reject, or modify the ALJ decision. Ms. Adams stated Ms. Meier does not appear to contest the ALJ decision, and the appellant agrees the ASRS is applying the statute correctly. She advised that the ASRS cannot change the laws, as that is the responsibility of the legislature.

Ms. Landis clarified her understanding with Ms. Adams that issues not presented to the ALJ could not be discussed or taken action on. Ms. Adams confirmed this was her position and referred Ms. Landis to the Committee's legal counsel, Ms. Evans.

Ms. Evans confirmed that the committee was limited to considering evidence and matters raised at the ALJ hearing.

Ms. Landis allowed Ms. Meier to further state her comments regarding her understanding that the ASRS has calculated her pension benefit amount as a nondisabled retiree, rather than considering that she remains disabled.

Ms. Landis requested a response from legal counsel. Ms. Evans suggested that the committee allow Ms. Adams to respond, and a discussion ensued.

Discussion participants: Ms. Evans, Ms. Adams, Ms. Landis, Mr. Miller, and Ms. Meier.

Motion: Mr. Michael Miller moved to accept the Administrative Law Judge Decision. Ms. Diane Landis seconded the motion.

By a roll call vote of 2 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions, 1 excused, the motion was approved.

The Trustee votes were as follows:

Ms. Diane Landis – approved
Mr. Michael Miller – approved
Ms. Ashley DiMaggio Ruiz - excused

Ms. Meier exited the meeting at approximately 9:48 a.m.

4. Approval, Modification, or Rejection of the Administrative Law Judge's Decision Regarding Mr. Robert Talasek's Appeal to the ASRS.

Ms. Lynette Evans, Assistant Attorney General, Attorney General's Office, was present to provide independent legal advice to the ASRS Board Appeals Committee if requested.

Ms. Diane Landis introduced the topic of discussion. Mr. Talasek was not present in person, virtually, or by phone.

Motion: Mr. Michael Miller moved to accept the Administrative Law Judge Decision. Ms. Diane Landis seconded the motion.

By a roll call vote of 2 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions, 1 excused, the motion was approved.

The Trustee votes were as follows:

Ms. Diane Landis – approved
Mr. Michael Miller – approved
Ms. Ashley DiMaggio Ruiz - excused

5. Board Member or Executive Director Requests for Future Agenda Items.

No requests were made.

6. Call to the Public.

No one from the public requested to address the Committee.

7. The next regular public ASRS Board Appeals Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, December 10, 2025, at 9:30 a.m.

Ms. Landis announced that the next public ASRS Board meeting is scheduled to begin at 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, December 10, 2025.

8. Adjournment of the ASRS Board Appeals Committee.

Ms. Diane Landis adjourned the October 22, 2025, ASRS Board Appeals Committee meeting at 9:51 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Mercedes Rodriguez
Committee Administrator
ARIZONA STATE RETIREMENT SYSTEM