



BERS WORDS

A publication of the New York City Board of Education Retirement System

Volume 3 No 3

JULY 1999

CHARLES HAUGHEY RETIRES

Charles Haughey has been an employee of the Board of Education for over 30 years. During that time he has served as both a union officer and employee representative. Mr. Haughey served the membership of BERS for 10 years as Chairman, Vice Chairman, and member of the Board of Retirement, having been first elected in January 1989.

Mr. Haughey retired in April 1999 and at its meeting on May 26, 1999, the Retirement Board approved a resolution noting his commitment and devotion to the membership of BERS. Dr. Irene Impellizzeri, Chairwoman, spoke on behalf of the entire Board in thanking Mr. Haughey for his dedicated service and in wishing him well in his well-deserved retirement.

JAMES KELLY—NEW BOARD MEMBER

James Kelly has been the alternate employee member to Charles Haughey since 1997, and now with the retirement of Mr. Haughey in April 1999, he takes Mr. Haughey's seat on the Board of Trustees as an Employee Member. At a meeting of the Retirement Board held on May 26, 1999, Mr. Kelly was also elected to the office of

Vice-Chairman of the Retirement Board. Mr. Kelly has worked as a custodial engineer for more than 20 years. He is actively involved in representing the custodial engineers and is currently the President of the International Union of Operating Engineers, Local 891.

REBECCA MARSTON—NEW BOARD MEMBER

Rebecca Marston was elected by the membership at a special election held on May 6th to fill the seat vacated by Bina Parikh for the remainder of the term that expires on December 31, 2000. Mrs. Marston is a School Based Substance Abuse Prevention Intervention Specialist ("SAPIS"). She is on the Executive

Board of Local 237, District Council 37 and represents the interests of SAPIS employees in the New York City Public School System, the Parochial School System and the Juvenile Justice System. Mrs. Marston is involved in many union and civic activities.

BERS AND THE FOUR OTHER CITY PENSION FUNDS OUTPERFORM PEERS IN 1998

The New York City Comptroller recently released a statement that the five New York City pension funds, including BERS, earned sub-

stantially more than average in calendar year 1998. The Trust Universe Comparison Services ("TUCS") pension funds median gain for the year

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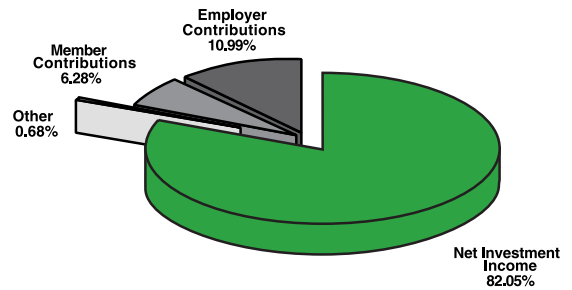
We would like to hear from you. Please let us have your comments on our newsletter, any questions on the enclosed articles or any specific concerns you would like to see addressed. Please direct your comments and questions to The Editor, **BERS Words, Board of Education Retirement System, 65 Court Street, Room 1603. Brooklyn, N.Y. 11201.**

FINANCIAL REPORTS ISSUED

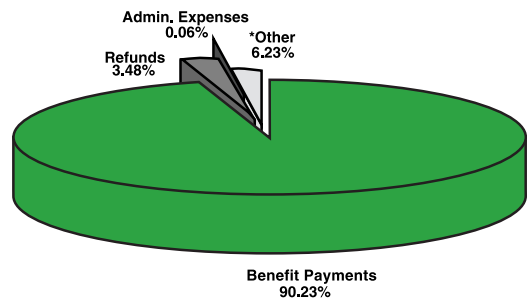
An unqualified opinion was issued by independent auditors, KPMG Peat Marwick LLP, regarding BERS' financial statements for the year ending June 30, 1998. This indicates that in the auditors' opinion, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the net assets of the Plan as of June 30, 1998, and 1997, and the changes in the plan net assets for the years then ended in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles.

The following is a summary of the Statement of Assets and Statement of Changes in Plan Net Assets as of June 30, 1998. The charts reflect the sources and uses of the funds added and deducted from the Plan Assets.

Sources of Funds as % of Total Income



Uses of Funds as a % of Total Expenditures



*Other consist primarily of transfers to and from other retirement systems

Statement of Assets As of June 30, 1998

Assets (in thousands)

Cash	185
Receivables	84,287
Commercial Paper	0
Repurchase Agreements	15,090
Short-Term Fund	28,486
Debt Securities	436,419
Equities	1,085,100
Collateral	62,047
Other Assets	749
Total Assets	1,712,363

Liabilities (in thousands)

Accounts Payable	10,584
Payables	67,444
Accrued Benefits	3,231
Employer Contribution	0
Securities Lending	62,047
Total Liabilities	143,306

**NET ASSETS on
June 30, 1998** **\$1,569,057**

Changes in Assets During Fiscal Year 1998

Cash Position (in thousands)

Net Assets on
June 30, 1997 1,356,469

Additions (in thousands)

Member Contributions	19,634
Employer Contribution	34,380
Investment Income	261,770
Less: Invsmt Expense	5,192
Other	2,129
Total Additions	312,721

Deductions (in thousands)

Benefits Payments and other disbursements	100,133
Total Deductions	100,133

**NET ASSETS on
June 30, 1998** **\$ 1,569,057**

BERS AND THE FOUR OTHER CITY PENSION FUNDS OUTPERFORM PEERS IN 1998 *(continued from page 1)*

was 14.5 percent and BERS earned 16.5%. This has resulted in BERS and the other four City funds being rated in the top 25 percent of all public pension funds in performance. The five funds were

also rated in the bottom 20 percent for expenses in a group of similar size funds, according to a study done by Cost Effectiveness Management Inc., an independent consulting firm.

SOCIAL SECURITY INFO

Information and publications, such as those listed here, may be obtained by calling the Social Security Administration at 1-800-772-1213, or by visiting their website at <http://www.ssa.gov>.

Free publications include:

Understanding Social Security (No. 05-10024)

Disability (No. 05-10029)

Medicare (No. 05-10043)

Help for Low-Income Medicare Beneficiaries
(No. 05-10079)

Survivors (No. 05-10084)

SSI (No. 05-11000)

How Work Affects Your Benefits (No. 05-10069)

How Your Retirement Benefit is Figured
(No. 05-10070)

The Future of Social Security (No. 05-10055)

WHERE IS MY MAIL?

Have any of your fellow members complained that they have not received their copy of the BERSWORDS or other important mailings from BERS? It is likely that these individuals moved and have not provided us with their new address. We truly want all of our members to receive mailings and to keep their current addresses with BERS. However, we have no way of knowing that they have moved unless they directly provide us with the information.

In order to change an active member's address in our records, the member must send us a signed letter containing the following information: Name, Membership or Social Security Number, the Old Address and the New

Address. Active members may also contact us at (718) 935-5400 and we will send a change of address form to them. In order to protect the interests of our retirees, when changing addresses we ask that a retiree contact BERS and request a retiree's change of address form. This form requests similar information but requires the certification of a notary or commissioner of deeds.

Since the members who are no longer receiving their mail will not receive this one either, it would be helpful if you could pass this information on to them. Please share this and any other information you find useful with fellow employees. Thanks for your help!

Q & A

Q. I had inquired about purchasing retirement system credit for my military service time and was told that the law that was passed last year was flawed and that there was going to be corrective action taken in the legislature. What's the status?

A. The State Assembly passed a bill that would eliminate the requirement of paying for the crediting of up to 3 years of military service in time

of war and greatly simplify the entire process. Unfortunately, the State Senate has failed to act on this and it is not known whether and what action they may take. This means that, for now, members wishing to purchase their military time must pay for it at such a high rate that it may not be worth the expense.

The present law specifies that application to purchase shall be made "within 3 years prior to

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Q & A (continued from page 3)

retirement" and permits paying in lump sum or in monthly installments up to the number of months being purchased.

The present law, section 244-a of the Military Law, does not define open "period of war" but Civil Service Law section 85 defines "time of war." This includes WWII (12/7/41-12/31/46), Korea (6/27/50-1/31/55), Vietnam (12/22/61-5/7/75), Persian Gulf (8/2/90-4/11/91) and participation in hostilities in Lebanon, Grenada and Panama as evidenced by receipt of an expeditionary medal.

To apply for purchase of your military service, send a letter along with a copy of your Form DD-214 to:

The Executive Director
Board of Education Retirement System
65 Court St., Room 1603
Brooklyn, NY 11201

Re: Military Service

We will contact you to inform you if you qualify, provide an estimate of the expense and arrange for payment if you decide to proceed.

Irene Impellizzeri, Chairperson
James Kelly, Vice-Chairperson
Jerry Cammarata

Irving S. Hamer, Jr.
Sandra Lerner
Rebecca Marston

Ninfa Segarra
William Thompson, Jr.
Terri Thomson

Horatio Sparkes, Executive Director



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