



STATE OF WISCONSIN  
Department of Employee Trust Funds  
A. John Voelker  
SECRETARY

Wisconsin Department  
of Employee Trust Funds  
PO Box 7931  
Madison WI 53707-7931  
1-877-533-5020 (toll free)  
Fax 608-267-4549  
[etf.wi.gov](http://etf.wi.gov)

## Correspondence Memorandum

**Date:** November 23, 2022

**To:** Employee Trust Funds Board  
Teachers Retirement Board  
Wisconsin Retirement Board

**From:** Cheryllynn Wilkins, Board Liaison  
Office of the Secretary

**Subject:** Board Correspondence

**This memo is for informational purposes only. No Board action is required.**

The Department of Employee Trust Funds (ETF) occasionally receives correspondence on behalf of the Retirement Boards regarding proposed or recent changes to the Wisconsin Retirement System and other benefits.

Since the September 22, 2022, Board meeting, the following communication was submitted for the Board's consideration:

1. November 14, 2022 – Email Correspondence – Inquiry on Sustainability of Retirement Benefits Protection - Peterson

Correspondence for Board consideration is welcome via email to [BoardFeedback@etf.wi.gov](mailto:BoardFeedback@etf.wi.gov) or U.S. postal mail to Department of Employee Trust Funds, c/o Retirement Boards Liaison, P.O. Box 7931, Madison, WI 53707-7931.

Staff will be at the board meeting to answer any questions.

Reviewed and approved by Pamela Henning, Assistant Deputy Secretary  
Electronically Signed 11/28/22

Board	Mtg Date	Item #
JM	12.08.22	4G

**From:** [Paul Peterson](#)  
**To:** [ETF SMB Board Feedback](#)  
**Subject:** Could you all explain to Minnesota how you do so well?  
**Date:** Monday, November 14, 2022 4:43:14 PM

---

**CAUTION: This email originated from outside the organization.  
Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.**

Evening,

Is there any chance you all could meet with Minnesota's TRA and explain to them how you all have protected your benefits over the years instead of having one generation take on all of the burden with a horrible benefit?

Sincerely a very jealous neighbor of your ability and willingness to truly share the sacrifice to keep your retirement plan strong

--

Paul Peterson  
Special Education Teacher  
Falls Elementary School  
International Falls, Minnesota

*This email message is intended only for the use of the individual, individuals, or entity to which it is addressed and may contain information that is privileged, confidential and exempt from disclosure under applicable law. If the reader of this message is not the intended recipient or an employee or agent responsible for delivering the message to the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any dissemination, distribution or copying of this communication is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please delete it immediately. Thank you.*



**STATE OF WISCONSIN**  
**Department of Employee Trust Funds**  
A. John Voelker  
SECRETARY

Wisconsin Department  
of Employee Trust Funds  
PO Box 7931  
Madison WI 53707-7931  
1-877-533-5020 (toll free)  
Fax 608-267-4549  
etf.wi.gov

November 17, 2022

Paul Peterson  
[REDACTED]

Hello Mr. Peterson:

Thank you for contacting the Wisconsin Department of Employee Trust Funds, the state agency that administers the Wisconsin Retirement System (WRS). We appreciate your kind words about the WRS. I am not very familiar with the Minnesota Teachers Retirement Association benefits, but to your point, we have received inquiries from them about WRS benefits. For example, I was asked to participate in an informational meeting with them and other Minnesota retirement systems in the summer of 2020 to talk about how WRS benefits work. In addition, I received an inquiry from the Minnesota Legislative Commission on Pensions and Retirement a few weeks ago and provided information about the funding of the WRS and WRS contribution rates.

Here is a link to the Legislative Fiscal Bureau of the State of Wisconsin's "[Informational Paper #83: Wisconsin Retirement System](#)." This comprehensive report about the WRS explains the history of the WRS, the various law changes, etc.

I hope you find this information helpful. Let me know if you have any questions [matthew.stohr@etf.wi.gov](mailto:matthew.stohr@etf.wi.gov).

Sincerely,

Matt Stohr, Administrator  
Division of Retirement Services  
Department of Employee Trust Funds

**From:** [Paul Peterson](#)  
**To:** [ETF SMB Board Feedback](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Could you all explain to Minnesota how you do so well?  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 23, 2022 4:04:11 PM

---

**CAUTION: This email originated from outside the organization.  
Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.**

Thank you for this reply - I graduated in WI and only wish I had decided to stick around and teach there instead of MN.

Be well.

On Wed, Nov 23, 2022 at 3:53 PM ETF SMB Board Feedback  
<[ETFSMBoardFeedback@etf.wi.gov](mailto:ETFSMBoardFeedback@etf.wi.gov)> wrote:

Hello Mr. Peterson:

Thank you for contacting the Wisconsin Department of Employee Trust Funds, the state agency that administers the Wisconsin Retirement System (WRS). We appreciate your kind words about the WRS. I am not very familiar with the Minnesota Teachers Retirement Association benefits, but to your point, we have received inquiries from them about WRS benefits. For example, I was asked to participate in an informational meeting with them and other Minnesota retirement systems in the summer of 2020 to talk about how WRS benefits work. In addition, I received an inquiry from the Minnesota Legislative Commission on Pensions and Retirement a few weeks ago and provided information about the funding of the WRS and WRS contribution rates.

Here is a link to the Legislative Fiscal Bureau of the State of Wisconsin's "[Informational Paper #83: Wisconsin Retirement System](#)." This comprehensive report about the WRS explains the history of the WRS, the various law changes, etc.

I hope you find this information helpful. Let me know if you have any questions  
[matthew.stohr@etf.wi.gov](mailto:matthew.stohr@etf.wi.gov).

Sincerely,

Matt Stohr, Administrator

Division of Retirement Services

Department of Employee Trust Funds

---

**From:** Paul Peterson <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, November 14, 2022 4:43 PM  
**To:** ETF SMB Board Feedback <[ETFSMBoardFeedback@etf.wi.gov](mailto:ETFSMBoardFeedback@etf.wi.gov)>  
**Subject:** Could you all explain to Minnesota how you do so well?

**CAUTION: This email originated from outside the organization.  
Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.**

Evening,

Is there any chance you all could meet with Minnesota's TRA and explain to them how you all have protected your benefits over the years instead of having one generation take on all of the burden with a horrible benefit?

Sincerely a very jealous neighbor of your ability and willingness to truly share the sacrifice to keep your retirement plan strong

--


Paul Peterson

Special Education Teacher

Falls Elementary School

International Falls, Minnesota

[REDACTED]



*This email message is intended only for the use of the individual, individuals, or entity to which it is addressed and may contain information that is privileged, confidential and exempt from disclosure under applicable law. If the reader of this message is not the intended recipient or an employee or agent responsible for delivering the message to the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any dissemination, distribution or copying of this communication is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please delete it immediately. Thank you.*

*This email message is intended only for the use of the individual, individuals, or entity to which it is addressed and may contain information that is privileged, confidential and exempt from disclosure under applicable law. If the reader of this message is not the intended recipient or an employee or agent responsible for delivering the message to the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any dissemination, distribution or copying of this communication is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please delete it immediately. Thank you.*