

# THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE COLLEGE SAVINGS PLANS OF NEVADA

## MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING

Thursday, April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2025

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### Location:

Via videoconference through Microsoft Teams.

### Board members present:

Chairman Treasurer Zach Conine  
Michael Rankin  
Robin Hager  
Donna Velez

### Others present:

Nicole Ting, Deputy Attorney General  
Kirsten Van Ry, Chief of Staff  
Lori Hoover, Chief Deputy Treasurer  
Tya Mathis-Coleman, Deputy – College Savings  
Blanca Platt, Treasurer's Office  
Veronica Kilgore, Treasurer's Office  
Kristina Ramirez, Treasurer's Office  
Emily Nagel, Treasurer's Office  
Aysun Kilic, Meketa Investments  
Kay Ceserani, Meketa Investments  
Chris Catanese, Ascensus  
Scott Kefer, Victory Capital  
Caroline Churchill, Victory Capital  
Christa Diserio, Victory Capital  
Douglas Polak, JP Morgan  
Tricia Scarlata, JP Morgan  
Liz Farrell, JP Morgan  
Jacklyn Tarapacki, JP Morgan  
Gregory Starita, JP Morgan  
James Sparks, GRS Consulting

### **1. Roll Call**

Chairman Treasurer Conine called the meeting to order at 10:00 am, and determined a quorum was present.

Member Cano Burkhead is absent excused.

**2. Public Comment.**

There was no public comment.

**Discussion Agenda**

**3. For discussion:** Economic update presented by Meketa Investment Group.

Aysun Kilic with Meketa provided a market and economic update. She noted that things have been very volatile with sharp ups and downs in the markets and discussed the impacts of tariffs. The key take away is that the US tariff policy has been uncertain as it has been changing drastically daily with respect to which countries and items will be subject to tariffs. Negotiations are ongoing and are a highly evolving subject with big impacts on the markets. Equity volatility has been inching up in terms of historical context, the COVID pandemic was another high time as well as a great financial crisis but becoming more comparable to some of the highs. She reviewed it is the same with the interest rate volatility as it continues to be elevated. She stated that markets tend to recover and tend to go up in the long term which is good historical context to keep in mind. She reviewed how they rely on diversification to bring value to asset allocations within portfolios which in the long term have seen positive numbers. Through April 23<sup>rd</sup>, the S&P 500 is down more than 8% year to date, which captures most of the attention. Emerging market equities are up 2.64% year to date. The US Fixed Income is up almost 2% year to date. This brings attention to putting portfolios together as markets tend to go up in the long term and in the short-term diversification can help considerably.

**Motion to approve the agenda item from Member Hager. Motion passed unanimously.**

**4. For possible action to approve:** Review and approval of Vanguard 529 Plan underlying fund change from the Institutional Index Fund to the 500 Index Fund.

Senior Relationship Manager Jennifer Walker with Vanguard presented this agenda item. She noted there is one particular portfolio in the plan that just hit a breakpoint until the market shift over the past couple of weeks. Within the Vanguard 500 index portfolio, when it reaches a \$5 billion mark, it is allowing them opportunity to switch the underlying investments which are currently the Vanguard Institutional Index Fund and the Vanguard 500 Index Fund. These two portfolios are identical underlying funds in terms of target and tracking for investment performance, however with regards to the switch, it gives account holders a one basis point break. Due to the market shifts over the last couple of weeks, the portfolio has dropped below the \$5 billion mark. They have put this transition on hold, but their proposal is to seek approval so that when it does reach that \$5 billion mark, they are ready to go and take action. She stated they do expect this to happen depending across markets over the next couple of months. When balancing the portfolio, it has been hovering over \$4.5 billion and there's a significant monthly cash inflow into the fund.

Member Hager asked what occurs if they move it when hitting the \$5 billion but then the markets drop again and there is the possibility of more uncertainty.

Ms. Walker noted that Vanguard does do an annual review in the springtime. If the portfolio were to hit the \$5 billion mark in two months and they happen to switch the underlying fund, but

it drops, then they would put a proposal together to keep these assets within the fund based on the cash flow. They do have that opportunity, but it is something that is reviewed and there is potential that they might have to take other action.

**Motion to approve the agenda item from Member Hager. Motion passed unanimously.**

- 5. For possible action to approve:** Delegation of authority to Nevada Treasury staff to approve 529 Plan amendments and changes that positively affect Program Participants.

Chief of Staff Kirsten Van Ry provided a brief memo to accompany this agenda item for the board's review. Effectively, staff is requesting the ability to sign off on any plan changes or amendments that positively affect plan participants, such as lowering fees or increasing access to scholarships and grants. This would be done through a delegation of the board's authority, and believe this will allow them to move quicker in getting the positive benefits to account owners and participants. She noted if approved, staff will provide updates at the next regularly scheduled board meeting on any changes made or amendments signed that take place. They would use this circumstance only when there are positive changes for participants in the change and not any other extraneous things. If the board wishes to modify this process in the future, the delegation of authority can be rescinded at any time.

**Motion to approve the agenda item from Member Velez. Motion passed unanimously.**

- 6. For discussion:** Status update regarding Putnam for America 529 Plan transition to JP Morgan Future Path 529 Plan.

Greg Starita with JP Morgan Asset Management presented this agenda item and expressed how thankful they are for all the great partnerships involved such as Franklin Templeton, JP Morgan, and Ascensus. He noted over the weekend; a mock conversion will be taking place which will get a better sense of the process. He provided a breakdown of their communication plans to dealers, financial advisors, and account owners through mailings. They have also created a landing page on the JP Morgan Fund site with the vanity URL and the mailing to financial advisors. Post conversion, they will have a welcome email going out and a call with all the new advisors coming over from Putnam. He highlighted the mapping taking place across portfolios. Everything aligned smoothly based on the risk profile and Meketa had approved all transitions as to the board.

Head of Marketing Liz Farrell provided a more detailed look on the communications for the broker, dealers and advisors. She mentioned there was a back-office communication on April 9<sup>th</sup> with an e-mail sent outlining the changes coming. They followed that up with an advisor communication in an e-mail that went out on April 15<sup>th</sup>. In that communication, they talked about the changes that are expected and also created a landing page destination that's sort of a one-stop shop with all the information related to the transition. She shared the landing page that can be accessed at [jpmorgan.com/futurepathwelcome](http://jpmorgan.com/futurepathwelcome). There are many resources available and content that talks about the transition that's happening and what financial advisors and clients need to know. There are resources available also for account owners. She reviewed they created a more detailed transition mapping document for financial advisors so they know exactly what Putnam for America portfolios will be transitioning into as well as JP Morgan Asset Management portfolios.

Additionally, they have included a transition guide that was built with Ascensus and that will be going out with the account owner mailing so they can see what their clients will be receiving in the mail next week. They plan for a second advisor e-mail mid-May and will also drive to this destination but also start to promote a webcast that's taking place on July 23rd. That webcast will be available to all eligible Future Path advisors to have an event set up to talk about the plan benefits with the advisor audience. She reminded those are also available for all of the Putnam advisors and Putnam account owners that are coming over. They have client materials, such as a brochure, College Planning Essentials, and the 2025 Guide which launched last quarter. She noted they just had their lunch web cast for College Planning Essentials with 500 advisors on it and have materials specific for advisors to aid with their conversations as they're talking to their clients. She mentioned they got a Future Path webcast and College Planning Essentials webcast which is their bread and butter of what they do at JP Morgan Asset Management and have been having quite a few lately with the market volatility. They have resources on their website on [JPMorganfunds.com](https://JPMorganfunds.com) where they can link to a policy hub that has the upcoming events that are taking place and thought leadership from their market strategists.

Ms. Scarlata reiterated their appreciation to everyone working on this transition as they are excited about the opportunity. They have been working and starting outreach to advisors and getting selling agreements approved so they are geared up and ready to go. She thanked Dr. Van Ry for being such a great partner and guidance for the team. She noted Ms. Farrell's team made that Hub page, which has been tremendous to help with any questions where they can simply direct them to that landing page. Every answer to every question regarding this transition is on there and they look forward to it as it's about a month away to transitioning the assets over.

Treasurer Conine asked if they have received any responses from the emails that they have sent out to the plan participants so far.

Mr. Starita confirmed they will get with Ascensus next week to confirm.

Treasurer Conine stated they are all interested to hear what comes back from plan owners.

Ms. Scarlata explained they have had calls from advisors to walk them through and have not received any negative responses yet and hope to continue positively down the road.

**This agenda item is informational only and therefore does not require a vote of members.**

7. **For discussion and possible:** Review and approval of Amendment #9 to the Investment Management, Marketing and Administrative Services Agreement between Putnam and the Board, and direct staff as appropriate.

Chief Van Ry reviewed this is one of two amendments on the agenda and is the first part of this transaction. This is the Putnam amendment, which is amendment #9. It facilitates the transition from Putnam to JP Morgan from the Putnam side.

**Motion to approve the agenda item from Member Rankin. Motion passed unanimously.**

8. **For discussion and for possible action:** Review and approval of Amendment #1 to the Services Agreement between JP Morgan, the Board, and Ascensus and direct staff as appropriate.

Chief Van Ry noted this is the Second Amendment on the agenda, which is the JP Morgan and Ascensus side of the transaction. It is the First Amendment to our Tri Party agreement that was signed in June of 2023.

**Motion to approve the agenda item from Member Velez. Motion passed unanimously.**

9. **For discussion and for possible action:** Delegation of authority to Nevada Treasury staff on any final tasks and items for review and approval to facilitate the transition from Putnam to JP Morgan.

Chief Van Ry presented this agenda item and reviewed it allows staff to sign off on any kind of last-minute items that come up in facilitating the transaction between JP Morgan and Franklin Templeton. These transactions entail things like supplements and edits to the program description. She thanked the large group of staff and partners who worked on this with the Treasurer's team. She expressed it was a lot of moving parts and appreciated the board for their patience and understanding. She stated it has been great working with Meketa, AKF, Ascensus, JPMorgan and Franklin.

Treasurer Conine thanked Dr. Van Ry for all her work on figuring this out on behalf of the board and the Treasury.

**Motion to approve the agenda item from Member Hager. Motion passed unanimously.**

**10. Public Comment.**

There was no public comment.

**11. ADJOURNMENT.**

**Meeting adjourned at 10:30am.**