

# **MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**November 19, 2024**

**A meeting of the Connecticut Student Loan Foundation's Board of Directors was held on Monday, November 19, 2024 at 12:30 p.m. virtually via video conference.\***

## **Members Present:**

Dr. Peter Lisi, Chair of the Board  
Laura M. Baker (designee of the Connecticut Chief Workforce Officer)  
Martin L. Budd  
Michael Izadi (designee of the Connecticut OPM Acting Secretary)  
Kerry A. Kelley (designee of the President of Connecticut State Colleges and Universities)  
Kimberly Mooers (designee of the Connecticut Treasurer)  
Julie B. Savino, Vice Chair  
Jeanette Weldon, Executive Director, CHEFA/CHESLA

## **Members Absent:**

Andrew Foster  
Estela Lopez

## **Other Attendees:**

Denise Aguilera, General Counsel, CHEFA  
Kevin Barry, Senior Accountant I, CHEFA  
Charles Bodie, Managing Director of Finance and Operations, CHEFA  
Dan Giungi, Senior Government Relations and Communications Specialist, CHEFA  
Rebecca Hrdlicka, Senior Administrative Services Assistant, CHEFA  
Joshua Hurlock, Deputy Director, CHESLA  
Carlee Levin, Senior Accountant, CHEFA  
JoAnne Mackewicz, Controller, CHEFA  
Shannon Reynolds, Portfolio Specialist, CHESLA  
Kara Stuart, Manager, Administrative Services, CHEFA  
Yesenia Torres-Rivera, Senior Program Coordinator, CHESLA  
Justin Schwartz, Financial Reporting Manager, Goal Structured Solutions, LLC  
Robert Johnson, Senior Accounting Analyst, Goal Structured Solutions, LLC  
Thomas Goldfuss, Partner, Whittlesey

\* All attendees participated in the meeting via teleconference that permitted all parties to hear each other

**I. Call to Order**

Mr. Lisi called the meeting to order at 12:37 p.m.

**II. Approval of Minutes:**

Ms. Baker moved to approve the minutes from the September 23, 2024, board meeting, which was seconded by Ms. Savino. The motion passed unanimously, with Ms. Kelley and Mr. Izadi abstaining as they were absent at that meeting.

Mr. Budd inquired about the status of the cash flow analysis for the CSLF portfolio. Ms. Weldon reported that the analysis is expected to be presented at the January 2025 board meeting.

**III. Ethics Training**

It was noted that the CSLF board members received the required ethics training during the CHESLA meeting that occurred prior to this one.

**IV. Executive Directors Report**

Ms. Weldon noted that the upcoming Federal administration change might have implications on student loan forgiveness. This potentially could impact the CSLF FFELP portfolio but the outcome remains to be seen.

**V. FFELP AUP Report**

Mr. Bodie reminded the board that a separate procedures audit is performed annually as part of a compliance requirement for the FFELP loan program.

Mr. Goldfuss briefly discussed the AUP report, which contained an unmodified opinion. The auditors performed agreed-upon procedures per to the US DOE's guide for compliance for the period July 1, 2023 to June, 30 2024. Mr. Goldfuss further indicated that there were no findings of noncompliance to report.

Mr. Lisi requested a motion to approve the report on Management's Assertions for CSLF. MS. Savino moved for approval and Mr. Lisi seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**VI. Financial Report**

**A. September 30, 2024**

Mr. Barry reviewed the financials for the quarter ended September 30, 2024. Unrestricted assets remained at similar levels compared to this time last year, which is expected unless there are any additional funds transferred to CHESLA. Loans receivable decreased by \$23.8 million, due to continued student loan repayments. Bonds payable also decreased by \$24.9 million as CSLF continues to use available trust cash to redeem its liabilities. Total net position was \$21.2 million, representing a \$1.25 million increase from the prior fiscal year.

Loan interest income was \$1.2 million during the quarter, which is a decrease of \$785,000. This can be attributed to the overall declining loan receivable principal balance. Late fee and investment income increased by \$63,000 year-over-year. Bond interest expense decreased by \$670,000 due to lowering interest rates as well as the bond balance naturally declining since last year. Overall, change in net position before extraordinary items was \$307,000, compared to \$332,000 last year.

Mr. Budd asked if the Board needed to approve any transfers to CHESLA, but Mr. Barry clarified that this is just line-item verbiage and that the only transaction that applies here is the \$500,000 CHESLA Scholarship funding. Ms. Weldon noted that the CSLF Board

typically approves the scholarship allocation in March.

**B. Bond Redemption Activity**

Mr. Johnson reviewed the bond activity for the quarter ended September 30, 2024. Total redemptions for the quarter equaled \$11.3 million, compared to \$7.1 million last quarter. This consisted of \$4.6 million for the 2006 A-1 tranche and \$6.7 million for the 2006 A-2 tranche. The outstanding bond balance at the end of the quarter stood at approximately \$44.2 million, representing a 20.4% decline.

The Weighted Average Coupon (WAC) decreased slightly from 7.17% to 7.16% and the Weighted Average Remaining Maturity (WARM) of the portfolio increased slightly from 215 months to 217 months. FFELP forbearance rates decreased from 12.22% to 12.64% and loans in repayment decreased slightly from 87.68% to 87.25%. Meanwhile, nearly all of the the private loan portfolio continues to be in repayment status.

**VII. 2025 Board Meeting Schedule**

Ms. Baker moved to adopt the 2025 board meeting schedule as presented, which was seconded by Ms. Savino. The motion passed unanimously.

**VIII. Adjournment**

Ms. Baker made a motion, which was seconded by Ms. Savino, to adjourn the meeting.

The motion passed unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned at 12:56 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by:

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Jeanette Weldon, Executive Director