

Minutes of The Hospital for Sick Children (SickKids) Board of Trustees' Special Meeting held on February 7, 2022, at 11:30 p.m. by video conference due to COVID-19 physical distancing recommendations.

Present:

Robert Prichard, Chair
Dr. Ronald Cohn
Frank Vettese
Dr. Suzanne Laughlin
Lisa Lisson
Beth Wilson
Clara Angotti
Janet Davidson
Deland Kamanga
Saad Rafi
Jessica Chutter
John Sullivan
Judy Van Clieaf
Sharon Younker, Corp. Sec.

Present:

Kathleen Taylor
Donald Guloien
Claire Duboc
Irwin Rotenberg
Yongah Kim
Dr. Trey Coffey
Cheryl Reicin
Sonia Baxendale
Dr. Terry Sullivan
Tim Penner
Andrew Sheiner
Meric Gertler
Bharat Masrani
Joseph Natale

Regrets:

By Invitation:

Dr. Lennox Huang
Jeff Mainland
Megan Evans
Susan O'Dowd
Laurie Harrison
Tee Garnett
Pam Hubley

By Invitation:

Karen Kinnear
Dr. Sarah Muttitt
Judy Van Clieaf
Dr. Meredith Irwin
Dr. Stephen Scherer
Peter Goldthorpe

Regrets:

Dr. James Drake

All members attended via video conference

Ms. Sharon Younker, Corporate Secretary, confirmed that notice of the meeting had been duly sent to all Trustees and that a quorum was present by video conference or phone, all in accordance with the Hospital's by-laws. Accordingly, Mr. Robert (Rob) Prichard, Chair of the Board, declared that the meeting was properly constituted and called the meeting to order. Mr. Prichard confirmed that no conflicts of interest were declared by Trustees.

CHAIR'S REMARKS

Mr. Prichard welcomed Trustees and leadership attendees to the meeting, reviewed the agenda and confirmed that there were no changes. He introduced Dr. Trey Coffey to be appointed as interim Chair of the MAC at today's meeting and Dr. Suzanne Laughlin, President of the MSA who was appointed by the MSA on Friday, February 4th, 2022, to their first Board of Trustee meeting.

Mr. Prichard thanked members for their attendance at the Joint Board Retreat with the SickKids' Foundation that took place just prior to this meeting. He reported that the presentation on SickKids' Precision Child Health strategy was very informative and demonstrated to the Board that the organization continues to work on its strategic plan during the pandemic. The Foundation's Strategic Plan along with how the Foundation will translate the Hospital's Precision Child Health strategy for the public and donors was also presented.

Mr. Prichard reported that the hospital is functioning well however is very busy. There will be significant challenges as the organization now starts to recover from the latest wave of the pandemic, however leadership is working diligently to address them.

EXECUTIVE REPORT

President's Update

Dr. Cohn thanked Trustees for their attendance at today's retreat. He provided an overview of the activity and challenges over the past few months.

Appointments

Dr. Cohn brought several motions for appointments. Dr. Cohn also reported on the resignation of a key medical leader who accepted a role at B.C. Children's Hospital.

MOTION

NOW THEREFORE, UPON MOTION duly made, seconded and unanimously carried, IT WAS RESOLVED:

THAT Dr. Steven Schwartz be appointed as Chief of the Department of Critical Care Medicine, effective December 1, 2021.

THAT Dr. Maitreya Coffey be appointed Interim Co-Chair of the Medical Advisory Committee, effective January 1, 2022, during Dr. Jeremy Friedman's leave.

THAT Dr. Gino Somers be appointed as interim Chief, Pediatric Laboratory Medicine, effective April 1, 2022.

THAT Dr. Louise Gallagher be appointed Chief, Child & Youth Mental Health Collaborative, effective July 18, 2022.

COVID-19 Update

Dr. Cohn continued his report, providing an update on the impact of the 5th wave of the COVID-19 pandemic and the OMICRON variant on the organization. He reported that the past six weeks have been the most challenging for the organization since the beginning of the pandemic with high levels of staff absences due to COVID illness and/or exposure requiring isolation. As well there has been an increase in the number of children needing hospitalization with COVID-19. He reported that the senior leadership and management across the organization met daily throughout the holidays to address these significant challenges.

Dr. Cohn reported that in early January the Government issued Directive 2, which required hospitals to ramp down services to preserve capacity in the health system. As the level of COVID illness starts to decline in the province, management will be focused on planning for the ramp up of services and the development of strategies to address the backlogs. Dr. Cohn reported that the organization will be faced with health human resources challenges coupled with an ongoing structural funding deficit.

SickKids continues to educate and consult with patients and families on vaccinations. A media campaign has been launched to educate the public on the importance of vaccinating children however vaccination levels remain lower than expected. Ongoing efforts including SickKids consultation services are being utilized to help parents address their questions and concerns.

SickKids' Funding Update

Dr. Cohn provided an update on discussions with the both the Ministry of Health (MOH) and the Ministry of Finance (MOF) regarding SickKids' structural funding deficit.

Mr. Prichard opened the floor to discussion. Discussion ensued regarding SickKids' options and opportunities to address the structural deficit with the MOH and MOF.

Members also discussed the opportunities to fund the Precision Child Health strategy and how to ensure funding is sustainable. It was noted that it will be important for SickKids to pilot this strategy and be able to demonstrate positive health outcomes along with a more efficient use of healthcare funding.

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

Facilities Real Estate Committee (FREC)

Mr. John Sullivan, Chair FREC, reported on a motion required to approve the Electrical Switchgear Room relocation which falls under Project Horizon. He also reported that due to supply chain issues the Patient Support Centre is one month behind in schedule however it remains on budget.

Governance & Nominating Committee (GNC)

Donald Guloien, Chair GNC reported on the GNC meeting that took place on January 31, 2022. The focus of the meeting was on recruiting new Trustees. The GNC continues to work to meet the diversity targets and has made significant progress. Mr. Guloien reported that the GNC is bringing forward Konata Lake for appointment to the Board effective later in 2022. He outlined Mr. Lake's background and the skill/knowledge he will bring to the Board of Trustees.

MOTION:

NOW THEREFORE, UPON MOTION duly made, seconded and unanimously carried, IT WAS RESOLVED:

THAT Konata Lake be approved for appointment to the Board of Trustees at a time mutually agreed to with the candidate, Chair of the Board and Chair of the GNC.

MEDICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (MAC) REPORT

Dr. Trey Coffey, Interim Chair MAC reported on MAC meetings held in January and February 2022. There were numerous presentations and issues addressed including: physician wellness within the organization which will now become a standing item on each Medical Advisory Committee agenda; safe medical practice and the impact of physician burnout and what we have learned in the past decade; communication to use good sense on travel due to changes in testing and quarantine restrictions on returning to Canada; adherence to the PPE guidelines; representatives from the College of Physicians and Surgeons presented on their Quality Improvement Program which focuses on engaging physicians in quality improvement to improve clinical practice and support hospital priorities and align continuing professional development with quality improvement; and, EPIC initiatives including chart completion and deficiencies.

Mr. Prichard thanked Dr. Coffey for her report. Mr. Prichard requested a motion of best wishes for Dr. Jeremy Friedman's full recovery during his medical leave be recorded in the minutes.

MOTION:

NOW THEREFORE, UPON MOTION duly made, seconded and unanimously carried, IT WAS RESOLVED:

THAT the Board sends its best wishes to Dr. Jeremy Friedman for a full recovery following his medical leave.

CONSENT AGENDA

Rob Prichard referred members to the Consent Agenda items.

MOTIONS:

NOW THEREFORE, UPON MOTION duly made, seconded and unanimously carried, IT WAS RESOLVED:

THAT the following be approved;
Approval of Minutes November 15, 2021
Medical, dental & scientific staff appointments

Rob Prichard thanked Trustees for their attendance today and their commitment to the success of SickKids.

Adjourned

The Board of Trustee meeting was adjourned, and Trustees moved to an in-camera session of the Board.