

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE
MASSACHUSETTS LIFE SCIENCES CENTER**

DATE: February 23, 2011

TIME: 2:00 p.m. EST

PLACE: One Ashburton Place, 21st Floor
Boston, Massachusetts

DIRECTORS PRESENT: Secretary Greg Bialecki
Josh Boger, Ph.D
Jeff Brancato (Designee for Jack Wilson)
Abbie Celniker, Ph.D.

DIRECTOR(S) ABSENT: Secretary Jay Gonzalez
Jack Wilson, Ph.D.
Lydia Villa-Komaroff, Ph.D.

1. **Call to Order**

Secretary Greg Bialecki, presiding as Chairman of the meeting, called to order the meeting of the Board of Directors (the “Board”) of the Massachusetts Life Sciences Center (the “Center”) at 2:07 p.m., and announced that a quorum of directors was present. The meeting, having been duly convened, was ready to proceed with its business.

2. **Approval of Board Minutes**

The Board then reviewed the minutes of the January 26, 2011 meeting. Upon motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried, the Board adopted the resolution to approve the minutes.

3. **Chair’s Update**

Secretary Greg Bialecki stated that he did not have an update for this meeting.

4. Executive's Report

Dr. Susan Windham-Bannister informed the Board that she has recently made five new grant awards using her discretionary spending authority. These consist of a \$50,000 grant for the Massachusetts Medical Device Industry Council's (MassMEDIC's) MedTech IGNITE Program and four grants in the amount of \$15,000 each to the DIGITS Project, Citizen Schools, Science Club for Girls, and LIFT², which are programs intended to improve K-12 STEM education for the next generation of workers and to expose students to career opportunities in the life sciences.

She also provided an update on the Internship Challenge program, Equipment and Supplies Matching Grant program, Accelerator Loan program, Cooperative Research Matching Grant program, and the Small Business Matching Grant program.

5. The MedTech IGNITE Program – Supporting Entrepreneurs and Early Stage Companies

Tom Sommer, President of MassMEDIC, presented to the Board on the MedTech IGNITE Program. He described the program as an initiative that was established three and a half years ago to support early stage companies in the med-tech space. He explained that the concept is fairly simple, accepting applications from companies, looking at their technology and team, and meeting to discuss taking them on as a client. They are very selective and work with generally six companies per year in the coaching stage, but also help between 35 and 40 companies deal with road blocks in their development. The coaching program involves matching seasoned entrepreneurs from the medical device community with a start up company, and having them work on their business plan for eight weeks. He stated that his program is responsible for seven companies that have moved on to the next level. He explained that the program currently focuses on the Route 128 area, however, this year they will make it a priority to expand to the South Coast, Merrimack Valley, Amherst/Pioneer Valley, and the Worcester areas. He

concluded by thanking the Board and the Center for their support of this program.

6. Proposal: MLSC Equipment and Supply Grant Awards

Beth Nicklas, the Center's Vice President and Counsel for Academic and Research Programs, presented to the Board on the Life Sciences Equipment and Supplies Program. She began by recalling to the Board the purpose of this grant program and the enabling legislation which created the Massachusetts Life Sciences Education Fund. The objective of the Fund is stated as "increasing employment opportunities for the citizens of the Commonwealth". She explained that, through this program, the Center aims to address a funding gap in capital dollars and industry donations for public and not-for-profit workforce training and educational institutions. The Center is also aims to support training of students as well as adults seeking re-training to enter the workforce in the life sciences. Furthermore, this program supports and encourages partnerships with industry to ensure that the curriculum is appropriate to prepare students to enter a competitive job market. She also stated that the Center will provide post-award support to make sure that grant recipients have access to professional development and also provide them with convening opportunities.

After reviewing the program's eligibility requirements and approach, Ms. Nicklas explained the process by which applications were reviewed and recommended for funding. A peer review panel, comprised of educators, employers, and workforce development experts, reviewed, scored and recommended finalists after meeting on February 11, 2011. The selection criteria included the educational merit of the program, the linkage to the needs of life sciences companies, the engagement by industry sponsors, the need for the requested equipment, and the number of students expected to benefit from the training. She went on to describe the diverse applicant pool, which consisted of a total of 43 applications from across the state representing 28 vocational technical high schools, ten (10) community colleges, and five (5) workforce training

programs. Based on Peer Review Panel and Investment Committee recommendations, she proposed to the Board an investment of \$3,466,158 in capital funds to a total of 32 applicants. This amount exceeds the initially authorized amount of \$2.5M for this program, however, given that additional capital funds are available, she requested that the Board consider this increased investment. She also shared that the MassBioEd Foundation was able to secure a purchasing arrangement with Fisher Science Education that provides an average 35% discount to grant recipients for equipment purchased through their website. Lastly, she shared with the Board that industry sponsors have contributed over \$640,000 in matching funds/donations to support eight of the applicants.

After further discussion, the Board reviewed the relevant Resolution, and, upon motions duly made, seconded and unanimously carried by all voting Board members, the Board adopted the resolution authorizing a total amount not to exceed \$3,466,158 from the Center's capital resources to provide Equipment and Supplies grants to the 32 recommended institutions.

7. Adjournment

Secretary Greg Bialecki, upon motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried, adjourned the meeting at 2:55 p.m.

Secretary Jay Gonzalez
Co-Chair of the Meeting

APPROVED:

Secretary Greg Bialecki
Chairman of the Meeting

List of Materials and Exhibits Used During Meeting:

- Minutes from January 26, 2011 Board Meeting
- Executive Report to the Board of Directors
- “Life Sciences Equipment and Supplies for Skills Training and Education” PowerPoint presentation
- Assorted press clips