

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

DATE: October 27, 2021
TIME: 2:00 p.m. EST
PLACE: MLSC Offices, 1075 Main Street, Waltham Suite 100

Members In-Person: Mark Fuller, Co-Chair
Catharine Hornby, Co-Chair
Julie Chen, Ph.D.
Members Connected: Stuart Abelson
Gary Kearney, M.D. Pam
Randhawa, Ph.D.

1. **Call to Order**

Co-Chairperson Mark Fuller called the meeting to order, taking roll call for attendance. Having a quorum present, Mr. Fuller reminded the members of the Board of the Governor's extended order for Open Meeting Laws for virtual meetings, and reminded members connected virtually to keep their video on for the remainder of the meeting.

2. **Approval of Minutes**

The Board then reviewed the minutes of the September 29, 2021 Board meeting. Upon motions duly made, seconded and carried, the Board adopted the resolutions to approve the minutes.

3. **Chairs' Updates**

Mark Fuller, Undersecretary of Business Growth, Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development and Catharine Hornby, Undersecretary, Executive Office for Administration and Finance, provided brief updates. Mr. Fuller provided the Board with information regarding deployed and deploying ARPA funds, adding that housing is still very important to economic development. Ms. Hornby reported that the House will take up the Governor's budget bill, which includes the consolidated net surplus (CNS). There is an anticipated transfer of \$10 Million to MLSC from the CNS. Dr. Kearney asked when the last CNS transfer to MLSC occurred, Ms. Hornby responded two years ago.

4. **CEO Report**

MLSC President and CEO Kenneth Turner opened his remarks with a statement of gratitude being able to have the board convene in-person for this meeting. Mr. Turner then gave a brief summary of MLSC activities supporting the pillars of innovation, DEI, workforce development and regionalization. Mr. Turner provided an update on recent highlights, including the Vaxess ribbon cutting event, and STEM week. Mr. Turner then reported on the most recent discretionary grant award to EDC. Mr. Turner then introduced the Boston Consulting Group team, invited to the meeting to present on their work with EOHEd and MLSC.

The BCG Team, lead by Molly Jacobsen, gave an overview of the project to assess the impact of life sciences on economic and workforce development in Massachusetts, and a summary of key recommendations. The board had the opportunity to ask questions, and there was a small discussion about the importance of the "right to win" concept and how MA can stay competitive and promote business development. Mr. Fuller added information around ARPA and funding for workforce development. Dr. Chen inquired where to look for additional support for ARPA funding, and Mr. Fuller stated that support could come from a combination of the Governor's office, Legislation, MLSC and stakeholders.

5. **Vote: MassNextGen Sponsor Funding**

Annie Walsh, Senior Program Associate, presented to the Board on the MassNextGen Sponsorship Funding, stating that \$5,000 in sponsorship funding remained due to Covid-19 restrictions on in-person events. In collaboration with the sponsor, MLSC is seeking to allocate the remaining sponsor funding to the Round 4 MassNextGen Awardees.

Upon a motion duly made, seconded and carried by roll call vote, the Board resolved to approve the allocation of sponsor funding as requested.

6. **Vote: Internship Challenge 2021-2022 Program Year Budget Restoration**

Ryan Mudawar, Vice President of Education & Workforce, presented on the Internship Challenge Budget. Mr. Mudawar reported that due to Covid-19, companies were not able to hire as many interns through the program and additional funds were still

available. However, due to budget reduction measures taken in December 2020, the overall budget for the program was reduced for the 2021-2022 program. Mr. Mudawar requested the program be restored, by approving an additional \$1,200,000 from the Investment Fund for the 2021-2022 Internship Challenge Program Year. Ms. Hornby recognized that running the program on the reduced budget must have been very difficult, and commended Mr. Mudawar.

Upon a motion duly made, seconded and carried by roll call vote, the Board resolved to approve the additional Investment Fund dollars in an amount not to exceed \$1,200,000.

7. **Vote: FY23 STEM Equipment and Professional Development Grant Program**

Ryan Mudawar, Vice President of Education & Workforce, presented on the FY23 STEM Equipment and Professional Development Grant program, beginning with an overview of the program historically. Mr. Mudawar stated how the program now requires the school district to file as applicant rather than individual schools, to increase access to the equipment and materials. Mr. Mudawar then presented on the general overview of the FY23 program, the use of funding, and the timeline for applications. Mr. Abelson had a question about whether private schools could participate by submitting grant proposals, and Ms. Hornby reminded the members of the board on the limitations on how public funding can be used for provide schools. Mr. Mudawar added that the goal of the program is to target funds toward schools with highest needs. Mr. Mudawar stated that the requested Investment Fund dollars would complement capital dollars as part of this grant program.

Upon a motion duly made, seconded and carried by roll call vote, the Board resolved to approve the expenditure of up to \$500,000 from the Investment Fund for the FY23 STEM equipment and professional development grant program.

8. **Update: FY23-24 Workforce Development Capital Grant Program**

Ryan Mudawar, Vice President of Education & Workforce, provided an update on a new grant program for the Education and Workforce team, stating that while the program is still in development and a vote is not required at this time, the goal is to provide an opportunity for the board to give feedback. Mr. Mudawar gave an overview of past capital grant programs for higher education, and showed how this new program aligns with the strategy recommendations of both KPMG and BCG. Mr. Mudawar presented how the new program will target under-represented non-traditional workforce demographics. Dr. Chen asked if the program will required matching funds from an industry sponsor, and Mr. Mudawar stated that industry support will be included. Mr. Mudawar then presented the timeline for launching the program through the application and review phase. The board was provided the opportunity to ask questions and provide feedback.

Adjournment: There being no further business before the Board of Directors, the meeting was adjourned at 4:00p.m..

List of Materials and Exhibits Used During Meeting:

- Agenda
- September 29, 2021 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
- October CEO update
- BCG Presentation
- MassNextGen Sponsorship Funds Presentation
- FY23 STEM Equipment and Professional Development Grant Program presentation
- FY23-24 Workforce Development Capital Grant Program presentation