

Chairman Gary R. Heminger called the meeting of the Wexner Medical Center Board to order on Wednesday, June 3, 2020 at 8:04 a.m.

Members Present (in-person): Gary R. Heminger (ex officio), Hiroyuki Fujita, John W. Zeiger, Michael V. Drake (ex officio)

Members Present (online): Leslie H. Wexner, Abigail S. Wexner, Cheryl L. Krueger, Stephen D. Steinour (joined late), Robert H. Schottenstein, W.G. “Jerry” Jurgensen, Cindy Hilsheimer, Harold L. Paz (ex officio), Bruce McPheron (ex officio), Michael Papadakis (ex officio)

WEXNER MEDICAL CENTER BOARD

Ms. Eveland:

Good morning. I would like to convene our Wexner Medical Center Board meeting and note that a quorum is present.

Before we get started, I want to point out that the public session of this meeting is being recorded and livestreamed by WOSU. Additionally, we are following the guidance outlined by the Ohio Attorney General's office in March that allows for virtual public meetings during these unusual times. To that end, a few quick reminders: to everyone on Zoom, please ensure you are on mute if you are not speaking so we can avoid any background noise. As we move through our agenda today, if you would like to speak, please remember to identify yourself first for the record. To those here in the room, please speak directly into the mics or else our Zoom guests will not be able to hear you.

With that, the minutes of the February 26, 2020, meeting of the Wexner Medical Center Board were distributed to all members. If there are no additions or corrections, the minutes are approved as distributed. Hearing none, I will turn to Hal Paz for the Chancellor's report.

Dr. Paz:

Thank you very much. I'd like to start the meeting by saying a few words about George Floyd's horrific death last week. I'm heartbroken about what happened in Minneapolis and the anger and sadness that so many of us are feeling as evidenced by the protests throughout the nation the past several days. These expressions are a reminder that we still have much more work to do to overcome the racism and injustices that permeate our communities.

Our work here at the Wexner Medical Center is vitally important in that regard. I said in my letter to our faculty, students and staff over the weekend, improving lives is the foundation of what we do, and our shared values are making us who we are. Our strength as an organization is rooted in our commitment to living these values.

At this defining moment for our community and our nation's history, it is especially important we commit to valuing each other with respect to fairness as we work to eliminate health disparities in our own cities.

I'm enormously proud of our work in the community, particularly on our recent initiatives related to COVID-19, such as the distribution of care kits into our communities. I still know there is more we can and must do. We're committed to finding a solution and we'll be working with our community leaders as well our steering committee in the days ahead to identify and implement ways to address these issues.

Before we recess into executive session I'd like to take a moment to express my deep appreciation and gratitude for the contributions and sacrifices of so many individuals and groups as we've dealt with a pandemic that turned our world upside down in so many ways. It's staggering to think how much the world has changed since the board met last in February, when at the time there was not a single confirmed case of COVID-19 in the entire state of Ohio.

First and foremost, I would like to thank our front line clinical staff – our nurses, physicians, respiratory therapists, medical assistants and others who made such a tremendous sacrifice while continuing to provide such outstanding care for all of our patients. I would also like to express my appreciation for our employees who are redeployed to new units or roles, whether they were in different clinical settings or helping our staff deal with the COVID-19 outbreak, as well as working in our call center, our swabbing stations, our visitor and temperature checkpoints and countless other areas to help the medical center and our university prepare for and face this pandemic.

I would also like to thank our faculty and staff who have been working from home, finding ways to keep us moving forward as an institution while having to work remotely. And I'd also like to recognize our resilient students who swiftly and successfully transitioned to a virtual-only learning environment and who also sought out ways they could continue to contribute from home. And, of course, I would like to acknowledge the overwhelming support from our community. We are so grateful for the letters they sent, the signs they made, the food and meals they provided and the financial contributions they made. Our faculty and staff could feel the community's support behind them, and it really made a difference. Thank you.

Now, as the state continues to reopen and as we move forward with this next chapter of the COVID-19 pandemic, still very much a part of our lives, that same spirit of collaboration and togetherness will fuel our recovery. Our community has been there for us and we will continue to be there for them. We will continue to provide the same outstanding patient care we have long been known for and we will provide our patients with unparalleled experience in a setting that is among the very safest in the world. We will ensure that telehealth is part of the new normal as a way to provide our patients with greater and more flexible options for care and to meet them where they are, beginning in their own homes. And finally, rooted in our values, we will continue to invest in our local communities, and we will increase our efforts to address social determinants of health including racism that lead to poor health outcomes and shortened life spans.

Thank you very much. Jessie, I'll turn it back over to you.

Ms. Eveland:

Thank you, Dr. Paz. At this time, I will now entertain a motion for the board to recess into executive session to consider business-sensitive trade secrets required to be kept confidential by federal and state statutes, to discuss personnel matters involving the appointment, promotion, employment and compensation of public officials, and to consult with legal counsel regarding pending or imminent litigation, which are required to be kept confidential under Ohio law. May I have a motion?

Upon the motion of Mr. Zeiger, seconded by Dr. Fujita, the Board of Trustees adopted the foregoing motion by unanimous roll call vote, cast by Wexner Medical Center Board members Mr. Papadakis, Dr. McPheron, Dr. Paz, Dr. Drake, Ms. Hilsheimer, Mr. Jurgensen, Mr. Schottenstein, Mr. Zeiger, Dr. Fujita, Ms. Krueger, Mrs. Wexner, Mr. Heminger and Mr. Wexner. Mr. Steinour was absent.

Ms. Eveland:

Motion carries. We are recessed.

The Wexner Medical Center Board entered executive session at 8:12 a.m. and the meeting adjourned at 10:10 a.m.
