# **APPROVED MINUTES**

# ONE HUNDRED THIRTY THIRD MEETING

of the

# **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

of the

# MASSACHUSETTS TECHNOLOGY PARK CORPORATION

October 16, 2024 2 Center Plaza, Suite 200, Boston, MA and by Zoom Videoconference

The One Hundred and Thirty Third Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Massachusetts Technology Park Corporation ("Mass Tech Collaborative" or "Mass Tech") was held on October 16, 2024, at 2 Center Plaza, Suite 200, Boston, MA, and by Zoom videoconference, pursuant to notice duly given to the Directors and publicly posted on the Mass Tech Collaborative website with corresponding notice provided to the Office of the Secretary of State and the Executive Office for Administration and Finance.

The following members of the Mass Tech Collaborative Board of Directors were present and participated: Secretary of Economic Development Yvonne Hao, Beth Boland, Tye Brady, Julie Chen, Scott Dellicker, Ernesto DiGiambattista, Paige Fetzer-Borelli, Pam Reeve, Jeffrey Stein, Alexander Stolyarov, Alok Tayi, Bodgan Vernescu, Nate Walton, and Maeghan Silverberg Welford.

The following members of the Mass Tech Collaborative staff were present: Carolyn Kirk, Michael Baldino, Keely Benson, Mark Halfman, Ben Linville-Engler, Marc Leonetti, Holly Lucas, Dana Nolfe, John Petrozzelli, Jennifer Saubermann, Brianna Wehrs, Rachel Stachowiak, John Wetzel, James Byrnes, Jody Jones, Josh Eichen, Kevin O'Brien, and Paula Foley.

Also present was Steve Baker, Director of Broadband and Digital Equity for the Executive Office of Economic Development.

Secretary Hao observed the presence of quorum and called the meeting of the Mass Tech Board of Directors to order at 2:04 p.m.

#### Agenda Item I Approval of Minutes

After a period of brief discussion and upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED by roll call vote, with Secretary Hao abstaining:

The Board of Directors of the Massachusetts Technology Park Corporation, acting pursuant to section three of Chapter Forty J of the General Laws of the Commonwealth, hereby adopts the Draft Minutes of the One Hundred Thirty

# Second Meeting of the Board of Directors, held on May 22, 2024, at 2 Center Plaza, Suite 200, Boston, MA, and by Zoom videoconference, as the formal Minutes thereof.

#### Agenda Item II Report of the Mass Tech Collaborative Board Chair

Secretary Hao began by reporting that, despite best efforts on many fronts, the Legislature did not vote to pass the Economic Development bill as had been hoped. However, in recognition of the importance of the bill, the Legislature will come back in for a formal session this fall, and Secretary Hao is hopeful that it will pass at that time.

Secretary Hao then discussed the recent Center for Advanced Manufacturing's ("CAM") Manufacturing Mash-Up held at Gillette Stadium on September 25<sup>th</sup>, specifically noting the energy and enthusiasm of the many young people that attended the event. Secretary Hao then thanked Mr. Linville-Engler for doing double duty as CAM Interim Director following Ms. Nolan's departure, and then discussed the recent awards to the New England Microelectronics Commons ("NEMC") Hub of \$38 million in CHIPS and Science awards. Secretary Hao then noted that although the region's recent applications for an Economic Development Administration ("EDA") Tech Hub designation and a NATCAST Hub were not selected to move forward, efforts continue in both of those areas.

In closing, Secretary Hao noted that two of the 2024 100 Top Women-Led Businesses in Massachusetts were represented at the table by Ms. Kirk and Ms. Chen, and then congratulated Mr. Linville-Engler for his inclusion on the Boston Business Journal's Top 40 Under 40 list this year. Secretary Hao then turned the floor over to Ms. Kirk for her report.

#### Agenda Item III Report of the Mass Tech Collaborative Chief Executive Officer

Ms. Kirk noted that today's meeting is the Annual Meeting of the Mass Tech Board of Directors and therefore will include the governance actions required by statute that Ms. Saubermann will present following Ms. Kirk's report. Ms. Kirk indicated that her report will consist of a discussion on the overall state of Mass Tech. First, Ms. Kirk provided an update on Mass Tech personnel. Ms. Kirk noted that Mass Tech currently has 84 FTEs and is budgeted for 97. She noted that Mass Tech is actively recruiting for open positions, and Ms. Lucas provided a brief overview of her recruiting methods which include employee and Board referrals. Ms. Lucas also requested the Board's assistance in getting the word out about Mass Tech's open positions.

Then, Ms. Kirk turned to a discussion on Mass Tech's ongoing program design efforts and noted that four (4) new programs have been stood up so far this fiscal year. These programs include the Sector Spark Grant Program (a new entrepreneur support program), as well as the new CyberCenter Talent Grant program. Discussion then ensued on the universe of active Mass Tech programs (of which there are more than thirty (30) ongoing initiatives) and how individuals and businesses can obtain information on these programs as well as programs run by other quasi-public state agencies. Secretary Hao explained that the Business Front Door initiative will consist of a full dashboard of all programs provided by all the quasi-public state authorities and is expected to be made available to the public before the end of the year.

Ms. Kirk brought her report to a close by noting her desire to increase Board engagement

through additional communications, including one-on-one meetings with Board members. Ms. Kirk then asked Ms. Saubermann to present the next agenda item.

Ms. Silverberg Welford joined the meeting at 2:10 p.m.

# Agenda Item IV Governance – Executive Committee Nomination (motion item)

Ms. Saubermann indicated that the Board is required by statute to elect six (6) individuals from its membership to serve as the Executive Committee. Ms. Saubermann noted that the Personnel and Governance Committee met on October 3, 2024, and voted to recommend that the Board renew the current slate of Executive Committee members, as well as renew the designation of Ms. Reeve as Vice Chairperson of the Board and Mr. Vernescu as Associate Vice Chairperson of the Board.

After a brief period of discussion and upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was unanimously and without abstention VOTED by roll call vote:

The Board of Directors of the Massachusetts Technology Park Corporation ("MassTech"), acting pursuant to Section 3 of Chapter 40J of the General Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the relevant Articles of the By-Laws of MassTech, does hereby take the following actions as recommended by the Personnel and Governance Committee:

**1.** The following individuals shall serve on the Executive Committee of the MassTech Board of Directors:

- Julie Chen, Chancellor, UMass Lowell
- Rupa Cornell, Vice President, Head Counsel for Vaccine Business Unit, Takeda Pharmaceuticals
- Joseph Dorant, Board Member, Massachusetts Organization of State Engineers and Scientists
- Paige Fetzer-Borelli, Senior Director of Corporate Operations and Public Affairs, Amogy
- Pam Reeve, Chair, The Women's Edge
- Bogdan Vernescu, Vice President and Vice Provost for Research and Innovation, Worcester Polytechnic Institute

2. The following individuals shall serve as the Vice Chairperson and Associate Vice Chairperson of the MassTech Board of

**Directors:** 

- Pam Reeve as the Vice Chairperson of the Board of Directors
- Bogdan Vernescu as the Associate Vice Chairperson of the Board of Directors

Each of the individuals shall serve until a successor is elected or designated.

# Agenda Item VMass Broadband Institute ("MBI") Update

Ms. Kirk began the MBI update by introducing Ms. Jody Jones who has recently taken on the role of MBI Program Executive. Ms. Jones explained that her background is in business development, primarily in the health care area, however, she has worked at MBI as a Senior Program

Director since January 2023. Ms. Jones then discussed the federal and state funding sources for the many ongoing MBI programs, such as the Digital Equity Partnership program and the Gap Networks Grant program, and the often very tight deadlines associated with MBI's allocation of the funding. Ms. Jones then discussed the three "broadband policy pillars" under which MBI operates (Availability, Adoption, and Quality of Service) and indicated which MBI programs fall under which pillar. She explained that, for example, the Gap Networks program, which provides federal funding for broadband infrastructure construction, falls under the Availability pillar, while the Residential Retrofit program, which provides federal funding for affordable housing broadband deployment, falls under the Quality of Service pillar. The overall investment for all MBI programs, explained Ms. Jones, exceeds \$400 million.

Ms. Jones then turned to an overview of MBI personnel and presented the current MBI organizational chart including current open positions. According to Ms. Jones, the org chart demonstrates "single thread accountability" for each of the ongoing MBI programs. In closing, Ms. Jones described the recent MBI Digital Inclusion Awards during which MBI celebrated the achievements of many of its partners, and issued awards for Digital Equity Impact, Leadership, and Innovation.

# Agenda Item VIMass Broadband Institute – Residential Retrofit Program – Comcast<br/>Cable Communications Management (motion item)

Ms. Jones then continued to the next agenda item which she indicated was a request to award \$483,195.00 to Comcast Cable Communications Management as part of MBI's Residential Retrofit program to provide state of the art fiber infrastructure to the Rindge Apartment complex in Cambridge.

After a brief period of discussion and upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was unanimously and without abstention VOTED by roll call vote:

The Board of Directors of the Massachusetts Technology Park Corporation ("Mass Tech Collaborative"), acting pursuant to the authority delegated under Chapter 40J of the General Laws of the Commonwealth, does hereby authorize an additional award to Comcast Cable Communications Management in an amount not to exceed \$483,195 to support capital costs associated with the installation of fiberoptic cabling to the housing unit, as presented.

The total award to Comcast, inclusive of this award and \$4,329,330.00 previously awarded by the Executive Committee of the Mass Tech Collaborative on September 11, 2024, under the Residential Retrofit Program, RFP No. 2024-MBI-08, shall not exceed \$4,812,525 and shall be funded through the American Rescue Plan Act, Capital Projects Fund through a contract with the Executive Office of Economic Development. The grant award is subject to the execution of a grant agreement in a form and with terms approved by Mass Tech Collaborative's Chief Executive Officer.

#### Agenda Item VII Discussion – MassTech Metrics

Ms. Kirk turned to the next agenda item by noting that today's presentation is a follow-up to the Board discussion earlier this year on metrics to measure effectively Mass Tech's performance and impact. As a summary, Ms. Kirk indicated that Mass Tech is subject to Office of Performance Management and Oversight ("OPMO") metrics, as well as metrics included in the Executive Office of Economic Development's ("EOED") Economic Development Plan, but that a third set of metrics – "Bridging Metrics" – are desired to cover the difference between program impact and strategic vision aggregated across all Mass Tech divisions and programs. Ms. Kirk then turned the discussion over to Mr. Linville-Engler and Ms. Benson for additional explanation. Mr. Linville-Engler began by explaining that the proposed Bridging Metrics arise from Mass Tech's mission to strengthen the competitiveness of the tech and innovation economy by driving strategic investments, partnerships, and insights that harness the talent of Massachusetts. Mr. Linville-Engler then discussed each of the six (6) proposed Bridging Metrics: Jobs Created; Jobs Retained; Co-Investment Leverage; Recipient DEI; Innovation; and Geography.

Ms. Benson then provided a practical demonstration of application of the proposed Bridging Metrics to the Digital Health Sandbox program run by the Massachusetts eHealth Institute ("MeHI"). She began by providing an overview of the Digital Health Sandbox program and compared the requirements of the OPMO Metrics side by side with the proposed Bridging Metrics for that program. For example, Ms. Benson noted that while the OPMO Metrics measure, among other things, the amount of capital raised by alumni companies and the amount of grant / nondilutive funding raised by alumni companies, the Bridging Metrics measure, among other things, the racial and gender diversity of founders of the companies selected for the Sandbox program and the geographic diversity of the awardees. Ms. Benson concluded by explaining that the goals of the Bridging Metrics will be distinct for each program but will result in another way of showing Mass Tech's contribution to the economy.

Ms. Kirk explained that as new Mass Tech programs are developed, Bridging Metrics specific to that program will be created and tracked. Positive discussion then ensued among Board members regarding the expected usefulness of the Bridging Metrics and how best to measure Mass Tech's statewide "industry incubator" environment. Following the discussion, Ms. Kirk asked Mr. Linville-Engler to continue with the next agenda item.

#### Agenda Item VIII CHIPS & Science Update

In recognition of the limited time remaining in the meeting, and the comprehensive prereading materials provided to the Board, Mr. Linville-Engler suggested that, in lieu of a presentation, the Board ask questions regarding the pre-reading materials. Mr. Halfman then provided a brief overview of the Northeast Microelectronics Coalition ("NEMC") Hub activities, including NEMC's PROPEL manufacturing grant program, and noted that the NEMC Hub was awarded the most projects from NSTXL's recent call for projects, as well as the highest dollar award, covering the most diverse set of critical technology execution areas, of all the eight (8) Microelectronics Commons hubs. Mr. Linville-Engler closed the discussion by noting that the NEMC Hub now has more than 220 member companies, and offered to provide a further in-depth discussion on Hub activities at a future Board meeting. There being no other business to discuss, Secretary Hao adjourned the meeting at 3:35 p.m.

A TRUE COPY ATTEST: (Secretary)

DATE:

# Materials and Exhibits Used at this Meeting:

- 1. Draft Minutes for the May 22, 2024, Meeting of the Mass Tech Board of Directors
- 2. Governance Executive Committee Nomination (motion item)
- 3. Discussion Mass Broadband Institute Update (presentation)
- 4. Mass Broadband Institute Residential Retrofit Program Comcast Cable Communications Management (motion item)
- 5. Discussion Mass Tech Metrics (presentation)
- 6. Discussion CHIPS & Science Update (presentation)