MINUTES

Board Meeting

HSNS Board of Directors

June 25, 2026: 6:30 – 7:45 PM

In person (YMCA – Community Meeting Room @ 5640 Sackville St., Halifax)

Timeline:

6:00-6:30 Dinner

6:30-7:45 Regular board meeting

Standing Documents:

- Consent agenda information (what is it and how is it used?)
- Motions cheat sheet
- Board Governance Decision Matrix
- Policy 2.11 – Code of Conduct (reference to Conflict of Interest)
- Meeting Minutes
- Board Committee Reports
  - Board Executive
  - Finance & Investment
  - Nominating
  - Policy & Governance
- CEO Report to the Board

Additional Documents:

- HSNS Annual Report 2025-26
- Nominating Committee Annual Report

Board of Directors

Arab, Rachel	V	Kaur, Anuroop	P	Rizzetto, Maria (Vice Chair)	V
Bernard, Miranda	P	Kiefte, Michael	P	Sullivan, Vickie (Co-Vice Chair)	R
Bhangale, Chirag	P	Landy, Mark (Chair)	P	Vossen, Emma	P
Haley, Matthew (Sec-Treasurer)	P	Nakhla, Nardeen	R	Peach, Lindsay (CEO)	P
				Leslie, Kimberlee (Exec. Assistant)	P

Guests:

- Dr. Greg Noel, Director of Adult and Mi'kmaq Hearing & Speech Services (P)
- Dr. Myrto Brandeker, Acting Director of Pediatric and Autism Hearing & Speech Services (R)
- Mr. Bob Kolanko, Director of Finance and Operations (P)
- Ms. Ferne Mardlin-Smith (Patient Advisor to the Board) (P)
- Ms. Courtney Douglas (Patient Advisor to the Board) (P)
- Ms. Alayne MacDonald (Communication Partner for Patient Advisor) (P)
- Ms. Divjot Kaur (P)
- Ms. Angela Henhoeffer (P)
- Mr. Tyler Eddy (P)
- Ms. Andrea Thompson (A)
- Ms. Natalie Clothier (P)
- Dr. Philip Taiwo (P)

Present: (P) Videoconference: (V) Regrets: (R) Absent: (A)

6:30 PM	**1. Call to Order** The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM by Ms. Lindsay Peach. The Board made introductions and welcomed the new Board members.
6:30	**2. Nominating Committee Report re: Election of Officers for 2026-27** Ms. Peach called for the Nominating Committee's report. Dr. Kaur provided the report on behalf of the Nominating Committee, recommending the following Slate of Officers for 2026-27: Chair: Mark Landy Vice Chair: Maria Rizzetto Co-Vice Chair: Vickie Sullivan Secretary-Treasurer: Matthew Haley Ms. Peach called for nominations from the floor for the position of Chair. Hearing none, it was declared that Mr. Landy be appointed as Chair for 2026-27. Mr. Landy assumed the Chair and thanked the members for their support. Mr. Landy called for nominations from the floor for the position of Vice Chair. Hearing none, it was declared that Ms. Rizzetto be appointed as Vice Chair for 2026-27. Mr. Landy called for nominations from the floor for the position of Co-Vice Chair. Hearing none, it was declared that Ms. Sullivan be appointed as Co-Vice Chair for 2026-27. Mr. Landy called for nominations from the floor for the position of Secretary-Treasurer. Hearing none, it was declared that Mr. Haley be appointed as Secretary-Treasurer for 2026-27. The Executive will also include Ms. Peach as ex-officio. MOTION: that the Board of Directors accept the Slate of Officers as presented. Motion was moved and seconded. Motion carried.
6:40	**3. Announcements** 3.1 Regrets: Ms. Nakhla, Ms. Sullivan 3.2 Declarations of potential conflict of interest: None 3.3 Other**:** None

6:45	**4. Consent Agenda** a. Board meeting agenda b. Previous meeting minutes c. Board Executive Report d. Committee Reports • Finance & Investment • Nominating • Policy & Governance (no report) MOTION: that the Board of Directors approve the consent agenda. Motion was moved and seconded. Motion carried.
6:50	**5. Quality of Care** 5.1 Risk Plan – Additional Information on Risks to Care (Inpatient and Swallowing Services) (Presenter: Dr. Greg Noel) From a previous Board meeting, the Board requested further information on the area of high risk related to inpatient and swallowing services to understand how concentrated and critical it is. The Board was provided with a Board Brief: Inpatient Swallowing Services – Risk to Care. Dr. Noel walked the Board through the brief. Q: Does NS have a Hospital Act that defines who can order tests? A: There is a Hospital Act but we would need to investigate the details of it. Q: How are disagreements of a patient's treatment between the SLPs and dietitians resolved? A: They go back to the ordering physician. Q: Regarding the extra time for documentation, who designed the system and can we go back to make edits? A: OPOR was co-designed and then morphed from the original design. We have submitted a ticket with Nova Scotia Health (NSH) and are in the queue. The current workaround is an extra 30 minutes. Q: Regarding the timeliness of completing the assessment in two days, are we meeting this target? A: Yes, we are meeting this target.
7:05	**6. Board Executive Report** 6.1 HSNS Annual Report 2025-26 The Annual Report was reviewed. The report will be posted to the website and social media in the coming weeks, pending the addition of the audited financial statements. MOTION: that the Board of Directors approve the HSNS Annual Report for 2025-26, with the approved audited financial statement to be included, for distribution. Motion moved. Motion carried.

	6.2 Board meeting dates 2026-27 The Board reviewed the proposed Board's meeting dates for 2026-27. MOTION: that the Board of Directors approve the Board meeting dates and start/end times for 2026-27. Motion moved. Motion carried.
7:15	**7. CEO Report** 7.1 Monthly Update Ms. Peach provided the monthly update, highlighting: • Accessible Care ○ Additional funding that was confirmed for the budget year 2026-27 for adult services, rental increases and CPI. • Meetings are scheduled in July to review the NSH and IWK service agreements. • HSNS had a meeting with DHW today and they are open to a conversation over the summer to talk about pressures and service areas we might like to explore.
7:20	**8. Partners In Care/Patient Advisors** The patient advisors provided a brief overview on the Partners In Care (PIC) Committee. Starting in the Fall, they would like to provide a report to the Board. It would provide a high-level summary on membership, activities and different tasks that they do and an update on any items that they take back to the committee from the Board meetings. The report will be provided as part of the Board meeting package.
7:25	**9. Old Business** 9.1 Strategic Planning Update Strategic Planning has been postponed to the Fall. Ms. Peach and Mr. Landy are working on scheduling a meeting with Maureen Reid from BoardWorks. Mr. Landy wants to bring the Board more into the strategic planning discussion, having a leadership role. The Board needs to have discussions on where they think they are going strategically and where we want to go.
7:30	**10. New Business** • Mr. Landy spoke to some of the changes that will be coming to the Board activities and the agenda. ○ The CEO report will be added to the consent agenda. This will create some additional, protected time for the Board members to have more dialogue. ○ There will be an in-camera session with the CEO before the Board will move into the Board only in camera session. Mr. Landy and Ms. Peach will look on the Board activity calendar over the summer, and how to streamline the reports. • Board Quality Committee ○ The Board has the membership capacity to support an additional committee on quality. The limiting factor is the capacity of HSNS to

	support this committee. Another approach for P&G is to map out how the Board can address quality going forward at a Board level.
	
	• Mencher Award
	  ○ Discussion occurred around expanding the Mencher scholarship amount.
	  ○ F&I Committee will review the Mencher Award funding in the Fall.

7:35	**11. Members' Comments** None
7:40	**12. In-camera session** MOTION: that the Board of Directors move to in-camera session. Motion carried. MOTION: that the Board of Directors move to adjourn the in-camera session. Motion carried.
7:45	**13. Date of next meeting:** September 24, 2026 (In person, Location TBC)
7:45	**14. Adjournment** MOTION: that the Board of Directors move to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 7:58 PM