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## HOSPITAL NEWS: Board of directors to review decision-making powers

# Review follows resignations

BY KATHLEEN GRIFFIN  
STAFF WRITER

Following the resignations of its three top executives, the board of directors for Markham Stouffville Hospital is reviewing the bylaws governing it.

And board chair David Graham said part of that review will include a look at the executive committee and exactly how much power it has — or should have — in top-level decision making.

Last month, the executive committee, without the knowledge of the rest of the board, accepted the resignations of former president and CEO Elizabeth Woodbury, vice-president Jill Migliardi and planning director Gary Mitchell.

No reason was given for the resignations. Graham insisted the matter was a human resources issue, confidential between employer and employee.

But that didn't sit well with some residents and board members.

Adding to the confusion was the fact many board members didn't know the reason behind the management departures either. Most didn't find out until a regular board meeting the following week.

The members-only meeting Nov. 24 produced more than a few sparks, according to a member who spoke to *The Stouffville Tribune/Economist & Sun* on the condition of anonymity.

"I think the executive committee was blown out of the water by the reaction," the source said. "Many board members felt they could live with the decision itself, but how it was done, the process, caused many people concern."

"Someone said they felt like a Class B board

member, not a Class A member and said he didn't agree to volunteer his time to be treated like that. The information should have been shared with all board members."

Graham said the bylaw review process began two months ago under the direction of the governance committee because a full review has not been conducted for several years. It should be completed by next summer.

The process by which a new president will be hired is also on the review list. Dr. Jim MacLean will act as interim president until then.

Graham said bylaws change frequently as various changes in legislation come up or as new directives are issued by the Ministry of Health. Changes are approved by the board and passed along to regular hospital members at the annual general meeting, usually held in June.

"As you can imagine, most of it is pretty dry stuff," he said.

This year there has been particular concern expressed about the mandate of the executive committee, he said.

"The governance committee will look at the total package, including the executive committee and its powers," Graham said.

He explained at present, the executive committee acts for the board between meetings. If an issue must be dealt with immediately or is somewhat sensitive — like a performance or salary review for the CEO for example — the executive committee has the power to act outside the regular board process.

"I am quite sure the executive committee will no longer have the power it has now," the source said. "There's no doubt the rules will change."

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