



Finance & Operations Committee Meeting Transcript

March 3, 2022

THE CHILDREN'S TRUST FINANCE AND OPERATIONS
COMMITTEE MEETING

"IN PERSON QUORUM WITH SOME VIRTUAL ATTENDANTS"

The Children's Trust Finance and Operations Committee Meeting was held on March 3, 2022, commencing at 9:30 a.m., at 3250 Southwest 3rd Avenue, United Way, Ryder Conference Room, Miami, Florida 33129. The meeting was called to order by Mark Trowbridge, Committee Chair.

**CERTIFIED
ORIGINAL**

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Mark Trowbridge, Committee Chair

Imran Ali

Jacques Bentolila

James R. Haj

Joanna Revelo

Juana Leon

Juliette Fabien

Lisanne Gage

Lisete Yero

Lori Hanson

Marden Muñoz

Muriel Jeanty

Natalia Zea

1 COMMITTEE MEMBERS (Continued):
2 Rachel Spector
3 Sheryl Borg
4 Susan Marian
5 Wendy Duncombe
6 William Kirtland
7 Ximena Nuñez
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P R O C E E D I N G S

MR. TROWBRIDGE: Good morning, once again, everybody, and welcome to our Finance and Operations Committee Meeting on Thursday, March 3. It's so great to have all of you here today. We have an amazing presentation you're going to hear from in a few minutes regarding our annual comprehensive financial report. But before that, we'll call this meeting to order.

And I believe, Muriel, we do not have any public comments? So, seeing no public comments, we'll move into the approval of the January 26, 2022 Finance and Operations Committee Meeting.

Is there a motion to approve the minutes?

MS. COLLINS: So, moved, Collins.

MR. TROWBRIDGE: Thank you, Constance. Is there a second?

MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Second Hollingsworth.

MR. TROWBRIDGE: Thank you, Madam Vice Chair.

Any additions or corrections or changes?

Seeing none, all in favor signify by saying "aye."

(WHEREUPON, the committee members all responded with "aye.")

MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Any opposed, no?

1 (No verbal response.)

2 MR. TROWBRIDGE: The motion carries. The minutes
3 of January 6 are approved. So, before we get into our
4 presentation, I just wanted to say a couple of things.
5 One, I wanted to congratulate David Lawrence. Some of
6 you were in attendance on Tuesday evening as he was
7 bestowed with the Sand in My Shoes Award by the
8 Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce and, of course, many
9 folks from the history of The Children's Trust in its
10 earliest days were there on hand to offer their
11 congratulations to David. If you had an opportunity
12 to hear his twelve points of things we can all be
13 doing and doing better. If not, I'm sure they're
14 already out there on social media. But a wonderful
15 reminder that we are all in this together. So, I
16 really want to send our congratulations to him as our
17 founding chair.

18 I want to also, I don't know if Nelson is on the
19 Zoom, but congratulate him on his new role at Miami
20 Dade College. Very excited that he'll be helming
21 their foundation work and alumni. So, he'll be
22 working directly with President Pumariega on that
23 endeavor. So, I want to congratulate Nelson for his
24 outstanding service. Of course, wish him very well in
25 his new role.

1 And last but not least, I want to say again, huge
2 congratulations to you, our CEO Jim Haj for receiving
3 the MCCJ medallion this past Sunday.

4 We should clap, thank you, Natalia.

5 Very well deserved. And again, a continued
6 reminder that the work you're doing here at The Trust
7 is noticed and contributes so mightily to our diverse
8 communities. So, congratulations, Jim. Very proud of
9 you.

10 So, with that, we had a briefing a little bit
11 earlier in the week. I want to thank Imran, of
12 course, I want to thank Gale for putting together
13 today's agenda and program. We're going to hear now
14 from Branden Lopez, who is the senior manager, he
15 handles our audit every year. They're actually on the
16 fourth year of working with us, which is fantastic.
17 We certainly appreciate that. I think you're going to
18 be very pleased with what Branden shares with you. No
19 findings, no deficiencies, no management letter
20 comments, just a really terrific audit. So, I hope I
21 haven't stolen too much of your thunder, but, Bill,
22 I'll throw it over to you to introduce Branden.

23 MR. KIRTLAND: I just wanted to take a few
24 moments before Branden stepped up here to maybe just
25 set the stage a little bit. Today is March 3, which

1 means we are just a little bit over five months since
2 our fiscal year ended in September 30, 2021. And
3 actually, as Branden and I were just sitting here
4 discussing a little bit of his other war stories,
5 right, in auditing of other organizations, I really am
6 impressed with the efficiency and speed of this audit.
7 Essentially, to have the report ready today to present
8 to committee, meant we had to have this report ready a
9 month ago for the marketing team to essentially be
10 able to review for the quality review that's done by
11 Marcum each year, to make sure everything is in
12 accordance with the latest accounting pronouncements
13 and governing pronouncements. Essentially the team
14 begins their audit just before the fiscal yearend date
15 and just after the fiscal yearend date. And as its
16 been done for a few years now, it's primarily done
17 remotely. We had several staff work on our audit,
18 representing Marcum, LLP these four years. Branden
19 has been a staple as the senior manager of the audit
20 each year, so he's become accustom to presenting to
21 our board, so you may recognize him in doing previous
22 years presentations.

23 As you also know, around this time of year we
24 complete the annual report that I think has reached
25 the desk of each board member at this point. So now

1 you have the honor of reading a much more robust and
2 better telling story of The Children's Trust and all
3 its 120 pages of financial disclosure requirements.
4 But to help you, in case you didn't read every page
5 and understand every footnote disclosure, Branden's
6 going to take you through the highlights of the
7 document, let you know as to anything, I guess the
8 most important pages. Every page is important, but
9 there maybe are some more vital than others to pay
10 attention to. So, when he concludes his presentation,
11 I'll want to maybe just point out a couple more things
12 and then we can maybe address a couple of the
13 questions of any committee members as you may have
14 them. And then I'll probably just have a couple of
15 more closing remarks before that. But I also wanted
16 to mention is that moving back around, so when we're
17 ready to present today, its having that report ready
18 this early in the process makes us eligible for the
19 award that we just recently mentioned we received for
20 the 2020 audit that the Government Finance Officers
21 Association Board issued to The Children's Trust.
22 That was the ninth year in a row.

23 I guess this podium is made of wood, but I think
24 as Branden might show you, is that we did have a clean
25 audit report this year. So, all hopes are that we can

1 submit this report again because it has been done in a
2 timely basis and without any significant findings or
3 anything to disclose to the same board, that we're
4 hoping to go for year 10 on the same award. But we'll
5 not know that for some time. There's no reason to
6 believe at this point that we can't be at least
7 eligible for that same accolade next year.

8 So, with that, I'll kick it over to Branden.

9 MR. TROWBRIDGE: Thank you, Bill. Welcome,
10 Branden.

11 MR. LOPEZ: Thank you very much, Bill. Thank you
12 very much to the Finance Committee for having me this
13 morning. My name is Branden Lopez, I'm a Senior
14 Manager with Marcum, your external auditors. And like
15 Bill mentioned, today I'm going to go through the
16 annual comprehensive financial report. I'm going to
17 go a high-level overview, kind of pinpoint some key
18 items, some things I just want to highlight for you.
19 And then if there's any specific questions, we can
20 kind of go through them in detail.

21 So, there is two documents that you received a
22 copy of. The first one was the financial report and
23 the second one is the communication letter with those.
24 So, I'm going to go through both high level. We're
25 going to start off with the annual comprehensive

1 financial report.

2 So, like Bill mentioned, this is a lengthy
3 document, but I'm going to highlight some key items
4 and I'm going to go specifically using the page
5 number. So I'm going to start off with page number
6 one, which is the Independent Auditor's Report. I
7 think it's 20 pages in. Perfect. Right there. So if
8 we go to page one, this is the Independent Auditor's
9 Report. It's let the reader know what we're giving an
10 opinion on, what is the report. As Bill mentioned,
11 this is for the September 30, 2021 fiscal year. It
12 goes into what are managements responsibilities on the
13 financial statements and what are our responsibilities
14 as the auditor.

15 Most importantly is on the following page. Turn
16 to page two. It's the opinion. And like you heard
17 before, this is an unmodified opinion, it is a clean
18 opinion. It's really the only opinion you as a
19 committee and an organization want to be associated
20 with, so we're very happy to let the organization know
21 that we did receive an unmodified clean opinion for
22 the September 30, 2021 fiscal year.

23 We go onto the next page and here we begin
24 management's discussion and analysis. So like we've
25 mentioned, this is a pretty lengthy document with a

1 lot of information, but I always like to pinpoint and
2 mention that these, about eight to ten pages, does a
3 really great job of highlighting and giving an
4 overview of the fiscal year in comparison to the
5 previous fiscal year and it goes into detail of what
6 the changes were and what caused those changes. So
7 it's a good overview of kind of the entire documents.
8 So if you're going to read something in detail, I
9 always mention that this management discussion
10 analysis is a great section to take into detail.

11 If we continue along, we go now to printed page
12 20. This begins the basic financial statements. One
13 tier that I do want to highlight here is in regards to
14 the numbers that you're seeing here. I like to
15 mention that the numbers you see here are consistent
16 with those that have been presented to you, back in
17 the months of September and October. There were no
18 specific auditor adjustments that were composed and
19 posted through the year. One thing I specifically
20 wanted to highlight, was if you look at printed page
21 20, we get into the current liabilities and long-term
22 liabilities. Here there's a couple of different
23 items, but most importantly is FRS, the Florida
24 Retirement System. That is the pension plan that the
25 organization participates in and you see here the

1 liability is about 1.1 million dollars. If you
2 compare that to last years number, there's a
3 significant decrease. It went from about \$6 million
4 to \$1 million. And we're seeing that across the
5 board. And the reason being, the actual Florida
6 Retirement Plan itself, the organization has a piece
7 of that liability. And essentially, the investments
8 of that plan during the year performed so well and way
9 above expectations because of the market that we saw
10 in this last year. Essentially, that liability
11 significantly decreased because of that performance of
12 the market. So essentially, your portion of that
13 improved as well. So, there's a big decrease.

14 Next year we kind of think it will level off a
15 little bit, but it won't be back to that \$6 million
16 dollars, but that big change is something that
17 shouldn't alarm you because we're seeing that across
18 the board in all governmental agencies that
19 participate in FRS. The following page, on printed
20 page 21, we have the statement of activities. And one
21 thing I want to highlight here is that change in that
22 position, essentially a decrease of about \$11.6
23 million dollars. And normally that would raise an
24 alarm or cause some additional questions and
25 procedures, but we know, obviously based on our

1 dealings with management, we're dealing with board
2 minutes. The plan that's in place over these last
3 three to five years using up that fund balance for
4 programs, to get to that point where you feel
5 comfortable with. While this, yes, it's a large
6 number, its consistent with the plan of what the
7 organization was and it was in line with what we
8 expected. So again, it might seem like a large
9 amount, but we're on track to get to that fund balance
10 the organization was looking for.

11 We're going to continue along and we're going to
12 go to printed page 66. And I just want to highlight
13 this schedule. And it goes into what I was discussing
14 before about Florida Retirement System. Here it gives
15 you a trend for the last eight years when this was
16 first required to be reported.

17 As you can see, the 2021 column, we have the
18 second line item gives you that \$1.1 million. That is
19 the liability that relates to The Children's Trust for
20 their portion of FRS. You can look back to the
21 following year, the previous year of 2020, you see
22 that \$6 million dollar liability. That is that big
23 change from one year to the next. The change isn't
24 really related to your portion of it, it really
25 relates to the total liability of FRS, that decrease.

1 So, I just kind of wanted to show you. You can see
2 that trend. It's been around \$5 million, \$6 million
3 over the last couple of years, and it decreased
4 significantly this year.

5 So, we continue along. We're going to get into
6 the compliance section. So we're going to get to
7 printed page 95. So, like I mentioned before, we have
8 a couple different types of audits. We're doing a
9 financial statement audit, we're also doing a
10 compliance audit, because the organization is a
11 governmental entity and they're required to perform an
12 audit in accordance with government audit standards.

13 So, what that means, and in this report, we
14 discuss the compliance portion of the audit where we
15 have to perform procedures over internal controls over
16 that financial reporting. And in this report, it lets
17 the reader know, you know, what are, what is internal
18 controls over financial reporting. What would be
19 considered a deficiency in internal controls and the
20 different levels. You have a material weakness or a
21 significant deficiency. So, it defines what those
22 are. But, most importantly, on the following page,
23 it's the opinion on internal controls over financial
24 reporting. And it reads, essentially, based on the
25 procedures we perform, there were no issues in

1 internal controls over financial reporting that rose
2 to the levels of significant deficiencies or material
3 weakness.

4 Government auditing standards, it's a little bit
5 different than, say, FASB, or a different type of
6 reporting requirement. We're not allowed to just
7 disclose a finding verbally. You know, in other cases
8 you might be able to depending on the significance of
9 that item. We would have to be required to disclose
10 this to the board and to the organization in writing.
11 So, if there were any issues, it would be identified
12 in this letter, but as you can see, no such issues
13 were identified for this fiscal year. So, we're very
14 happy to let your organization know we received a
15 clean opinion in that regard.

16 The following compliance report is called the
17 Management Letter in Accordance with the Rules of the
18 Auditor General in the State of Florida. And
19 essentially, in this letter, there's issues like from
20 the previous letters in regards to internal controls.
21 In the following letter, which is this one, if there
22 are any recommendations that we might have encountered
23 based on the procedures, if there are any findings in
24 the prior year, we have to disclose what the update
25 was. But as you can see, in the following pages

1 here, there were no such issues, no such management
2 letters of recommendations identified based on the
3 procedures we performed.

4 And then the last compliance report is on printed
5 page 100. And this compliance report, essentially, in
6 regards to Florida Statutes, we're required to
7 disclose, is the organization following their
8 investment policies in the fiscal year and this year,
9 based on the procedures form, yes. The organization
10 is in compliance with regards to their investment
11 policy. So no such issues were identified this year
12 as well. So again, clean audit, clean opinion, and
13 we're very happy with the organization. It was a
14 great year.

15 And one thing I want to mention, like Bill talked
16 about, the last couple of years have been a very
17 different environment in regards to audits, right. A
18 lot more remote procedures, but one thing to, you
19 know, Bill, Wendy and their team, their credit,
20 whenever there was a question, whenever there was
21 support requested or required, it was always given to
22 us in a very timely manner. It wasn't, oh, we need to
23 take time to find it, oh, we can't find this. It was
24 always provided to us whenever we requested it and
25 they did a great job of giving us support.

1 We kind of did a hybrid this year. We started
2 the procedures remotely, but then any physical
3 documents, we performed the procedures on site, making
4 sure we followed the proper protocols and safety
5 protocols. Our relationship isn't just, you know, a
6 couple months during the audit. Bill and Wendy, they
7 do a great job of really reaching out to us along the
8 way, throughout the year. Whenever there's a
9 transaction that, you know, they pretty much know how
10 to report it, but they want make sure they're on the
11 same page and we're on the same page, especially for
12 things that might be a little unique in the year.
13 It's a great relationship, because when it comes time
14 for the audit, there's not surprises. We're all on
15 the same page and everything is above board. So they
16 do a great job throughout the year of really reaching
17 out to us and discussing, and they want to be on top
18 of every new accounting printouts that are being
19 implemented, whether this year or in the upcoming
20 year.

21 So, I want to give credit, because without them,
22 this document wouldn't be ready and to be presented to
23 you in such a timely fashion. So, I'm very happy to
24 let the organization know, a very successful audit,
25 and you have a great team here.

1 MR. TROWBRIDGE: Thank you very much, Branden.
2 We'll hold questions for a moment to allow Bill the
3 opportunity to --

4 MR. KIRTLAND: And I appreciate that.

5 MR. TROWBRIDGE: -- clean up here. Go ahead.

6 MR. KIRTLAND: Right, there were just a couple of
7 comments that I also wanted to point out in the
8 report. I don't need to follow along on any specific
9 pages. Wendy, don't worry. I just want to highlight
10 a couple of those items within the schedules, just to,
11 I guess, set a tone for the coming months in our
12 April, May, and June, and July finance and operation
13 committee. As we start to discuss our budgets for the
14 coming years. But, just for some perspective, again,
15 our initiative at the end of the 2018 year was to
16 address our fund balance issue. Which was almost,
17 approximately, \$70,000,000. So, we are, if you're
18 reading the government fund statement of activities,
19 we have essentially cut that in half to approximately
20 \$35,000,000 at the end of year three of this plan.

21 So, essentially, as Branden was mentioning, and I
22 hope I describe it correctly, is we have two types of
23 schedules in these financials. You have the
24 governmentwide financials and the government fund
25 financials. And then governmentwide financials

1 included a lot of the long-term assets and liabilities
2 that can significantly alter our perspective of what
3 the fund balance is. But those are not obligations
4 that have to be met in the short-term. So, we
5 primarily manage our fund balance from the government
6 fund perspective, which is our short-term vision, well
7 I guess our short term activities of, you know,
8 expenses and revenues that are within, I guess, our
9 one-year foresight.

10 So, essentially, I just wanted to, you know, draw
11 some special attention to this number because it's, to
12 me, a very significant moment for The Trust. That we
13 have, essentially, adopted a strategy given, you know,
14 provided by this committee and by board members and
15 implemented by staff. And so it just kind of feels
16 good to be in a moment where, you know, a long-term
17 strategy has come to fruition. It's our
18 responsibility now to consider strategies in the
19 coming years that have now maybe leveled out our
20 resources a little bit, to think about how revenues
21 and expenses balance. Because, for years, we've been
22 supplementing our program activities primarily with
23 the use of our fund balance reserves.

24 So now I'm just going to open it up for
25 discussion before we completely conclude. I just

1 wanted to say a couple more comments to staff and to
2 the committee. So, I will kick it over to you all for
3 any detail discussion on this report we've presented
4 to you today.

5 MR. TROWBRIDGE: Thank you, Bill. Any questions
6 for Bill or Branden?

7 Matthew, please.

8 MR. ARSENAULT: Thank you. I just wanted to make
9 a comment. You know, in reviewing the report and
10 talking with Bill, I just want to commend the team and
11 staff for -- I think they do a great job in managing
12 the funds of The Trust, right. It's a weighty
13 responsibility. It's something that, right, this
14 committee, has to oversee. I believe the development
15 of a plan, the successful execution of the plan, and
16 also conversations with Bill when we talked, the drive
17 to have an efficient team and an efficient program,
18 right. Helping to keep the general administrative
19 costs of The Trust down. I know that Bill and team do
20 a great job of automating processes and levying
21 technology for that.

22 So, I just wanted to commend the team on that.
23 And you know, I feel very confident with regards to
24 management. And the responsible management of the
25 finances of The Trust. I wanted to make that known.

1 So congratulations.

2 MR. TROWBRIDGE: Thank you, Matthew. Other
3 comments? Constance?

4 MS. COLLINS: Yeah, I'd like to second those
5 comments and to say that from the prospective of a
6 provider, that it's actually, as rigorous as The Trust
7 is, and I have a very granular experience of that,
8 from a provider prospective, it's actually a comfort.
9 Because the policies, procedures, protocols, systems
10 of approval are clear and consistent. And still
11 there's flexibility where needed, as we saw through
12 the pandemic, creating all sorts of urgent situations.
13 But throughout there was a sense, on our part, of
14 absolute steadiness and financial responsibility on
15 the part of The Trust to all of us.

16 So, I just want to say, thank you. It was
17 impressive. I think this report is impressive. The
18 history of The Trust and its financial team is
19 impressive. And it's a great convert to someone
20 serving on the finance committee to know the level of
21 detail, and attention, and accountability, and
22 transparency that goes on within The Trust. So, I
23 just want to say, thank you and congratulations.

24 MR. TROWBRIDGE: Thank you, Constance. I see
25 that our Chair has his hand up and then Dr. Abrahante.

1 Welcome, Ken, I'm glad to have you with us.

2 MR. HOFFMAN: Thank you. I was just going to say
3 the same. Ditto. I really think that it's comforting
4 that Bill and team have successfully navigated us
5 through normal audit processes for many years, have
6 given us the comfort that the money that we're setting
7 aside to spend for programs. Like Constance says, is
8 being well managed and handled. And again, I'd like
9 to thank Bill and his team, but also our auditors for
10 their participation and everything they do.

11 And I'll turn it over to Dr. Abrahante.

12 MR. TROWBRIDGE: Thank you. Magaly.

13 DR. ABRAHANTE: Yes, good morning. Ditto to
14 everything that has been said. Just wanted to add a
15 couple of things. Number one, having been involved
16 with monitoring very large plans for the past 19
17 years, I know how difficult it is to have a clean
18 audit year after year. So that is not an easy thing
19 and I want to congratulate the staff for that work.

20 Also, the fact that we've been able to maintain
21 that level of accuracy, while reducing our fund
22 balance and providing more money for programs, it's
23 very remarkable. So, thank you for those of you who
24 do this work every day. I know it's a lot of work.
25 And congratulations to all.

1 MR. TROWBRIDGE: Thank you, Dr. Abrahante. Well
2 said. Any other comments or questions?

3 This will be brought to the full board on March
4 14th. So, in just about 10 days, or so, you'll hear a
5 similar presentation from Branden and team, but I hope
6 our full board will appreciate that the finance
7 committee has an opportunity to weigh in. And I'm
8 sure many of them will echo your comments as well, in
9 terms of the outcomes of the audit.

10 And congratulations to you and your team, Bill.
11 And thank you for the work that you do on behalf of
12 our board.

13 Seeing no other comments then, Bill, anything
14 last to say?

15 MR. KIRTLAND: Well, I guess a little bit of
16 housekeeping on what we're accomplishing today by the
17 presentation of the Annual Comprehensive Financial
18 Report, which is a new acronym, by the way. So I've
19 tripped up on that a couple of times, so it's now the
20 ACFR, instead of the C -- did I get that right, the
21 CFR. But we are voting, I think, to approve these --
22 this report today. Because for the presentation, at
23 the board level, it's for presentation purposes. And
24 then I think, soon after the board meeting is when the
25 actual issuance of this report takes place.

1 So, I just wanted to thank everybody for the
2 comments that were made about the staff diligence and
3 the work put into this report. And the audit process.
4 But, I think the comment word that was used was
5 comfort, it's comforting to me to have a supportive
6 board and committee members that share in the same
7 values and interest in, you know, the quality and the
8 type of diligence that is put into the financial and
9 operating type and pragmatic oversight of the work
10 that we do here at The Trust. So, the culture is
11 established here at the board level and it's been, you
12 know, relatively, you know, simple to cascade down
13 into our staff when it's exemplified the way that it
14 is here. And it's great to have such level of
15 expertise on our board level because we get a lot of
16 great feedback from the members here. As to, you
17 know, adopting strategies and things that we can do
18 even on a day-to-day basis.

19 I'm very grateful to the type of, you know,
20 assistance that we have at our fingertips right here
21 at the board level. I also just wanted to extend, you
22 know, the comments again, to our excellent audit team,
23 at Marcum, it's been a pleasure working with them for
24 four years. And we only have one year left and I'm
25 already, sort of, preparing -- not necessarily looking

1 forward to all the work that goes into doing, you
2 know, all the solicitation, again, for the review of
3 the next round of audit services that we will be
4 engaged in for another five years. It felt like we
5 just did that, you know, the other day. When it was
6 about four years ago.

7 And I wanted to thank the staff. Because there
8 is staff that is sitting in this room that I could
9 directly acknowledge for their work put into the
10 audit. And staff that are not sitting in this room,
11 necessarily, that were, are, responsible for the
12 quality of the audit.

13 So, I wanted to thank -- Wendy thinks she does a
14 clever job sitting all the way in the back of the
15 room, around the corner, I can't even quite see her --
16 oh, there she is. She's sitting behind Wendy in the
17 back corner. But she is the, I think the word I use
18 most here is a spearhead for this process. She's our
19 controller at The Children's Trust. And I've known
20 Wendy, even before I came to The Children's Trust as
21 an auditor, myself. So, she's been an excellent
22 resource for all the historical knowledge, and you
23 know, I think the reasons we do, and don't do, things.
24 So she takes care of us in the process from beginning
25 to end.

1 So, I just wanted to directly thank Wendy
2 Duncombe, our controller, sitting over there.

3 And really, as I mentioned, Jim, and Ron, Jack,
4 really the executive team, we all share in the same
5 sentiment of what needs to be done and why we do it.
6 And the staff lies into that. So, this report is
7 really built upon communication and coordination with
8 every single one of our departments. So, I just want
9 to congratulate and thank all of the staff. As large
10 and cascading as that is, I want to thank all The
11 Children's Trust staff involved in this process, so.

12 MR. TROWBRIDGE: Thank you, Bill. I think it
13 goes without saying, that you know, probably the most
14 important role that we have as board members is being
15 good stewards, good fiduciary, and working closely
16 with staff, to ensure that year after year we have
17 audits like this that solidify the fact that public
18 could have great trust in The Children's Trust.

19 So, I'll follow your lead in that we need to have
20 a motion for The Children's Trust Annual Comprehensive
21 Financial Report for fiscal year ending September 30,
22 2021. Is there someone who will make the motion to
23 approve?

24 MS. KOBRINSKI: Can we just -- I'm sorry, Mr.
25 Chair, can you do a motion to favorably recommend the

1 report. We're not accepting it, there's no action
2 item on the agenda for today.

3 MR. TROWBRIDGE: Okay. Modifying that potential
4 motion to favorably accept, is that correct?
5 Favorably recommend and bring it to the board on the
6 14?

7 MR. ARSENAULT: So, moved, Arsenault.

8 MR. TROWBRIDGE: We have a motion from Matthew.

9 MS. COLLINS: Second, Collins.

10 MR. TROWBRIDGE: Second from Constance.

11 Any discussion? Further comments?

12 (No verbal response.)

13 MR. TROWBRIDGE: Seeing none, all in favor say
14 aye?

15 (WHEREUPON, the committee members all responded
16 with "aye.")

17 MR. TROWBRIDGE: Any opposed nay?

18 (No verbal response.)

19 MR. TROWBRIDGE: The motion carries to favorably
20 recommend; I'm going to use that term all day today.
21 Fantastic. I just want to take a quick moment to
22 welcome Dr. Sylvia Diaz who is with us today as well.
23 She and I also serve on the New World School of the
24 Arts Board and it's great to have her joining us
25 today.

1 Mr. CEO, over to you. Still basking in your
2 great glory.

3 MR. HAJ: Mr. Chair, thank you. Just to echo
4 some of the sentiments. I want to thank this board
5 for the oversight for the development of the plan for
6 our fund balance over the last several years to get us
7 to where we need to be. We take it kind of for
8 granted that this is our ninth year of having a
9 perfect audit and getting the GFOA Certificate of
10 Excellence. We are prepped. I know it's Bill's goal
11 to get the decade, to get 10 years and kind of have a
12 nice round decade under our belt. But there is a lot
13 of work, especially in, and Constance talked about
14 during the time of COVID, how to be fiscally
15 responsible, fiscally sound, but yet flexible for our
16 providers was a challenge the last couple of years. I
17 want to thank Bill and the leadership of your team. I
18 want to thank Wendy, who is always behind the scenes,
19 and even again is behind the scenes.

20 Stand up for one second.

21 So, Wendy does a lot of this work to prepare all
22 this behind the scenes and then there's a full team
23 behind both of them, the Finance team and the entire
24 staff. So, thank you all to this committee. We had
25 the board retreat January, my months are blurry, or

1 February board retreat. We had a health committee
2 retreat. We're taking the programmatic voice of the
3 board and going to bring it back next month in April
4 and kind of mesh it with this committee and the
5 mileage rate. And what we're going to talk about at
6 the next three or four meetings for Finance of our
7 long-term strategy, our short-term strategy and our
8 long-term strategy to get through the next year and a
9 half of this cycle and what the next five-year cycle.

10 So, we are programmatically and physically we're
11 in a phenomenal spot and this -- what Branden had
12 mentioned, too, the plan drawing down the fund balance
13 and adding almost \$50 million into programs on the
14 street the last three or five years has worked to a T.
15 Now it's just how do we get the next five-year
16 strategy in place to continue monitoring that. So, I
17 thank the work of this board, and again, this March
18 we'll bring back the board retreat, and then April
19 we'll bring it back with dollar amounts and that will
20 mesh from Programs and Finance into the TRIM
21 discussion.

22 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

23 MR. TROWBRIDGE: Thank you, Jim. We have nothing
24 else before us on the formal agenda. Does anyone have
25 anything else they'd like to discuss?

1 All right. Have a good day, Bill. Thank you
2 very much. Thank you, Branden.

3 Is there a motion to adjourn?

4 MR. TROWBRIDGE: Is there a second?

5 MALE VOICE: Second.

6 MR. TROWBRIDGE: Without objection, we'll stand
7 adjourned.

8 (Whereupon, at 10:06 a.m., the meeting was
9 adjourned.)
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1 CERTIFICATE OF TRANSCRIPTION

2 The above and foregoing transcript is a true and
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5 the beginning of the transcript, to the best of my
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7 *Christy Caldera*
8

9 Christy Caldera, Transcriber

10 April 5, 2022
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