

FLUIDIGM CORP
Form DEF 14A
April 24, 2013
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UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549

SCHEDULE 14A INFORMATION
PROXY STATEMENT PURSUANT TO SECTION 14(a) OF THE
SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

Filed by the Registrant Filed by a Party other than the Registrant

Check the appropriate box:

- Preliminary Proxy Statement
- Confidential, for Use of the Commission Only (as permitted by Rule 14a-6(e)(2))
- Definitive Proxy Statement
- Definitive Additional Materials
- Soliciting Material Pursuant to §240.14a-11(c) or §240.14a-2

FLUIDIGM CORPORATION

(Name of Registrant as Specified In Its Charter)

(Name of Person(s) Filing Proxy Statement, if other than the Registrant)

Payment of Filing Fee (Check the appropriate box):

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- (1) Amount Previously Paid:

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- (3) Filing Party:

(4) Date Filed:

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7000 Shoreline Court, Suite 100

South San Francisco, California 94080

(650) 266-6000

June 6, 2013

Dear Stockholder:

We are pleased to invite you to attend our 2013 annual meeting of stockholders to be held on Thursday, June 6, 2013 at 10:30 a.m., Pacific time, at the offices of Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati, P.C., located at 650 Page Mill Road, Palo Alto, California 94304. The formal meeting notice and proxy statement are attached.

At this year's annual meeting, our stockholders will be asked to:

elect two nominees for Class III director named in the proxy statement to hold office until our 2016 annual meeting of stockholders or until his successor is duly elected and qualified;

vote, on an advisory basis, to approve the compensation of our named executive officers for the year ended December 31, 2012, as set forth in the proxy statement; and

ratify the appointment of Ernst & Young LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm for the year ending December 31, 2013.

Your vote is important. Whether or not you plan to attend the annual meeting, it is important that your shares be represented, and we hope you will vote as soon as possible. Please vote promptly by mailing a completed proxy card in the enclosed return envelope (which is postage prepaid if mailed in the United States). Please remember to sign and date your card. If you hold shares of our common stock through a broker, bank, trustee, or other nominee, please follow the voting instructions provided. You may be able to vote by telephone or over the Internet.

Thank you for your continued support of Fluidigm. We look forward to seeing you at our annual meeting.

Sincerely,

Gajus V. Worthington

President and Chief Executive Officer

This notice of our annual meeting of stockholders, the proxy statement, and the proxy card are being distributed and made available on or about April 24, 2013.

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FLUIDIGM CORPORATION

7000 Shoreline Court, Suite 100

South San Francisco, California 94080

(650) 266-6000

NOTICE OF 2013 ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS

Time and Date

10:30 a.m., Pacific time, on Thursday, June 6, 2013

Place

Offices of Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati, P.C., 650 Page Mill Road, Palo Alto, California 94304

Items of Business

To elect two nominees for Class III director named in this proxy statement to hold office until our 2016 annual meeting of stockholders or until his successor is duly elected and qualified.

To vote, on an advisory basis, to approve the compensation of our named executive officers for the year ended December 31, 2012, as set forth in this proxy statement.

To ratify the appointment of Ernst & Young LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm for the year ending December 31, 2013.

To transact any other business that may properly come before the 2013 annual meeting.

Adjournments

Any action on the items of business described above may be considered at the annual meeting at the time and on the date specified above or at any time and date to which the annual meeting may be properly adjourned or postponed.

and Postponements

Record Date

You are entitled to vote only if you were a Fluidigm stockholder of record as of the close of business on the record date, April 12, 2013.

Meeting Admission

You are entitled to attend the annual meeting only if you were a Fluidigm stockholder as of the close of business on the record date or otherwise hold a valid proxy for the annual meeting. If you are not a stockholder of record but hold shares through a broker, bank, trustee, or nominee (i.e., in street name), you should provide proof of beneficial ownership as of the record date, such as your most recent

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account statement prior to the record date, a copy of the voting instruction card provided by your broker, bank, trustee, or nominee, or similar evidence of ownership.

Please let us know if you plan to attend the meeting by marking the appropriate box on the enclosed proxy card or, if you vote by telephone or over the Internet, by indicating your plans when prompted.

Annual Report

Our 2012 annual report is enclosed with these materials as a separate booklet. You may also access our 2012 annual report by visiting www.proxyvote.com. Our 2012 annual report is not a part of the proxy solicitation materials.

Voting

Your vote is very important. Whether or not you plan to attend the annual meeting, we encourage you to read the proxy statement and submit your proxy or voting instructions as soon as possible. For specific instructions on how to vote your shares, please refer to the instructions in the section entitled **Questions and Answers About the Proxy Materials and Annual Meeting** beginning on page 1 of this proxy statement, or as set forth on your enclosed proxy card.

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**PROXY STATEMENT
FOR 2013 ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS**

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FLUIDIGM CORPORATION

7000 Shoreline Court, Suite 100

South San Francisco, California 94080

PROXY STATEMENT

For the Annual Meeting of Stockholders

to be held on June 6, 2013

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

ABOUT THE PROXY MATERIALS AND ANNUAL MEETING

What is a proxy?

A proxy is your legal designation of another person to vote the stock you own. The person you designate is your proxy, and you give the proxy authority to vote your shares by submitting the enclosed proxy card or, if available, voting by telephone or over the Internet. We have designated our president and chief executive officer, Gajus V. Worthington, our chief financial officer, Vikram Jog, and our executive vice president, legal affairs, and general counsel, William M. Smith, to serve as proxies for the annual meeting.

Why am I receiving these materials?

We are providing these proxy materials in connection with the solicitation by our board of directors of proxies to be voted at our 2013 annual meeting of stockholders, which will take place on Thursday, June 6, 2013 at 10:30 a.m., Pacific time, at the offices of Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati, P.C. located at 650 Page Mill Road, Palo Alto, California 94304. As a stockholder, you are invited to attend the annual meeting and are requested to vote on the items of business described in this proxy statement.

This proxy statement and the accompanying proxy card, notice of annual meeting, and voting instructions are being mailed on or about April 24, 2013 to all stockholders of record entitled to vote at the annual meeting.

What information is contained in this proxy statement?

The information in this proxy statement relates to the proposals to be voted on at the annual meeting, the voting process, the compensation of our directors and most highly paid executive officers, our corporate governance policies, information on our board of directors, and certain other required information.

How do I get electronic access to the proxy materials?

The notice of annual meeting, proxy statement, and 2012 annual report are available by visiting www.proxyvote.com and typing in the control number as set forth (i) on the proxy card (for stockholders of record), or (ii) on the voting instruction form (for individuals who hold shares through a broker, bank, trustee, or nominee).

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What items of business will be voted on at the annual meeting?

The items of business scheduled to be voted on at the annual meeting are as follows:

the election of two nominees for Class III director named in this proxy statement to hold office until our 2016 annual meeting of stockholders or until his successor is duly elected and qualified;

to vote, on an advisory basis, to approve the compensation of our named executive officers for the year ended December 31, 2012, as set forth in this proxy statement; and

to ratify the appointment of Ernst & Young LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm for the year ending December 31, 2013.

We will also transact any other business that properly comes before the annual meeting.

How does the board of directors recommend that I vote?

Our board of directors recommends that you vote your shares:

FOR the nominees for Class III director named in this proxy statement;

FOR approval of the compensation of our named executive officers for the year ended December 31, 2012, on an advisory basis; and

FOR the ratification of the appointment of Ernst & Young LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm for the year ending December 31, 2013.

What shares can I vote?

Each share of our common stock issued and outstanding as of the close of business on April 12, 2013, the record date for the 2013 annual meeting of stockholders, is entitled to vote on all items being considered at the 2013 annual meeting. You may vote all shares owned by you as of the record date, including (i) shares held directly in your name as the stockholder of record, and (ii) shares held for you as the beneficial owner in street name through a broker, bank, trustee, or other nominee. On the record date, we had 25,416,016 shares of common stock issued and outstanding.

How many votes am I entitled to per share?

For all matters described in this proxy statement for which your vote is being solicited, each holder of shares of common stock is entitled to one vote for each share of common stock held by such holder as of the record date.

What is the difference between holding shares as a stockholder of record and as a beneficial owner?

Many stockholders hold their shares as a beneficial owner through a broker, bank, trustee, or other nominee rather than directly in their own name. As summarized below, there are some distinctions between shares held of record and those owned beneficially.

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Stockholder of Record

If your shares are registered directly in your name with our transfer agent, Computershare Trust Company, N.A., you are considered the *stockholder of record* with respect to those shares, and these proxy materials were sent directly to you by our mailing agent. As the *stockholder of record*, you have the right to grant your voting proxy directly to our designated proxies or to vote in person at the annual meeting. We have enclosed a proxy card for you to use with the printed proxy materials delivered to you. You may also vote on the Internet or by telephone as described below under the heading *How can I vote my shares without attending the annual meeting?* and on your proxy card.

Beneficial Owner

If your shares are held through a broker, bank, trustee, or other nominee, you are considered the *beneficial owner of shares held in street name*, and the notice of annual meeting, proxy statement, and 2012 annual report were forwarded to you by that organization. As the *beneficial owner*, you have the right to direct your broker, bank, trustee, or other nominee how to vote your shares, and you are also invited to attend the annual meeting.

Since a *beneficial owner* is not the stockholder of record, you may not vote your shares in person at the annual meeting unless you obtain a legal proxy from the broker, bank, trustee, or nominee that holds your shares giving you the right to vote the shares at the meeting. If you are a beneficial owner and do not wish to vote in person or you will not be attending the annual meeting, you may vote by following the instructions provided by your broker, bank, trustee, or other nominee.

How can I contact Fluidigm's transfer agent?

Contact our transfer agent by writing Computershare Trust Company, N.A., 250 Royall Street, Canton, MA 02021 (for overnight delivery), or at P.O. Box 43078, Providence, Rhode Island 02940-3078 (for regular U.S. mail). You may also contact our transfer agent by calling (800) 662-7232 or (781) 575-2879.

How can I attend the annual meeting?

You are entitled to attend the annual meeting only if you were a Fluidigm stockholder as of the record date or you hold a valid proxy for the annual meeting. If you are not a stockholder of record but hold shares as a beneficial owner in street name, you should provide proof of beneficial ownership as of the record date, such as your most recent account statement prior to April 12, 2013, together with a copy of the voting instruction card provided by your broker, bank, trustee or nominee, or other similar evidence of ownership.

If you do not comply with the procedures outlined above, you may not be admitted to the annual meeting.

Please let us know if you plan to attend the meeting by marking the appropriate box on the enclosed proxy card or, if you vote by telephone or Internet, by indicating your plans when prompted.

Will the annual meeting be webcast?

We do not expect to webcast the annual meeting.

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How can I vote my shares in person at the annual meeting?

Shares held in your name as the stockholder of record may be voted by you in person at the annual meeting. Shares held beneficially in street name may be voted by you in person at the annual meeting only if you obtain a legal proxy from the broker, bank, trustee, or other nominee that holds your shares giving you the right to vote the shares. Even if you plan to attend the annual meeting, we recommend that you also submit your proxy or voting instructions as described below so that your vote will be counted if you later decide not to attend the meeting.

How can I vote my shares without attending the annual meeting?

By mail

Complete, sign and date the enclosed proxy card or voting instruction card and return it in the return envelope provided (which is postage prepaid if mailed in the United States). *If you are a stockholder of record and you return your signed proxy card but do not indicate your voting preferences, the persons named in the proxy card will vote the shares represented by your proxy card as recommended by our board of directors.*

If you are a stockholder of record and the prepaid envelope is missing, please mail your completed proxy card to Fluidigm Corporation, c/o Broadridge Financial Solutions, Inc., 51 Mercedes Way, Edgewood, New York 11717.

If you are a beneficial owner of shares, you should have received a proxy card and voting instructions with these proxy materials from your broker, bank, trustee, or other nominee. Simply complete and mail the proxy card provided to the address provided by your broker, bank, trustee, or other nominee.

You may attend the annual meeting in person even if you have already voted by proxy.

By telephone or on the Internet

If you are a stockholder of record, you may vote by following the telephone or Internet voting instructions on your proxy card.

If you are a beneficial owner of shares, your broker, bank, trustee, or other nominee may make telephone or Internet voting available to you. The availability of telephone and Internet voting for beneficial owners will depend on the voting processes of your broker, bank, trustee, or other nominee. Therefore, we recommend that you follow the voting instructions in the materials you receive.

Can I change my vote or revoke my proxy?

You may change your vote at any time prior to the taking of the vote at the annual meeting. If you are the stockholder of record, you may change your vote by (i) granting a new proxy bearing a later date (which automatically revokes the earlier proxy) using any of the methods described above (and until the applicable deadline for each method), (ii) providing a written notice of revocation to our corporate secretary at Fluidigm Corporation, 7000 Shoreline Court, Suite 100, South San Francisco, California 94080, Attn: Corporate Secretary, prior to your shares being voted, or (iii) attending the annual meeting and voting in person. Attendance at the meeting will not cause your previously granted

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proxy to be revoked unless you specifically so request. For shares you hold beneficially in street name, you may change your vote by submitting new voting instructions to your broker, bank, trustee, or nominee following the instructions they provided or, if you have obtained a legal proxy from your broker, bank, trustee, or nominee giving you the right to vote your shares, by attending the annual meeting and voting in person.

Is there a list of stockholders entitled to vote at the annual meeting?

The names of stockholders of record entitled to vote at the annual meeting will be available at the annual meeting and from our corporate secretary for ten days prior to the meeting for any purpose germane to the meeting, between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., at our corporate headquarters at 7000 Shoreline Court, Suite 100, South San Francisco, California 94080.

Is my vote confidential?

Proxy instructions, ballots, and voting tabulations that identify individual stockholders are handled in a manner that protects your voting privacy. Your vote will not be disclosed either within Fluidigm or to third parties, except as necessary to meet applicable legal requirements, to allow for the tabulation of votes and certification of the vote, or to facilitate a successful proxy solicitation.

How many shares must be present or represented to conduct business at the annual meeting?

Holders of a majority of the issued and outstanding shares of common stock as of the record date must be present in person or represented by proxy, also referred to as a quorum, to hold and transact business at the annual meeting. Abstentions and broker non-votes are counted as present and entitled to vote for purposes of determining a quorum. A broker non-vote occurs when a broker, bank, trustee, or other nominee holding shares for a beneficial owner does not vote on a particular proposal because that holder does not have discretionary voting power for that particular item and has not received voting instructions from the beneficial owner. If there is no quorum, holders of a majority of the issued and outstanding shares of common stock present at the annual meeting may adjourn the meeting to another date.

What is the voting requirement to approve each of the proposals?

Proposal	Vote Required	Discretionary Voting Allowed?
Election of Class III directors	Plurality of the shares	No
Advisory Vote on Approval of Executive Compensation	Majority of the shares present, represented, and entitled to vote at the meeting	No
Ratification of Appointment of Ernst & Young LLP for the year ending December 31, 2013	Majority of the shares present, represented, and entitled to vote at the meeting	Yes

If you are a beneficial owner, your broker, bank, trustee, or other nominee is permitted to vote your shares on the ratification of the appointment of Ernst & Young LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm for the year ending December 31, 2013, even if the record holder does not receive voting instructions from you. However, your broker, bank, trustee, or other nominee does not have discretionary authority to vote on the election of the Class III directors without instructions from

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you, in which case a broker non-vote will occur and your shares will not be voted on this matter. In addition, discretionary voting is not allowed with respect to the proposal seeking an advisory vote on approval of executive compensation. Accordingly, if you are a beneficial owner, it is particularly important that you provide your instructions for voting your shares on the election of the Class III directors and the advisory vote on approval of executive compensation to your broker, bank, trustee, or other nominee.

Election of Class III Directors

The two nominees receiving the highest number of affirmative FOR votes will be elected as Class III directors. You may vote FOR or WITHHOLD for each director nominee. A properly executed proxy marked WITHHOLD with respect to the election of a Class III director will not be voted with respect to such director although it will be counted for purposes of determining whether there is a quorum. Abstentions and broker non-votes will not affect the outcome of the election of the Class III directors.

Advisory Vote on Approval of Executive Compensation

The affirmative FOR vote of a majority of the shares present, represented, and entitled to vote on the proposal is required to approve, on an advisory basis, the compensation awarded to our named executive officers for the year ended December 31, 2012. You may vote FOR, AGAINST, or ABSTAIN on this proposal. Abstentions are deemed to be votes cast and have the same effect as a vote against the proposal. Broker non-votes are not deemed to be votes cast, are not included in the tabulation of voting results on this proposal, and will not affect the outcome of voting on this proposal.

Ratification of Appointment Ernst & Young LLP

The affirmative FOR vote of a majority of the shares present, represented, and entitled to vote on the proposal is required to ratify the appointment of Ernst & Young LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm for the year ending December 31, 2013. You may vote FOR, AGAINST, or ABSTAIN on this proposal. Abstentions are deemed to be votes cast and have the same effect as a vote against the proposal. Broker non-votes are not deemed to be votes cast, are not included in the tabulation of voting results on this proposal, and will not affect the outcome of voting on this proposal.

What happens if additional matters are presented at the annual meeting?

Other than the items of business described in this proxy statement, we are not aware of any other business to be acted upon at the annual meeting. If you grant a proxy, the persons named as proxy holders, Gajus V. Worthington, Vikram Jog, and William M. Smith, or any of them, will have the discretion to vote your shares on any additional matters properly presented for a vote at the meeting. If for any reason a Class III director nominee is not available as a candidate for director, the persons named as proxy holders will vote your proxy for such other candidate as may be nominated by our board of directors.

Who will count the votes?

A representative of our mailing agent, Broadridge Financial Solutions, Inc., will tabulate the votes and act as inspector of elections.

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Who will bear the cost of soliciting votes for the annual meeting?

We will pay the entire cost of preparing, assembling, printing, mailing, and distributing these proxy materials and soliciting votes. In addition to the mailing of these proxy materials, the solicitation of proxies or votes may be made in person, by telephone, or by electronic communication by our directors, officers, and employees, who will not receive any additional compensation for such solicitation activities. We may also reimburse brokerage firms, bank, trustee, and other nominees for the cost of forwarding proxy materials to beneficial owners.

Where can I find the voting results of the annual meeting?

We will announce preliminary voting results at the annual meeting. We will also disclose voting results on a Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission, also referred to as the SEC, within four business days after the annual meeting. If final voting results are not available to us in time to file a Current Report on Form 8-K within four business days after the annual meeting, we will file a Current Report on Form 8-K to publish preliminary results and, within four business days after final results are known, file an additional Current Report on Form 8-K to publish the final results.

What is householding and how does it affect me?

We have adopted a procedure approved by the SEC called householding. Under this procedure, stockholders of record who have the same address and last name will receive only one copy of our notice of annual meeting, proxy statement, and 2012 annual report, unless one or more of these stockholders notifies us that they wish to continue receiving individual copies. Stockholders who wish to participate in householding will continue to receive separate proxy cards. This procedure will reduce our printing costs and postage fees.

If you are eligible for householding but you and other stockholders of record with whom you share an address currently receive multiple copies of the notice of annual meeting, proxy statement, 2012 annual report, and accompanying documents, or if you hold stock in more than one account, and, in either case, you wish to receive only a single copy of each of these documents for your household, please contact our mailing agent, Broadridge Financial Solutions, Inc., either by calling toll free at (800) 542-1061 or by writing to Broadridge, Household Department, 51 Mercedes Way, Edgewood, New York 11717.

If you participate in householding and wish to receive a separate copy of this notice of annual meeting, proxy statement, 2012 annual report, and the accompanying documents, or if you do not wish to continue to participate in householding and prefer to receive separate copies of these documents in the future, please contact Broadridge Financial Services, Inc. as indicated above.

Beneficial owners can request information about householding from their broker, banks, trustee, or other nominee.

What is the deadline to propose actions for consideration at next year's annual meeting of stockholders or to nominate individuals to serve as directors?

Stockholder Proposals

Stockholders may present proper proposals for inclusion in our proxy statement and for consideration at the next annual meeting of stockholders by submitting their proposals in writing to our

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corporate secretary in a timely manner. For a stockholder proposal to be considered for inclusion in our proxy statement for our next annual meeting of stockholders, our corporate secretary must receive the written proposal at our principal executive offices not later than December 25, 2013; *provided, however*, that in the event that we hold our 2014 annual meeting of stockholders more than 30 days before or 60 days after the one-year anniversary date of the 2013 annual meeting, we will disclose the new deadline by which stockholders proposals must be received under Item 5 of our earliest possible Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q or, if impracticable, by any means reasonably calculated to inform stockholders. In addition, stockholder proposals must otherwise comply with the requirements of Rule 14a-8 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, also referred to as the Exchange Act. Such proposals also must comply with SEC regulations under Rule 14a-8 regarding the inclusion of stockholder proposals in company-sponsored proxy materials. Proposals should be addressed to:

Fluidigm Corporation

Attn: Corporate Secretary

7000 Shoreline Court, Suite 100

South San Francisco, California 94080

Fax: (650) 871-7152

Our bylaws also establish an advance notice procedure for stockholders who wish to present a proposal before an annual meeting of stockholders, but do not intend for the proposal to be included in our proxy statement. Our bylaws provide that the only business that may be conducted at an annual meeting is business that is (i) specified in the company's proxy materials with respect to such meeting, (ii) otherwise properly brought before the meeting by or at the direction of our board of directors, or (iii) properly brought before the meeting by a stockholder of record entitled to vote at the annual meeting who has delivered timely written notice to our corporate secretary, which notice must contain the information specified in our bylaws. To be timely for our 2014 annual meeting of stockholders, our corporate secretary must receive the written notice at our principal executive offices:

not earlier than February 8, 2014, and

not later than March 10, 2014.

In the event that we hold our 2014 annual meeting of stockholders more than 30 days before or more than 60 days after the one-year anniversary date of the 2013 annual meeting, then notice of a stockholder proposal that is not intended to be included in our proxy statement must be received no earlier than the close of business on the 120th day before such annual meeting and no later than the close of business on the later of the following two dates:

the 90th day prior to such annual meeting, or

the 10th day following the day on which public announcement of the date of such meeting is first made.

If a stockholder who has notified us of his, her or its intention to present a proposal at an annual meeting does not appear to present such proposal at such meeting, we are not required to present the proposal for a vote at the meeting.

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Nomination of Director Candidates

Our bylaws permit stockholders to nominate directors for election at an annual meeting of stockholders. To nominate a director, the stockholder must provide the information required by our bylaws. In addition, the stockholder must give timely notice to our corporate secretary in accordance with our bylaws, which, in general, require that the notice be received by our corporate secretary within the time period described above under *Stockholder Proposals* for stockholder proposals that are not intended to be included in our proxy statement.

In addition, it is the policy of our nominating and corporate governance committee to consider recommendations for candidates to the board of directors from stockholders holding not less than one percent (1%) of the outstanding shares of our common stock continuously for at least twelve months prior to the date of submission of the recommendation or nomination. Any such recommendations should include the nominee's name and qualifications for membership on our board of directors, and should be directed to our corporate secretary at our address set forth above. For additional information regarding stockholder recommendations for director candidates, please see the section entitled *Corporate Governance and Board of Directors Process for Recommending Candidates to the Board of Directors*.

Availability of Bylaws

A copy of our bylaws may be obtained by accessing Fluidigm's filings on the SEC's website at www.sec.gov. You may also contact our corporate secretary at our principal executive offices for a copy of the relevant bylaw provisions regarding the requirements for making stockholder proposals and nominating director candidates.

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CORPORATE GOVERNANCE AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Fluidigm Policies on Business Conduct

We are committed to the highest standards of integrity and ethics in the way we conduct our business. We have adopted a code of ethics and conduct that applies to our board of directors, officers, and employees, including our chief executive officer and chief financial officer. Our code of ethics and conduct establishes our policies and expectations with respect to a wide range of business conduct, including preparation and maintenance of financial and accounting information, compliance with laws, and conflicts of interest.

Under our code of ethics and conduct, each of our directors, officers, and employees is required to report suspected or actual violations to the extent permitted by law. In addition, we have adopted separate procedures concerning the receipt and investigation of complaints relating to accounting or audit matters. These procedures have been adopted and are administered by our audit committee.

Our code of ethics and conduct is available on our website at <http://investors.fluidigm.com/governance.cfm>. When required by the rules of the NASDAQ Global Market, also referred to as NASDAQ, or the SEC, we will disclose any future amendment to, or waiver of, any provision of the code of ethics and conduct for our chief executive officer, principal financial officer, principal accounting officer, or any member of our board of directors on our website within four business days following the date of such amendment or waiver.

Corporate Governance Principles

Our board of directors has adopted a set of principles that establish the corporate governance policies pursuant to which our board of directors intends to conduct its oversight of our business in accordance with its fiduciary responsibilities. Among other things, these corporate governance principles address the establishment and operation of board committees, the role of our chairman, and matters relating to director independence and performance assessments. Our corporate governance principles are available on our website at <http://investors.fluidigm.com/governance.cfm>.

Role and Composition of the Board

As identified in our corporate governance principles, the role of our board of directors is to oversee the performance of our chief executive officer and other senior management. Our board of directors is responsible for hiring, overseeing, and evaluating management while management is responsible for running our day-to-day operations.

Our board of directors is currently comprised of six members and is divided into three staggered classes of directors. At each annual meeting of stockholders, a class of directors will be elected for a term of three years to succeed the class of directors whose terms are then expiring. The terms of the directors will expire upon the election and qualification of successor directors at the annual meeting of stockholders to be held during the years 2014 for the Class I directors, 2015 for the Class II directors, and 2016 for the Class III directors.

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2012 Board Meetings

During 2012, our board of directors held eight meetings. Each of our directors attended or participated in 75% or more of the meetings of the board of directors and 75% or more of the meetings held by all committees of the board of directors on which he served during the past fiscal year.

Board Leadership Structure

Chairman of the Board

Our corporate governance principles provide that the board of directors will fill the chairman and chief executive officer positions based upon the board's view of what is in our best interests at any point in time. Although our current chairman is a non-employee director, the board has not adopted any policy requiring separation of the chairman and chief executive officer positions or requiring allocation of the chairman position to a non-employee director. Samuel D. Colella, an independent director with substantial board and executive leadership experience, currently serves as our chairman. In addition to Fluidigm, Mr. Colella currently serves on the board of Genomic Health, Inc. and the boards of several private companies. Our board of directors believes that Mr. Colella's qualifications to serve as chairman include his broad understanding of the life science industry and his extensive experience with emerging private and public companies, including prior service as chairman of other boards.

Separating the positions of the chairman and chief executive officer allows our chief executive officer to focus on our day-to-day business, while allowing our chairman to lead our board in its fundamental role of providing independent advice to and oversight of management. The board believes that having an independent director serve as chairman is the appropriate leadership structure for Fluidigm at this time and demonstrates our commitment to good corporate governance.

Director Independence

As a company listed on NASDAQ, we are required under the NASDAQ listing requirements to maintain a board comprised of a majority of independent directors, as determined affirmatively by our board. In addition, the NASDAQ rules require that, subject to specified exceptions, each member of our audit, compensation, and nominating and corporate governance committees be independent. Our board of directors determined that a majority of our directors during 2012 were independent directors as defined under applicable NASDAQ rules, including Kenneth J. Nussbacher, whose term on our board of directors ended in May 2012, Samuel D. Colella, Evan Jones, Patrick S. Jones, and John A. Young. Gerhard F. Burbach was appointed to our board of directors, and our board of directors determined that he was an independent director as defined under applicable NASDAQ rules, in January 2013.

In April 2013, our board of directors undertook another review of the independence of our directors and considered whether any director has a material relationship with us that could compromise his ability to exercise independent judgment in carrying out his responsibilities. As a result of this review, our board of directors determined that Samuel D. Colella, Evan Jones, Patrick S. Jones, John A. Young, and Gerhard F. Burbach, representing a majority of our directors, are independent directors as defined under applicable NASDAQ rules. Gajus V. Worthington is not considered an independent director because of his positions as our president and chief executive officer.

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Executive Sessions of Independent Directors

In order to promote open discussion among independent directors, our board of directors has a policy of conducting executive sessions of independent directors during each regularly scheduled board meeting and at such other times as requested by an independent director. These executive sessions are chaired by our chairman. Gajus V. Worthington does not participate in such sessions.

Board's Role in Risk Oversight

While our board of directors has the ultimate oversight responsibility for the risk management process, it has charged our audit committee with responsibility to oversee management's processes for identifying, monitoring, and addressing enterprise risks, evaluate and discuss with management its assessments of matters relating to enterprise risks, and oversee and monitor management's plans to address such risks. Our audit committee oversees an enterprise-wide approach to risk management designed to support the achievement of organizational objectives, including strategic objectives, to improve long-term organizational performance, and to enhance stockholder value. A fundamental part of risk management is not only understanding the most significant risks a company faces and what steps management is taking to manage those risks, but also understanding what level of risk is appropriate for a given company. The audit committee's review of our business is an integral aspect of its assessment of management's tolerance for risk and its determination as to the appropriate level of risk for our company.

In addition, in setting compensation, our compensation committee strives to create incentives that encourage a level of risk-taking consistent with our business strategy and to encourage a focus on building long-term value that does not encourage excessive risk-taking. In connection with its oversight of compensation-related risks, our compensation committee has reviewed our compensation programs and practices for employees, including executive and non-executive programs and practices. In its review, our compensation committee evaluated whether our policies and programs encourage unnecessary or excessive risk-taking and controls, and how such policies and programs are structured with respect to risks and rewards, as well as controls designed to mitigate any risks. As a result of this review, our compensation committee determined that any risks that may result from our compensation policies and practices for our employees are not reasonably likely to have a material adverse effect on Fluidigm.

At periodic meetings of the board and its committees and in other meetings and discussions, management reports to, and seeks guidance from, the board and its committees with respect to the most significant risks that could affect our business, such as legal, financial, tax, and audit related risks. In addition, among other matters, management provides our audit committee periodic reports on our compliance programs and efforts, and investment policy and practices.

Board Committees

Our board of directors has three standing committees: an audit committee, a compensation committee, and a nominating and corporate governance committee.

Audit Committee. In 2012, our audit committee consisted of directors Patrick S. Jones, Evan Jones, Kenneth J. Nussbacher, whose term on our board of directors and audit committee ended in May 2012, and John A. Young, who served on our audit committee from May 2012 until January 2013. Gerhard F. Burbach was appointed to serve on our audit committee in January 2013. Our audit committee currently consists of directors Patrick S. Jones, Evan Jones, and Gerhard F. Burbach.

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Patrick S. Jones is the chairman of the audit committee. Our board of directors has determined that each of Patrick S. Jones, Evan Jones, and Gerhard F. Burbach is independent and financially literate under the current rules and regulations of the SEC and NASDAQ and that Mr. Patrick S. Jones qualifies as an audit committee financial expert within the meaning of the rules and regulations of the SEC.

Our audit committee oversees our corporate accounting and financial reporting process and our enterprise risk management process, and assists our board of directors in monitoring our financial systems and our legal and regulatory compliance. Our audit committee is authorized to, among other things:

oversee the work of our independent registered public accounting firm;

approve the hiring, discharge, and compensation of our independent registered public accounting firm;

approve engagements of our independent registered public accounting firm to render any audit or permissible non-audit services;

evaluate the qualifications, independence, and performance of our independent registered public accounting firm;

discuss and, as appropriate, review with management and our independent registered public accounting firm our annual and quarterly financial statements and our major critical accounting policies and practices;

review management's assessment of our internal controls; and

review the adequacy and effectiveness of our internal control policies and procedures.

Our audit committee operates under a written charter approved by our board of directors. The charter is available on our website at <http://investors.fluidigm.com/governance.cfm>. Our audit committee held nine meetings during 2012.

Compensation Committee. In 2012, our compensation committee consisted of directors Samuel D. Colella, Evan Jones, and John A. Young. Gerhard F. Burbach was appointed to serve on our compensation committee in January 2013. Our compensation committee currently consists of directors Samuel D. Colella, Evan Jones, John A. Young, and Gerhard F. Burbach, each of whom qualifies as an independent director under the applicable rules and regulations of the SEC and NASDAQ. Mr. Colella is the chairman of our compensation committee. Furthermore, if required to ensure compliance with Rule 16b-3 under the Exchange Act, a subcommittee of the compensation committee considers and approves the grant of executive stock options. Such subcommittee is comprised solely of non-employee directors pursuant to the rule.