

The New York Times

Accel's Breyer to Join News Corp. Board, as 2 Depart

By **Evelyn M. Rusli** September 2, 2011 9:52 am

News Corporation, which is in the midst of a phone-hacking scandal, is reshuffling the board.

On Friday, the media conglomerate announced that James W. Breyer of the venture capital firm Accel Partners had been nominated to the board. Two News Corporation directors, Kenneth E. Cowley and Thomas J. Perkins of Kleiner Perkins Caufield & Byers, will step down.

Related Links

The press release

Sorkin: Murdoch's Board Stays Silent As Scandal Widens

Shareholders will vote on Mr. Breyer at the company's annual meeting, scheduled for Oct. 21.

"Jim has a remarkable track record in the investment community and his background in media and technology will enable him to make significant contributions to News Corporation's board," Rupert Murdoch, News Corporation's chief executive, said in a statement.

The changes comes as the media conglomerate continues to wrestle with a wide-ranging phone-hacking scandal that has led to the departure of several top managers and the closure of The News of the World, the company's long-running British tabloid. In August, Mr. Murdoch told investors that he had the support of the board and planned to remain as its chief executive.

With Mr. Breyer, the company will add a prominent Silicon Valley investor to its

board, even as it loses Mr. Perkins, one of the founding members of Kleiner Perkins. Mr. Breyer, who also serves on the boards of Wal-Mart Stores and Dell, led Accel's first investment in Facebook in 2005 and was a major player in the firm's investments in Brightcove, Groupon and Etsy, an online e-commerce site.

"I consider it a privilege to be nominated, and I am excited about the prospect of joining News Corp.'s distinguished board at this exciting time in the company's history," Mr. Breyer said in a statement.

In its statement, the company did not explain why Mr. Cowley, who has served on the board since 1979, and Mr. Perkins are leaving. Mr. Cowley has long been a part of the News Corp. family, joining the media empire in 1964 to help launch The Australian. He later served as the chief executive of News Limited, a unit of News Corp., from 1980 to 1997.

Mr. Perkins, a board member for some 15 years, has been a vocal defender of the company's management. When the scandal broke, he was the first board member to discuss the controversy, telling The New York Times in July that the board "is fully supportive of the top management." He added, the board members "were stunned to discover the magnitude of the scandal." Still, some analysts say, Mr. Perkins may have been more agitated behind closed doors. He abruptly resigned from Hewlett-Packard's board in 2006 over the company's handling of a separate scandal involving phone records.