



**Jewish Federation of  
Ottawa Board of  
Directors Meeting**

Summary of Discussion for  
the community

**Tuesday, January 11, 2023**

Board Meeting

**In Attendance:** Leila Ages, Kevin Barwin, Harold Feder, Jeff Laks, Marina Milyavskaya, Karen Palayew, Michael Polowin, Gillian Presner, Alice Retik, Jacob Shabinsky, Ian Sherman, Evelyn Silverman, Marci Surkes and Gary Viner

**Staff:** Sarah Beutel, Pauline Colwin, Andrea Freedman, Rena Garshowitz, Micah Garten and Mark Gruner

**Recorder:** Sabrina Vitoriano

**I: Welcome – Ian Sherman**

Ian welcomed Board members and called the meeting to order at 5:33 pm. He welcomed new Annual Campaign co-chair Gary Viner who, along with Evelyn Silverman, will lead the upcoming campaign. Ian also expressed gratitude for outgoing campaign chair Josh Engel's terrific work over the past two years.

**II: Approval of Board Meeting Minutes – Ian Sherman**

Ian called for a motion to approve the minutes from the December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2022 Board of Directors meeting.

**Moved:** Michael Polowin

**Second:** Harold Feder

**Motion carried**

**III: Soloway Jewish Community Centre – Post-Covid recovery update and discussion – Barry Sohn, Allan Shefrin & Pam Rosenberg**

Ian welcomed Barry Sohn, President and COO – SJCC, Allan Shefrin, Immediate Past Chair of the Board – SJCC and Pam Rosenberg, VP Operations - SJCC and invited them to present a Post-Covid Recovery Update.

Barry started his presentation on membership informing that they are back to 77% of their pre-pandemic membership numbers with 1,100 membership units, increasing every month, and presented the specific efforts that are being made to attract Jewish members.

Allan presented on the possibility of changing the SJCC's operating hours, explaining that in April 2022 the SJCC board instituted a sub-committee to research potentially opening on Shabbat. .

Lastly, Barry gave an update on the Capital Campaign. Renovations in the building should start this calendar year.

Ian thanked Barry, Allan and Pam for the update and for taking their time to present to the board.

#### **IV: Food Security Emergency Allocation – Sarah Beutel & Kevin Barwin**

Ian asked Sarah Beutel and Kevin Barwin to present on a Food Security Emergency Allocation to the Ottawa Kosher Food Bank (OKFB). Kevin highlighted some of the key points noted in the document circulated ahead of the meeting. All questions posed by the board were answered to their satisfaction.

Michael Polowin proposed to add that management has the authority to determine if the funds will come from the emergency campaign or the reserves, as well as some additional recommendations regarding pursuing government funding.

Kevin Barwin called for a motion to approve the recommendations for a Food Security Emergency Allocation, including Michael's amendments.

**Moved:** Kevin Barwin

**Second:** Gillian Presner

**Motion carried**

#### **V: Antisemitism Strategic Funding – Andrea Freedman**

Ian invited Andrea Freedman to present on Antisemitism Strategic Funding. As the document was sent to the board in advance of the meeting, Andrea opened for questions, which were all addressed and answered to the board's satisfaction.

Michael Polowin called for a motion to approve Antisemitism Strategic Funding as presented.

**Moved:** Michael Polowin

**Second:** Jacob Shabinsky

**Motion carried**

#### **V: Annual Business Plan Update – Andrea Freedman**

Ian asked Andrea Freedman to present an update on the Annual Business plan. The document was circulated ahead of the meeting and no questions were raised by any of the board members. Andrea complimented the staff and volunteers for their work as there are no significant red flags in the current business plan and all initiatives are attainable at this juncture. An extension of the current strategic plan

will likely be requested to incorporate more work on the advocacy file and to accommodate adjustments with respect to Jewish engagement, required as a result of the pandemic.

#### **VI: President's Report – Andrea Freedman**

Ian invited Andrea Freedman to present on the President's Report, who provided the following updates to the report previously circulated to the board:

- In February 2022, the board approved a new policy on transferring excess dollars from the reserve to endowments at the Ottawa Jewish Community Foundation. Accordingly, funds from Federation and Campus were recently transferred.
- There was a productive meeting today with the new interim Director of Education of the OCSDB where Federation provided additional input into their holistic plan to fight antisemitism which included International Holocaust Remembrance Day in January and two training sessions for all principals and some staff. On Tuesday, there will be a meeting of the board of OCSDB at which there will be a motion to hire a Jewish Equity Coach.

All questions were answered to the board's satisfaction.

Ian thanked Andrea for her work and leadership.

#### **VI: Annual Campaign Report – Evelyn Silverman**

Ian invited Evelyn Silverman to present an update on the Annual Campaign.

As of January 11<sup>th</sup>, Campaign 2023 is just over \$4.5 million from 1,384 donors. The "Just Say Yes" email solicitation resulted in 37 donors who pledged more than \$10,500, which represented a 11% email response rate.

Ian thanked Evelyn for the update and her incredible work on the campaign.

#### **VII: Good & Welfare – Ian Sherman**

Condolences to Josh Engel on the loss of his dear mother Cindy Engel Z"L. For many years, Cindy was the stalwart editor of the Ottawa Jewish Bulletin and she will be greatly missed by her family, friends and the community.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:06 pm.