



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

Summary of Discussion for  
the community

**Wednesday, November 7, 2023**

Board Meeting

**In Attendance:** Leila Ages, Kevin Barwin, Marina Milyavskaya, Karen Palayew, Gillian Presner, Tal Scher, Jacob Shabinsky, Ian Sherman, Evelyn Silverman, Danya Vered and Gary Viner.

**Staff:** Sarah Beutel, Rena Garshowitz, Micah Garten and Mark Gruner.

**Recorder:** Sabrina Vitoriano.

**I: Welcome – Karen Palayew**

Karen welcomed board members and called the meeting to order at 5:31 pm. She expressed her gratitude to Sarah Beutel on her first week as interim CEO and the executive team. On day 32 of the war in Israel, she requested one minute of silence and invited Gillian Presner to read a prayer for the hostages.

**II: Approval of Board Meeting Minutes – Karen Palayew**

Karen called for a motion to approve the minutes from the October 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023 Board of Directors meeting.

**Moved:** Jacob Shabinsky

**Second:** Danya Vered

**Motion carried**

**III: War Update: Security; Advocacy – Sarah Beutel**

Karen invited Sarah to present a War Update which was divided into two parts:

1. Security

Sarah said the main goal is not only making sure the community is safe but making them feel safe. For that, the Security team has been working very hard and closely with the Ottawa Police, including an educational session to be held on November 20<sup>th</sup>.

Sarah invited Rena to talk about the security upgrades requests. Rena also brought to their attention the need to evaluate the continuation of the additional security personnel, as agreed at the last board meeting. The board had a robust and healthy discussion, and all questions posed were answered.

It was agreed that the funding for the two requests for security upgrades, should come from Campus Operations with the understanding that staff will continue to apply for grants and funding to offset security costs.

Karen asked for a motion to extend until December 22<sup>nd</sup> the funding for additional security personnel for Campus and for Torah Day School .

**Moved:** Gillian Presner

**Second:** Marina Milyavskaya

**Abstentions:** Tal Scher

**Motion carried**

## 2. Advocacy

Sarah provided the following updates to the report previously circulated to the board:

- Gary Viner was involved with the University of Ottawa Faculty in Medicine regarding an antisemitic incident that resulted in the involved students' suspension.
- There are around 50 people signed up for writing advocacy letters.
- We have received multiple requests for media interviews, and we are doing our best to follow up with those following Andrea Freedman's departure.
- We have a meeting scheduled with Lisa MacLeod, MPP this week.

A microgrant from a group of volunteers for a billboard campaign was approved. All questions were answered to the board's satisfaction.

Karen thanked Sarah and Rena for their update and hard work.

## **IV: President's Report – Sarah Beutel**

Karen invited Sarah to present the President's Report. Sarah indicated there were no other updates to the report circulated in advance than the ones already discussed in the previous topic. No questions were raised.

## **V: Fundraising Update – Gary Viner**

Karen invited Gary to present the Fundraising Update. He said that Campaign 2024 currently stands at \$3.35 million from 899 donors. There are approximately 625 further cards from people who gave last year but haven't been closed yet, which is slightly ahead of the number of cards at this time last year.

Karen thanked Gary, Evelyn, and Micah for their incredible work.

The meeting then moved in camera.

## **VI: In Camera**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:36 pm.