



Jewish Federation of Ottawa
Board of Directors Meeting
Summary of Discussion for the Community

Wednesday, December 16th, 2020
Board Meeting

In Attendance: Kevin Barwin, Harold Feder, Stacy Goldstein, Jeff Laks, Michael Polowin, Victor Rabinovitch, Jacob Shabinsky, Ian Sherman, Hartley Stern, Danya Vered.

Staff: Sarah Beutel, Andrea Freedman, Leslie Kaufman.

Recorder: Cibeles Rosa

I: Welcome – Michael Polowin

Michael welcomed the Board members and called the meeting to order at 5:33 pm.

II: Approval of Board Meeting Minutes – Michael Polowin

Michael called for a motion to approve the minutes from the November 25th, 2020 Board of Directors meeting.

Moved: Victor Rabinovitch

Second: Hartley Stern

Motion carried

III: Emergency Allocations – Andrea Freedman

Michael invited Andrea Freedman to present the Recommendations for Emergency Allocations. As the document was circulated in advance of the meeting, Andrea highlighted the following points:

- The Board already authorized, via email, the allocation related to the OJCS portion.
- Andrea emphasized the transparency of the organizations, particularly Jewish Family Services, on their request to redirect the amount already allocated for an alternate purpose.

There is a possibility that part of the allocation to Hillel Lodge, designated for infection control, will not be necessary, as long-term care facilities will be a priority in the provincial COVID-19 vaccination program. The recommendation is to allocate funds on a monthly base while the needs persist. In case of a potential outbreak that requires additional funds, an additional request will likely be made. Michael thanked Andrea for her presentation, and Kevin, Harold and Sarah for their hard work on the committee, and then he asked for a motion to approve the allocations from Emergency Campaign Funds as follows:

- Approve an allocation up to \$150,634 for OJCS;
- Approve an allocation up to \$56,787, with a possible reduction in case government funds are provided or a better price is secured on the required items, for Tamir;
- Approve the repurposing of the \$50K, already allocated, to Jewish Family Services;
- Approve \$363,214 to be allocated to Hillel Lodge from additional Federation savings should they be needed to meet infection control needs in partnership with the Hillel Lodge Foundation.

Moved: Jacob Shabinsky

Second: Kevin Barwin

Motion carried

Following the vote, Hartley Stern suggested that the government should be providing funds for infection control and PPE to long-term care homes, and that if Hillel Lodge is eligible, they could reimburse Federation for this additional funding. This is true for all social services agencies and will be added to the agreement with the agencies.

IV: Grants & Evaluation Recommendations for Funding – Kevin Barwin and Sarah Beutel

Michael invited Kevin Barwin, chair of the Grants & Evaluation Committee, and Sarah Beutel, Vice President Community Building to present the School Funding Report and Program Funding Recommendations. As the documents were sent in advance of the meeting, Sarah presented and answered questions related to School Funding, and Kevin provided a high-level overview and answered questions regarding Program Funding recommendations.

The amount allocated to supplemental schools would not change, as it is calculated by a formula using the last 3 years' enrolment. While the Board Members raised no concerns regarding the calculation, a future discussion will be addressed to reconsider the impact of the pandemic on the 2020 enrolment in the following years, as enrolment has declined not insignificantly this year.

Michael thanked Kevin, Sarah and the committee for their hard work preparing the recommendations, and then he asked for a motion to accept the recommended funding for Programs for the second half of the fiscal year to the listed agencies and to accept the recommended funding to Day and Supplementary Schools for the year of 2021, as presented.

Moved: Kevin Barwin

Second: Harold Feder

Motion carried

V: President's Report – Andrea Freedman

Andrea noted the following updates to her written report:

- The Virtual Menorah lighting is happening each night of Chanukah, connecting between 25-60 homes per night. While the uptake is relatively modest compared to the effort required, it is being received as a nice and heartwarming community-building moment and is allowing people like Tamir residents to be engaged.
- A Top Donor Briefing was held on December 9th, approximately 30 top donors attended. Risa Plotnick, new Tamir Executive Director, Dahlia Melech, Manager of the Ottawa Kosher Food Bank at KBI, presented along with a Federation update.
- The first segment of the national system's Reimagining process will be tabled for a vote tomorrow at the Jewish Federations of Canada-UJA Board Meeting.
- A yearly contribution is being paid to the Jewish Federations of Canada for the Birthright Israel program; however, due to the pandemic, the program was paused in March and leadership have decided to reduce the 2021 contribution by 50%.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:19 pm.