



**Jewish Federation of Ottawa**  
**Board of Directors Meeting**  
Summary of Discussion for the  
community

**Monday, November 9, 2022**

Board Meeting

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

**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 12:04 pm. He began the meeting by recognizing Remembrance Day.

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

Ian called for a motion to approve the minutes from the October 12<sup>th</sup>, 2022 Board of Directors meeting.

**Moved:** Karen Palayew

**Second:** Gillian Presner

**Motion carried**

**III: Foundation, A History of Partnership – Andrea Freedman & Micah Garten**

Ian explained that there was a change to the agenda and invited Andrea Freedman and Micah Garten to present on Foundation, A History of Partnership.

Andrea and Micah presented on the Foundation and its major campaigns, highlighting the partnership between the Federation and the Foundation. All questions were answered to the board's satisfaction.

Ian thanked Andrea and Micah for presenting on the Foundation, and the Foundation for its remarkable partnership.

**IV: Jewish Family Services: Ukrainian Refugees and Food Security – Sarah Caspi**

Ian invited Sarah Caspi, CEO – Jewish Family Services, to present an update on Ukrainian Refugees and Food Security.

On Food Security, Sarah pointed out the challenges faced by the community with Covid-19 and the increase in the price of food and housing, and the support JFS is providing. To illustrate their work, she mentioned that there are currently 53 households receiving monthly financial assistance and 110 households receiving fruits &

vegetables from Miriam's Well; and another 200 households received Rosh Hashanah support.

On Ukrainian Refugees, Sarah estimated that between 3,500 and 4,000 Ukrainian refugees have settled in Ottawa, and explained their work regarding job settlement, ESL classes, and financial and housing aid. Sarah answered all questions from board members.

Ian thanked Sarah for all the incredible and lifesaving work that JFS does and for making the time to be at the meeting.

**V: 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:

- Camille Williams-Taylor, Director of Education with the OCDSB has announced that she is leaving at the end of the calendar year;
- The 'Rise Up' event took place last Sunday with several hundred attendees;
- 'Mission To Israel' information session is tomorrow evening;
- Last Friday, 17 families were at the PJ event that OJCS organized. That was a good example of the new engagement strategy with smaller and more meaningful connections for people and with Federation partnering with others with respect to PJ programming.

The board raised a question about the number of registrants from Ottawa on 'March of the Living', which is 5 at the moment, and questioned why it is lower than previous years. The reasons may be linked to not having run the trip in the past 3 years, so kids were not motivated by previous participants; the high cost; the anxiety kids are facing at school nowadays; and the war in Ukraine.

Ian thanked Andrea for her report.

**VI: Annual Campaign Report – Josh Engel**

Ian invited Josh Engel to present an update on the Annual Campaign.

As of November 8<sup>th</sup>, Campaign 2023 stands at 842 donors pledging \$3.3million, which is a 3% increase on those same donors from the prior year. The matching campaign was just initiated with promising result.

Ian thanked Josh for presenting the campaign update and thanked him and Evelyn for their hard work.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:29 pm.