



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

Summary of Discussion for  
the Community

**Thursday, October 23, 2025**

**In Attendance:** Leila Ages, Joelle Assaraf, SuYun Geithner, Jessica Greenberg, Evan Green, Josh Kardish, Jeff Laks, Elissa Lieff, Marina Milyavskaya, Karen Palayew, Gillian Presner, Samantha Sigler, Danya Vered, Gary Viner, Adam Zaret

**Staff:** John Davis, Rena Garshowitz, Anne Read, Michael Reznick, Adam Silver

**Guests:** Alexa Barrett-Taller, Eriel Ben-Gal, Jamie Sweigman, Yaron Zlot.

### **I: Welcome – Danya Vered**

Danya thanked everyone for attending and called the meeting to order at 5:41 pm. She thanked Josh Kardish for chairing the Campus AGM.

Evan Green delivered an inspirational D'var Torah, tying the Parsha Noach and the various interpretations of the word "teivah" to our work in the community and how we are called to engage fully and purposefully in our work.

Gillian Presner volunteered to deliver the D'var at the next Board meeting.

Danya thanked Evan for his meaningful words.

### **II: Approval of Board Meeting Minutes – Danya Vered**

Danya asked if there were any questions or corrections to the minutes from the September 16, 2025 board meeting.

Danya called for a motion to approve the minutes from the September 16, 2025 board meeting.

**Moved:** Karen Palayew

**Second:** Marina Milyavskaya

**Motion carried**

### **III: Hillel Ottawa & Family Programming Update - Alexa Barrett-Taller, Eriel Ben-Gal, Jamie Sweigman, Yaron Zlot**

Danya invited Hillel Ottawa staff Alexa, Jamie, and Yaron to present a programming and engagement update. Highlights included an introduction of the staff team and their various roles, an overview of programming, events, and partnerships, and details on advocacy and leadership development. All questions were answered to the Board's satisfaction.

Danya then invited Eriel Ben-Gal, PJ Library Coordinator, to provide an update on PJ Library and young families programming. Highlights included the fact that there are over 600 subscriber families receiving over 800 books on a monthly basis, social media engagement and metrics, and details of the PJ Book Kits that will be distributed to over 200 classrooms throughout OCDSB and OCSB schools. All questions were answered to the Board's satisfaction.

### **IV: Campaign Update – Michael Reznick**

Danya thanked Alexa, Jamie, Yaron, and Eriel, and invited Michael to present a Campaign update.

- The theme of the 2026 Annual Campaign is Here for Good, meaning both permanently and to do good in the community
- He explained the messaging of three layers of impact: Jewish Life, Jewish Connections, and Jewish Future
- As of Oct 23, 2025, campaign had raised \$1,102, 961 from 220 donors (including 12 new donors)
- He discussed some stewardship initiatives, including giving societies and the formation of the *Silver Circle*, honour households who have contributed for 25 consecutive years or more.

All questions were answered to the Board's satisfaction.

Danya thanked Michael for his presentation.

### **V: OVH Update – Rena Garshowitz**

Danya invited Rena to provide a brief, high-level overview of OVH and address some circulating rumours.

Rena shared some background on the OVH, its governance, its relationship with Federation, and its revenue and expenses. She went over the current OVH landscape including vendors, caterers, and other food service providers.

Danya thanked Rena for her presentation.

**VI: President's Report – Adam Silver**

Danya invited Adam to present the President's Report.

Adam updated the Board on one main item that was not included in the circulated written report.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:17 PM.