



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

Wednesday April 20th
Soloway Jewish Community Centre

In Attendance: David Appotive, Harold Feder, Linda Kerzner, Steven Kimmel, Mike Shahin, Jason Shinder, Hartley Stern, Arlene Wortsman

Staff: Bram Bregman, Shelley Crawford, Andrea Freedman, Arieh Rosenblum

Recorder: Alecia Laliberte

I: Welcome – Linda Kerzner

Linda Kerzner called the meeting to order at 5:37pm.

II: Approval of Board Meeting Minutes

Linda called for a motion to approve minutes from the April 20th Jewish Federation of Ottawa board of director's meeting.

First – Arlene Wortsman

Second – Harold Feder

Motion carried

III: President's Report - Andrea Freedman

Andrea provided three updates to the previously distributed report.

- **Community-wide survey of young families** (launched April 4th): after a second reminder and a community e-blast, there have been 252 total respondents.
- Jody Roodman (Business Manager for the bulletin) has decided to leave the bulletin, but will stay on until a replacement is found. An intensive search process has been initiated for a new Bulletin Sales Manager. Prior to beginning a search, work is being done to clarify the precise skill set required for the position.
- Federation has hired Ilan Orzy on a 6 month contract as a development assistant to assist with the database conversion and provide overall, seasonal support to Federation and Foundation efforts.

IV: Nominating Committee Report- Steven Kimmel

Steven presented the Nominating Committee report. Board terms are ending for 2 directors: Mike Shahin and Jennifer Kardash, and 2 individuals: Danya Vered and Victor Rabinovitch have been put forward to

stand for election as new directors. Steven provided information on both nominees and thanked Mike and Jennifer for their past leadership, commitment and service. Additionally, accepting a new term to Federation's board is Lenora Zelikovitz.

Steven moved to accept the Nominating Committee's report as presented.

First – Steven Kimmel

Second – Jason Shinder

Motion carried

V: Community Service Awards- Steven Kimmel

Steven was pleased to announce the Community Service Award recipients for 2016.

The first recipient of the newly established Student Award goes to Arielle Ellis; the Freiman Family Young Leadership Award recipient is Debbie Scharf and; the Shem Tov Community Volunteer Award for 2016 is Merle Haltrecht-Matte.

Steven noted that this information has not yet been circulated to the community and is to be treated as confidential.

VI: OJCS Update – Linda Kerzner

A key aspect of Federation's strategic plan is to increase enrolment in Jewish education. This has been a constant challenge in our community, and while day school enrollment has dropped precipitously over the years, supplemental education has not seen a corresponding increase.

Unfortunately, OJCS has experienced a stumbling block transitioning from the current academic year to next year. Enrolment for 2016/17 currently stands at 161 students, though the number may increase by as many as 19 students. Currently the school has 200 students.

Some of the decline in overall enrollment was predictable:

- A large graduating Grade 8 class of 22 students.
- An expected, but significant drop-off from Grade 3 to public school Grade 4, due to French immersion. The decline this year was anticipated because a disproportionate number of the families in this year's class have older siblings who similarly transitioned to public school after Grade 3.

Notwithstanding this, the small size of the incoming ADK class, currently at 15 students, and a much lower retention rate this year than the past few years, is cause for concern and serious reflection by leadership.

The enrolment challenge will also represent a financial challenge for the school, though for next year, there are sufficient funds available through the special OJCS campaign to meet a higher than expected deficit.

There are two primary considerations:

- **Funding** – regardless of enrolment, should the OJCS allocation remain at the current level? Conversely, given the importance of Jewish education, are more funds required?
- **Other forms of support** – the importance of Jewish education is greater than any one institution. Accordingly, Federation has a role to play in examining all aspects of helping more families make the decision to send their child to day school. The challenges are significant and therefore responses have to be multi-faceted.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:12pm