



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

Summary of Discussion as a Report to the Community

Wednesday, May 2, 2018
Soloway Jewish Community Centre

In Attendance: David Appotive, Kevin Barwin, Stacy Goldstein, Sender Gordon, Linda Kerzner, Michael Polowin, Victor Rabinovitch, Hartley Stern

Staff: Andrea Freedman, Sarah Beutel, Leslie Kaufman, Judie McKenney

Recorder: Solange Ashe

I: Welcome – Hartley Stern

Hartley Stern welcomed the board and called the meeting to order at 5:02 pm.

Hartley reminded the board about the Members' meeting with Linda Kislowicz who will be speaking about inclusion and accessibility.

II: Approval of Board Meeting Minutes – Hartley Stern

Hartley called for a motion to approve the minutes from the April 11, 2018 Jewish Federation of Ottawa board of director's meeting.

First – Michael Polowin

Second – Stacy Goldstein

Motion carried.

III: Jewish Superhighway – Andrea Freedman

Andrea provided two updates:

- 1) The Jewish Superhighway presentation has been revised and presented to JWRP participants and will also be presented at the Members meeting. In an effort led by Stacy Goldstein, Linda Melamed and Nikki Shapiro, "intimate" conversations are being organized to present the Jewish Superhighway to smaller groups of people in their homes.
- 2) The Federation has begun reaching out to synagogue leadership to do a slightly modified presentation. The Jewish Superhighway is scheduled to be presented at Temple Israel at the end of August.

The board had an open discussion about this initiative.

IV: School Funding Report – Sarah Beutel

Hartley introduced the School Funding report and confirmed that Michael Polowin and Sender Gordon will abstain from any approval of motions due to a conflict of interest, but will provide input as needed.

Sarah Beutel presented the School Funding report to the board with the following items of note:

1) **Supplementary Schools:**

- Calculations are based on the number of students and number of hours of instruction.
- Or Hanesamah Shabbat camp now receives program funding instead of School Funding.
- The current budget is consistent with last year's budget, which is based on historic levels.
- In addition to annual funding, there are ongoing efforts to support schools in a variety of other ways such as grants, professional development, help with recruitment, board development, etc.

2) **Day Schools:**

- The 2016 School Funding Task Force recommended that the best formula for funding day schools was a model based on a fixed amount or base funding with an additional variable amount that could change over time based on performance metrics.
- The recommendation is that the funding that day schools received last year will become their base funding. Accordingly, the additional \$20,000 allocation Torah Day has received over the last 2 years, now becomes part of their base funding.

The board asked for several clarifications including:

- Federation has redefined Torah Day's funding as organizational funding. They will now have the same benefits and requirements that the other larger beneficiaries do (e.g. tailored accountability framework, base funding, etc.)
- Concerns were expressed that the recommendations of the 2016 Task Force were not completely followed in terms of implementing a new funding formula for day schools, and that the large differential between OJCS and Torah Day School's funding was not sufficiently addressed. It was noted that there are no new funds available to address the large differential, and the additional funds raised through the Jewish Superhighway are part of the strategy to be able to do so.

Danya Vered, will be chairing a task force that will make recommendations as to how funds from the Jewish Superhighway will be allocated. The board will be kept apprised of the process and it is anticipated that a resolution will be brought forward in the late fall.

There is a clear commitment to address funding for Torah Day.

Hartley called for a motion to approve the School Funding Report.

First – Victor Rabinovitch

Second – Kevin Barwin

Abstain – Michael Polowin & Sender Gordon (conflict of interest)

Against – Stacy Goldstein

Motion carried.

V: Reserve Funding – Best Practices – Judith McKenney

Judith McKenney reviewed the report on Operating Reserves. The board had an open discussion agreeing with the proposed policies with the exception of the following:

- Unrestricted net assets (operating reserves) will be maintained for 4 months (rather than the proposed 3 to 6 months).

Hartley requested that management determine the legal requirement pertaining to separate cash flow reserves and the total reserves (e.g. campus, managed fund with the Foundation foundation) before a motion is brought to the board.

VI: Campaign Report – Andrea Freedman

Andrea presented the Campaign Report and advised that it will likely be an increased campaign this past year. The Campaign is currently at \$4.3M and 1,800 donors, which includes 203 new donors. There are 209 dollar cards from last year that remain outstanding.

VII: President's Report – Andrea Freedman

Andrea presented the President's Report with the following updates:

- 1) Federation is participating in an employee satisfaction survey with Leading Edge who is surveying approximately 10,000 employees who work for Jewish communal organizations across North America. The results will be shared with staff and the board.
- 2) Linda Kerzner announced the Community Award winners as follows:

Jewish Student Leaders at the University of Ottawa – Student Leadership Award

Aaron Smith – Freiman Family Young Leadership Award and Lawrence Greenberg Young Leadership Development Award

Michael Landau – Shem Tov Community Service Award.

- 3) Board members Nikki Shapiro and Lenora Zelikovitz are in Israel with the Jewish Women's Renaissance Project. Federation has sponsored 36 women to go and is hopeful that many of these women will become involved in the community.
- 4) The Chief Rabbi's visit has created some debate and discussion in the community. Federation is organizing a small breakfast with community leaders and Rabbis.

VIII: Ottawa Jewish Bulletin and Communal Debate – Victor Rabinovitch

The issue that brought this discussion to the board table was the debate surrounding the Chief Rabbi's visit to Ottawa and specifically the Bulletin's process for publishing (or not) articles and opinion pieces on complex issues, when there are multiple, strongly held perspectives. When a "controversial" piece is submitted to the Bulletin (and it is on a relevant topic that meets standards), in conducting itself as "a force for constructive communal consciousness", the Bulletin will publish the piece, but also seek out a piece that promotes an alternative view as well.

The board remains comfortable with this approach and endorsed the way the Bulletin is dealing with tricky community issues.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:54pm