



**Jewish Federation of Ottawa
Board of Directors Meeting
Summary of Discussion as a Report to the Community
Wednesday, December 18, 2013 at 5:30 pm**

In Attendance: Stuart Ages, Lauren Bronstein, Linda Kerzner, Steven Kimmel, Lisa Rosenkrantz, Mike Shahin, Jason Shinder, Mark Thaw, Neil Zaret

Staff: Bram Bregman, Shelley Crawford, Andrea Freedman, Leslie Kaufman, Dawn Paterson

Observer: Lynne Oreck-Wener

Guest: Mark Palmer

The meeting was called to order by Steven Kimmel at 5:35 pm.

I Welcome

Steven Kimmel welcomed the board and guests, and thanked Tamir for hosting the meeting.

Jason Shinder **moved** to accept the summary of discussions from the November 26, 2013 Board meeting. Stuart Ages **seconded**. **Carried**.

II President's Report

Andrea Freedman provided the board with updates to the circulated President's report.

- The Federation is happy to welcome back Francie Greenspoon. Francie and Pauline Colwin are each now working half-time, dividing the marketing, communications and community relations responsibilities for Federation, Foundation and Bulletin.
- The Shoah committee will now be staffed by Benita Siemiatycki as Sarah Beutel has new responsibilities with community building.
- The Family Life Coordinator description has been finalized and will be a part-time position shared with the JCC to engage the 35 + demographic in the community.
- Samantha Banks will be scaling back her work with Hillel Ottawa Campus, focusing primarily on Grad-Med-Law students in addition to her on-going responsibilities with the Emerging Generation. Hillel Ottawa may hire an intern to take on some of her previous assignments.
- None of the above staff changes have material financial implications.
- Canadian Federations Update: Toronto, Edmonton, Vancouver and Winnipeg are all engaging in a search for a new CEO. The reasons vary; however, there is a climate of great change across the entire system.
- Steven Kimmel and Andrea Freedman had a productive meeting with Ambassador Barak to discuss community. The outcome was:
 - A tour of the campus planned for the early New Year.
 - An interest in holding a community event.



III Agency Update: Tamir Presentation

Mark Palmer presented Tamir 101: Who they are, what they do, where they want to go

- Tamir started in 1990 with three people in one home and has grown to 100 plus clients and 7 homes over the last 23 years.
- Tamir has 120 staff, a majority of whom are part time employees.
- Residents range from 7 to 75 years of age.
- Tamir offers the following services and programs to its participants:
 - Support to the semi-developmentally disabled
 - Judaic outreach
 - Encourage community involvement through the arts
 - Keshet for Kids - summer day camp
- A daily challenge is serving a large variety of needs around the clock.
- Tamir receives 95% of its funding annually from the Ministry of Community and Social Services (MCSS); the remaining 5% of funding comes from community support.
 - Government cut backs have resulted in an increased need for community support, as Tamir strives to maintain the same level of quality service it has always provided.
- New goals for Tamir:
 - Open a new residence for community housing
 - Build a facility to meet the needs of aging residents
 - Building plans and feasibility assessment have been completed
 - Hoping for Federation's support in moving plans forward
 - Further develop programs
 - True Colors road show
 - Grow Keshet for Kids

IV Beth Shalom/Agudath Update

Unfortunately, the work of the joint task force has concluded unsuccessfully. No further next steps are being considered until both congregations have held town meetings:

- Agudath Israel: December 16, 2013 at 7pm
- Congregation Beth Shalom: January 15, 2014 at 6:45pm

The Federation believes that professional 3rd party mediation is required.

V General Programming Policy

Bram Bregman provided an explanation of the circulated policy on Kosher and Shabbat Aspects of Federation Programming. The policy was developed to provide guidelines when organizing or funding events for the Federation, partner and non-partner agencies, with the goal of ensuring that any event with the Federation brand attached, would respect the Federation's stance on Jewish law. Private events are not bound by this policy.

The board endorsed the outlined and presented policy, and did not feel that a motion was required.



VI Community Missions

Steven Kimmel introduced the discussion and asked Linda Kerzner to explain the benefits of holding community missions to Israel:

- New volunteers
- New donors, or increased gifts
- Creates a connection to community
- Creates a passion for Israel
- Creates greater understanding of the Federation

There was a concern that if the Federation does not offer a yearly Israel experience, these benefits would be at risk.

A challenge faced by Federation is affordability. In the past, Jewish Federations of Canada offered financial subsidies; however this support is no longer available.

Efforts were made to hold a 2014 Spring mission. Unfortunately, due to a lack of community interest, the mission was cancelled and focus has shifted to planning the 2015 mission with Chairs Leiba Krantzberg and Charles Schachnow.

The board felt that a mission should still be considered for 2014 and offered the following suggestions:

- Look at partnering with other trips to Israel
- Update the itinerary from past missions to make a new attractive trip that would draw in participants
- Explore involvement with Ambassador Barak

VII Campaign Report

Dawn Paterson provided the board with the Annual Campaign Report.

To date, the 2014 Campaign had raised \$3.8M, representing 2,006 gifts and a 6.5% increase over last year. This includes 260 new and returned donors. There are 250 cards left to be closed with an approximate value of \$500K.

The Emerging Generation Division has canvassed 203 donors, closing 99 gifts that represent approximately \$12K.

VIII Campus Update

Stuart Ages and Neil Zaret provided a Campus update.

- The Campus Committee has been meeting weekly to discuss the following:
 - A Campus Operations manual which outlines the campus organizational structure and job descriptions.
 - Building Condition Report from Cleland Jardine:
 - The report identified that capital spending will be required for 11 Nadolny Sachs in 2014 and 2015.
 - Reserve funds are in place for these repairs, and the building is in better condition than anticipated.
 - The report will be circulated to the board for review.



- Expenses for the Kerr lands are currently paid by the Federation. Neil Zaret and Andrea Freedman asked the board to approve the campus committee's exploration of options for cost relief. The board agreed.

IX Strategic Planning Update

Linda Kerzner provided background and updates to the strategic planning process. A mission, vision and statement of values draft was circulated to the board. The board was comfortable with this draft being presented at consultative sessions in January and February with the board, top donors, committee chairs, agencies, staff and community at large for feedback and direction.

X Finance Report

Shelley Crawford provided the Interim Financial Report for Campus, Annual Campaign and Federation Services.

- Campus: Buildings 31, 11 and Campus Management funds are on budget to date.
- Annual Campaign: Events and Programs are slightly over budget this quarter but overall the budget is on-track due to savings in other areas.
- Federation Services: The Federation spending is well under budget in the transition/capacity building contingency that was put in place at the recommendation of our auditors.
- Other updates:
 - The management team is working on 2013 year end collections.
 - The second installment of payments are being received for the OJCS Campaign.
 - Year End Audits and Allocation envelope sizes should be on a future agenda.

XI OJCS Report

Neil Zaret reported that the board and staff have been working together on the big issues: populating the school and replacing the Head of School. Efforts have been made to prepare packages and documentation earlier than in the past. There has already been a positive response to the personal outreach efforts.

- a. Bram Bregman will begin working with Andrea Black to increase enrollment.
- b. The OJCS board has decided to explore hiring a recruitment specialist to assist in the search for a new head of the school.

XII Good & Welfare

Steven Kimmel called for Good & Welfare.

- XIII Leslie Kaufman provided an Ottawa Vaad Ha'Kashrut update. Morris Kimmel has stepped down as chair, and Dr. Paul Claman has agreed to serve as the new chair. An announcement will be circulated to community rabbis.

Steven Kimmel adjourned the Jewish Federation of Ottawa Board meeting at 7:47 pm.