



Jewish Federation of Ottawa
Board of Directors Meeting
Summary of Discussion for the Community

Thursday, November 20, 2019
Board Meeting

In Attendance: Kevin Barwin, Harold Feder, Stacy Goldstein, Jeff Laks, Karen Palayew, Michael Polowin, Victor Rabinovitch, Nikki Shapiro, Ian Sherman (phone), Hartley Stern.

Staff: Sarah Beutel, Andrea Freedman, Leslie Kaufman, Susan Lee.

Recorder: Cibeles Rosa.

I: Welcome – Michael Polowin

The meeting was called to order at 5:31 pm.

Michael welcomed everyone and introduced guests Sasha Kathron, Hillel Director of Student Engagement, Dorothy Stern, Chair of the Hillel Advisory Board, Sarah Tremblay, Senior Manager at GGFL, and Jeffrey Miller, Partner at GGFL.

II: Approval of Board Meeting Minutes – Michael Polowin

Michael called for a motion to approve the Minutes from the October 17th Board of Directors meeting.

Moved: Harold Feder

Second: Jeff Laks

Motion carried

III: Hillel Ottawa Update – Sasha Kathron

Sasha Kathron provided an update on the important work Hillel does on campus, including:

- Organizing events that reach 1000+ students at uOttawa, Carleton University, and Algonquin College. The events are diverse, and examples include: Frosh-Hashanah, Jewski – celebrating Russian Jewish culture, Bagel and Shmear, and thematic Shabbat dinners.
- Notable is the emphasis on coffee dates – one on one conversations with students that occur several times each week.
- The staff work with more than 30 student volunteers in the delivery of service.
- Hillel also manages and operates the Israel on Campus (IOC) committee. Hillel focuses on Jewish cultural experiences, while the IOC focuses more on political engagement.

The Board raised two points for consideration:

- The opportunity for Jewish Ottawa to entice some of the many non-Ottawa students to remain in the city after graduation.
- The current atmosphere on university campuses is growing increasingly difficult, and Federation's board should be prepared for a potential increase in resources necessary to ensure students are appropriately supported.

Dorothy Stern, Chair of the Hillel Advisory Board, thanked Sasha, who stepped up and assumed the Director position this year; and is doing a terrific job along with Tomer Dayagi.

IV: Audited Financial Statements – Jeffrey Miller

Michael introduced Jeffrey Miller, GGFL Partner, and Sarah Tremblay, Senior manager at GGFL, who presented the audited financial statements for the year ending June 30, 2019. The board received the financial statements in advance of the meeting, and Jeff and Sarah presented highlights and answered questions. They reviewed statements for the Jewish Federation of Ottawa, Jewish Community Campus of Ottawa and the Ottawa Jewish Bulletin.

- Federation received a clean audit and is in a solid financial position.

It was recommended that the board consider the size of the reserve and make a determination as to the best use of those funds. The board requested a recommendation from management early in 2020.

Michael thanked Jeffrey, Sarah, and Federation's finance team, led by Susan, for their hard work. He then called for a motion to approve the audited financial statements for the Jewish Federation of Ottawa, Jewish Community Campus of Ottawa, and Ottawa Jewish Bulletin.

Moved: Harold Feder

Second: Kevin Barwin

Motion carried

V: Finance Report – Susan Lee

Susan presented the financial report for the first quarter, through September 30th, 2019. For the most part, variances are due to timing and Federation is forecasted to be on budget.

Campus

- On the revenue side, rent revenue fell short compared to budget due to the reduced rental space for TIPES and a vacancy at Building 11 (State of Israel Bonds) that has not yet been filled. Management is cautiously optimistic that existing tenants will take over the vacant offices.

Michael thanked Susan for her report and work.

VI: School Endowment Campaign – Michael Polowin

Michael provided a brief update regarding the Generations Trust Fund, including:

- As previously reported, Jason Shinder has agreed to chair the campaign, with strong support from Stephen Greenberg.
- Montreal and Toronto have been exceedingly helpful – sharing the campaign's name, expertise, marketing, etc. As an example, a meeting was recently held with a key lay leader from Montreal to continue learning from their experience.
- A draft white paper with a framework for the campaign has been developed. A meeting between the leadership of the two day schools, Jason Shinder, Stephen Greenberg and Federation leadership, is scheduled to take place on December 17th.

VII: Campaign Update – Karen Palayew

Karen presented a short campaign update, the campaign is currently at \$3.436M (1221 gifts), representing an increase of 6% on a gift-by-gift basis over last year and 14% with supplemental gifts and the match.

The top dinner event was held on November 5th with 100 participants. For the first time, Ben Gurion Society members were invited.

VIII: President's Report – Andrea Freedman

Andrea noted the following updates:

- Strawberry Blonde Bakery was certified by OVH as a new kosher bakery.
- Typical for older buildings, there was recently one negative water test at a water fountain in Building 31. Campus is working diligently to remediate the problem. Rather than disallow use from that one fountain (in line with government regulations), in an abundance of caution, OJCS leadership made the decision to take all water fountains off-line.
- The new *shinshin*, Chai Sagi, is arriving on November, 24th.
- After almost 30 years of stellar service, Mark Palmer, Tamir Executive Director, has announced his retirement.
- As a follow-up to the October board meeting, management has done appropriate due diligence as to the best provider for the on-line Ottawa Jewish Bulletin. Based on cost, familiarity, design and tech support, and a strong reference from the Hamilton Jewish Federation, Fedweb was selected, and the team will move forward with a contract.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:52 pm.