



**Jewish Federation of Ottawa  
Board of Directors Meeting  
Summary of Discussion as a Report to the Community  
Wednesday, May 21, 2014 at 5:00 pm**

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

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

**Observer:** Jeff Miller

**Presenter:** Arlene Wortsman

**Recorder:** Rachel Abenheim

The meeting was called to order by Steven Kimmel at 5:03pm.

## **I. Welcome**

Steven Kimmel welcomed the board and thanked everyone for attending the Federation board meeting.

Lisa Rosenkrantz **moved** to accept the summary of discussions from the April 23, 2014 board meeting. Neil Zaret **seconded. Carried.**

## **II. President's Report**

Andrea Freedman provided updates to the previously circulated Presidents' report.

- 1) Kashrut - Rabbi Teitlebaum and Leslie Kaufman formed an OVH committee, chaired by Dr. Paul Claman, whose focus is outlining kashrut policies.
- 2) City Hall - Karsh Masson Gallery hosted an exhibit glorifying Palestinian terrorists. While the Mayor & his chief of staff were responsive to concerns raised by Federation and the Israeli embassy, they refused to take down the exhibit, arguing that it would be a violation of the artist's rights. They did agree to post a disclaimer that the artist's views did not represent those of the City, reprint the program to add the disclaimer, and convene a committee to review their processes to prevent inappropriate exhibits in the future.

## **III. Program Funding Report**

Arlene Wortsman reviewed the allocations process with the board. She explained the funding priorities of the Federation were framed in 3 envelopes:

- 1) Assisting the Vulnerable
- 2) Strengthening Community
- 3) Religious Outreach



The committee reviewed all applications and outlined, in the circulated report, its recommendations to the board for program funding and improvements to the process for the future.

Arlene was asked to provide further information on why some agencies' allocations were flat, even though there had been an increase in funds to be allocated. She explained that for the larger agencies an increase of \$5,000 is not impactful, where \$5,000 to a smaller agency is significant towards their goals.

The board inquired about the auditing process and if one existed for the agencies who received funding. A fulsome discussion ensued. Arlene and Sarah Beutel explained that the audit was built into the review process, which takes place during the second year of the funding cycle. Agencies report on how funds were used. The committee implemented a clause which would allow for funding to be revoked in the second year if agencies did not adhere to the funding criteria.

The discussion continued around the audit process and the board identified areas of improvement. Andrea Freedman pointed out that a review of the allocations process is a goal identified in the strategic plan. She reassured the board that the concerns being discussed at the meeting would be addressed in the review.

There was also a robust discussion around the SJCC's building management fee allocation, which will also be addressed in the allocations review.

Lisa Rosenkrantz **moved** to approve the funding recommendations from the Report of the Grants & Evaluation Committee on Program Funding 2014/15 & 2015/16, subject to a review of the funding process moving forward. Mark Thaw **seconded. Carried.**

#### **IV. School Funding Report**

Sarah Beutel reviewed the school funding report with the board. She reviewed the formulas used to determine both day school and supplemental funding. Sarah noted that the Federation's strategic plan recognizes the complexity of the day school funding formula and suggested that it could also be re-examined.

Neil Zaret **moved** to approve the school funding report as presented. Jason Shinder **seconded. Carried.**

#### **V. School Update**

Neil Zaret provided the school update.

- 1) The sustainability plan that was written at the beginning of the school campaign is being reviewed based on experience and the reality of actual enrolment numbers.
- 2) The new Head of School, Marlene Wolinsky, was announced. She has begun her integration into the position and will be working with Sheldon over the summer.

#### **VI. 2014/2015 Operating Budget**



Shelley reviewed the 2014/15 operating budget with the board. The board was satisfied with the explanation and did not put any questions forward.

Jason Shinder **moved** to approve the proposed operating budgets for July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015 for the following entities:

- Jewish Federation of Ottawa - Federation Services
- Jewish Federation of Ottawa – Annual Campaign
- Ottawa Jewish Bulletin Publishing Co. Ltd
- Jewish Community Campus of Ottawa Inc.
- 11 Nadolny Sachs Private

Lauren Bronstein **seconded. Carried.**

## VII. Campaign Update

Jeff Miller provided the 2014 & 2015 Campaign update:

2014

- To date, we have received a total of \$4.09M in pledged gifts
- \$225,000 remains to be collected
- The detailed 2014 interim campaign report was circulated

2015

- Card Allocation meetings are being completed
- Campaign event dates have been identified

## VIII. Campus Update

Neil Zaret provided the campus update to the board.

- 1) Neil explained that repairs previously discussed and identified in the building condition report from Cleland Jardine for building 11 would begin over the summer. The items to be repaired are:
  - Concrete Stairs, both entrances
  - Roof
  - Windows

He explained the building had \$306,000 in reserve funds for the repairs.

Neil Zaret **moved** that the board approve the spending recommended in the building condition report for building 11 from the available reserve funds. Jason Shinder **seconded. Carried.**

- 2) Beth Shalom requested putting a temporary structure on the Kerr lands as an interim solution. This request was not viewed favorably, and Beth Shalom was encouraged to rent space at the SJCC.

## IX. Strategic Plan



Linda Kerzner congratulated and thanked the committee for the dedication and hard work put towards completing the strategic plan. The next steps are to gain approval by the Members by presenting the plan to the community at the 80<sup>th</sup> Annual General meeting, then staff will develop a work plan and begin implementation. She noted that the strategic plan would be posted on Federation's website prior to the meeting for community review.

Linda Kerzner **moved** that the strategic plan of the Jewish Federation of Ottawa for the years 2014 – 2019 be approved. Mark Thaw **seconded. Carried.**

Steven Kimmel added a warm Thank You to Linda and the committee for their tremendous work.

Lisa Rosenkrantz **moved** to adjourn the meeting. Mark Thaw **seconded. Carried**