



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

Summary of Discussion as a Report to the Community

Monday, February 13, 2017
Soloway Jewish Community Centre

In Attendance: Stuart Ages, Aviva Ben-Choreen, Harold Feder, Stacy Goldstein, Linda Kerzner, Steven Kimmel, Michael Polowin, Victor Rabinovitch, Jason Shinder, Hartley Stern, Danya Vered

Staff: Sylvain Beaudry, Sarah Beutel, Andrea Freedman, Leslie Kaufman, Arie Rosenblum

Recorder: Rachel Abenheim

I: Welcome – Hartley Stern

Hartley Stern called the meeting to order at 5:30pm.

Hartley welcomed the board and staff to the meeting. With Linda joining by phone, Hartley explained he would Chair the meeting on her behalf. Hartley extended a warm welcome to Aviva Ben-Choreen, the new Campaign Co-chair.

II: Approval of Board Meeting Minutes

Hartley called for a motion to approve minutes from the December 22, 2016 Jewish Federation of Ottawa board of director's meeting.

First – Harold Feder

Second – Stuart Ages

Motion carried.

III: Board Engagement – Stacy Goldstein

Stacy explained the engagement exercise. Each board member introduced themselves, their role on the board and answered a mystery question. It was based on comments made at the board retreat that board members' getting to know one another is a key to working well together.

IV: Integrated Living Centre Update- Hartley Stern

Hartley explained with regret that the grant proposal to Action Ottawa was not approved. Since they had just received the information, he did not have anything to add at this time. They are scheduling a meeting with the city to better understand the situation and he will provide a detailed update at an upcoming meeting.

V: Ottawa Jewish Community School (OJCS) Discussion – Andrea Freedman

Andrea opened the discussion on the school by referring to the briefing note circulated prior to the meeting. She asked the board to discuss two immediate issues pertaining to the school:

- Federation's active involvement assisting the school with quality strategic improvements
- Assistance with the school deficit for 2018/19 school year and considerations for 2019/20

A robust discussion took place around the noted issues. Many board members inquired to what "new" measures were being put into place to secure the future of OJCS, since previous campaigns and attempts were not yet successful at ensuring the school is financially self-sustaining. Andrea addressed the common concern with the following:

- Federation will take a more active role in assisting OJCS, in addition to the help and assistance offered in the past.
- Key deliverables will be outlined for OJCS (e.g. development and implementation of strategic quality improvement plan), requiring approval by both OJCS and Federation boards. Federation will assist OJCS in mapping out a clear, sustainable path towards these improvements.
- Federation's increased financial support is conditional on OJCS meeting targets.

The board approved the following:

- 1) Assisting OJCS leadership with strategic quality improvements will entail the active involvement of Federation's CEO and key lay leaders. Significant resources of time will be shifted to accommodate this need.
- 2) Provided strategic quality improvements milestones are being met, and with the approval of OJCS Campaign donors and the Oversight Committee, the Jewish Federation of Ottawa will forego \$500,000 of debt repayment in order to extend OJCS' runway toward financial sustainability.

The board feels very strongly that OJCS requires assistance and is an exceptionally valuable community organization. At the same time, it was acknowledged that Torah Day does not receive the same level of financial support and has successfully taken responsibility for its own fundraising.

The board approved the motion on the condition that all OJCS donors to the Victor/Sachs Campaign are consulted.

First – Harold Feder

Second – Stacy Goldstein

Motion carried.

VII: President's Report - Andrea Freedman

Andrea provided one update to the previously distributed report.

- Graffiti Incident – the accused will plead guilty to the anti-Semitic graffiti incidents, the sentencing hearing will take place in May. We are supporting the prosecutor in his efforts to secure a longer sentence and with an extended probation period.

VIII: Finance Report – Sylvain Beaudry

Sylvain Beaudry presented the financial reports for the following companies.

- Jewish Federation of Ottawa
- Jewish Community Campus of Ottawa
- Ottawa Jewish Bulletin Publishing Co.

All questions were answered to the board's satisfaction.

IX: Community Awards & Board Nominations –Steven Kimmel

This item will be added to the March agenda due to time constraints.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 pm