



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

Summary of Discussion as a Report to the Community

Wednesday, March 22, 2017
Soloway Jewish Community Centre

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

Staff: Sarah Beutel, Andrea Freedman, Leslie Kaufman, Arieh Rosenblum

Guests: Ariel Fainer, Lorne Goldstein, Rabbi Teitlebaum

Recorder: Leslie Kaufman

I: Welcome – Linda Kerzner

Linda Kerzner called the meeting to order at 5:36pm.

Linda welcomed the board and staff to the meeting. She welcomed Ariel Fainer, Director of Emerging Generation, here presenting the emerging generation update to the board. Linda welcomed back Lorne Goldstein and Rabbi Teitlebaum who were present to address any questions regarding the OVH financial policy.

II: Approval of Board Meeting Minutes

Linda called for a motion to approve minutes from the February 13, 2017 Jewish Federation of Ottawa board of director's meeting.

First – Victor Rabinovitch

Second – Hartley Stern

Motion carried.

III: Ottawa Vaad Hakashruth (OVH) Financial Policy – Leslie Kaufman

Last fall, the board struck a task force to study OVH arrears. They were tasked with recommending steps to collect fees owed and to enforce penalties for license holders who do not make payment arrangements. The OVH lay committee supported this strategy and prepared an appendix, which was circulated to the board, to the catering policy that outlines its financial policy.

In summary, the policy requires OVH invoices to be paid in 30 days. Consequences for lack of payment or payment arrangements may be suspension or revocation of the OVH license. An appeals process will be put in place.

Linda asked for motion to add Appendix 4 to the OVH Catering Policy.

First – David Appotive

Second – Hartley Stern

Motion carried.

Linda asked for the board's endorsement of a competitive tender process for kosher catering services for all major events sponsored by Federation.

Endorsed - Unanimous

Linda asked for the board's endorsement that Federation will not do business of any amount with a vendor who is not in good standing.

Endorsed - Unanimous

IV: Emerging Generation Update – Ariel Fainer

Ariel highlighted the many accomplishments of the Emerging Generation (EG) and PJ Library (PJL) this past year. EG Campaign numbers continue to grow. Ben Gurion Society has grown to 11 individuals and 15 couples.

PJL enrollment has increased to 552 children and has approximately 150 participants at each event. In January 2017, PJL expanded through to age 8, which led to a partnership with the SJCC who will administer the programming for PJL kids ages 6-8.

A survey was conducted of EG and PJL constituents and they have begun executing a plan to address the survey's findings. For example, focus on 3 marquee events annually, rather than numerous smaller programs.

All questions were answered to the board's satisfaction. The board applauded Ariel and her leadership for their hard work and success with EG and PJL.

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

Andrea provided the following updates:

- A head of school was hired, Dr. Jon Mitzmacher, a professional with extensive and quality experience in Jewish education, administration and best practices. He has prior experience serving as a head of school at two institutions.
- There has been an ongoing negotiation with the teachers union and some details were shared with the board.
- OJCS has plans to fill the vacant vice-chair role on their board, and Michael Polowin has agreed to serve if nominated to that position. He would then be nominated as chair when Aaron Smith's term concludes. Sharon Appotive has agreed to fill Michael Polowin's role as campaign chair for the 2018 campaign, working with Aviva. Great confidence was expressed in Michael, Sharon and Aviva.

All questions were answered to the board's satisfaction.

VII: President's Report - Andrea Freedman

Andrea provided updates to the previously distributed report.

- Marlene Rivier has accepted the offer to be our representative on COMPAC

- Andrea explained she was invited to sit on an advisory board of Minister Michael Coteau's anti-racism directorate
- Personnel changes:
 - Hillel Director – Dovi Chein has accepted this promotion; will be seeking a new Student Life Coordinator
 - Community Engagement Specialist – Natalie Abenheim – start date March 29
 - Event Planner – currently interviewing candidates
- The OVH/COR event on March 20 – approximately 90 community members were in attendance

VIII: Security Update – Stuart Ages

Stuart provided the following security updates:

- **Bomb threats and campus readiness:** Since the start of 2017, there have been 150 bomb threats across North America to Jewish day schools and agencies. Ottawa has not received a threat, but has been preparing with the expectation that it will happen. Campus Security, under the leadership of Charles Brazeau, is working with campus leaders to ensure that security policies are updated to reflect bomb threats and evacuations, that primary and alternate evacuation locations have been confirmed, and that all campus staff are prepared to receive and respond to a potential threat. We are in the process of conducting evacuation drills for 3 of the 4 campus buildings, and offering resources to the Lodge.
- **Collaboration:**
 - We have participated in conference calls with the JCC Association organization, the Department of Homeland Security, and CIJA to learn about how peer communities are handling threats and gain insight regarding the investigation into the threats.
 - CIJA convened a group of security leaders from Federations across Canada to discuss and share security-related information. The inaugural meeting was held in Ottawa in February.
 - We have consulted with the RCMP, the Ottawa Police Hate Crimes unit, the Ottawa Fire Department, and the security team at CIJA for advice and guidance in constantly updating and evaluating our procedures and shaping our expectations.
- **Funding:** We submitted an application to Public Safety Canada's Security Infrastructure Program (SIP), for funding to enhance our existing infrastructure. Our request is for \$21,000 and will allow us to enhance our security infrastructure on campus.

IX: Community Awards & Board Nominations –Steven Kimmel

Steven provided a brief update on the board nominating committee. He explained the process is in full swing and the nominating committee will be having its second meeting tomorrow morning. There are 4 board positions to fill: Steven, Arlene, Jason and Stuart are all stepping off the board. Once the slate is complete it will be presented to the board.

Steven also provided an update on the community awards nomination process. He announced

March 31st as the deadline to submit nominations for awards and explained we are actively soliciting nominations. Any suggestions from the board would be greatly appreciated. On April 19th, the awards committees are meeting to determine the winners.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:13pm