



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

Summary of Discussion for
the community

Tuesday, January 16, 2024

Board Meeting

In Attendance: Leila Ages, Kevin Barwin, Jeff Laks, Marina Milyavskaya, Karen Palayew, Gillian Presner, Alice Retik, Tal Scher, Jacob Shabinsky, Ian Sherman, Marci Surkes, Danya Vered, and Gary Viner.

Staff: Sarah Beutel, Pauline Colwin, Rena Garshowitz, Micah Garten, and Mark Gruner.

Recorder: Sabrina Vitoriano.

I: Welcome – Karen Palayew

Karen welcomed board members and called the meeting to order at 5:35 pm.

II: Approval of Board Meeting Minutes – Karen Palayew

Karen called for a motion to approve the minutes from the December 5th, 2023 Board of Directors meeting.

Moved: Gillian Presner

Second: Tal Scher

Motion carried

Karen called for a motion to approve the minutes from the December 18th, 2023 Special Motion passed by electronic means.

Moved: Danya Vered

Second: Jeff Laks

Motion carried

III: Generations Trust – Karen Palayew

Karen started by calling for a motion to rectify the incorrect dates on the Generations Trust and School Loans memo of May 3, 2023, and approve the loan to GT for the correct dates. Where it reads that the loan was provided for the years 2023-2024 and 2024-2025, the corrected version is for the years 2022-2023 and 2023-2024.

It was mentioned that Tal and Ian also serve on the boards of day schools and, as per past practice, would be abstaining from the vote. Danya and Jacob would be abstaining from the vote as well since they were not present at the original meeting.

Moved: Leila Ages

Second: Gillian Presner

Abstentions: Tal Scher, Jacob Shabinsky, Ian Sherman, and Danya Vered

Motion carried

Karen then provided a Generations Trust update, highlighting the main points of the document previously circulated in the board package. The GT leadership and staff continue to work diligently to solicit gifts to build the Trust and have started to gear up to make more asks. The board had a fulsome conversation, and all questions were answered to their satisfaction.

IV: Reserve Discussion and Recommendation – Mark Gruner

Karen invited Mark to present on the Jewish Federation's reserves or net assets. Mark highlighted some of the key points and recommendations noted in the memo circulated ahead of the meeting.

The board had a fulsome and robust discussion regarding the proposed recommendations. The board requested that staff provide further information so that the board can make a decision with regards to a net assets policy. The board agreed to return to this subject at a future meeting when further information is provided.

Karen thanked Mark for his presentation.

V: Security Funding – Rena Garshowitz

Karen invited Rena to present on Security Funding.

All questions were answered to the board's satisfaction.

Karen called for a motion to approve the recommendation as presented, and noted that Tal and Ian, who also serve on the boards of day schools, would be abstaining from the vote.

Moved: Jeff Laks

Second: Marina Milyavskaya

Abstentions: Tal Scher and Ian Sherman

Motion carried

Karen thanked Rena for her continuing work on this.

VI: President's Report – Sarah Beutel

Karen invited Sarah to present the President's Report, who provided the following updates to the report previously circulated to the board:

- Up to this moment, there are not yet many people registered for the Solidarity Mission to Israel from February 18th to February 22nd.

- Next Tuesday Federation will host a Professional Development session on financial literacy for board directors, which all board members are invited to attend.
- Karen and Sarah attended a round-table discussion on the topic of combatting hate in all its forms, organized by the Ottawa Police Services with local religious, faith, and cultural organizations, which was very positive.

No questions were raised.

Karen thanked Sarah for the report.

VII: Campaign Update – Gary Viner

Karen invited Gary to present the Campaign Update. He said that Campaign 2024 currently stands at \$4.83 million from 1,332 donors with approximately 130 new donors.

Karen thanked Gary and Micah for their hard work.

The meeting then moved in camera.

IX: In Camera

The meeting was adjourned at 7:25 pm.