



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

Summary of Discussion for  
the community

**Wednesday, October 18, 2023**

Board Meeting

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

**Staff:** Sarah Beutel, Pauline Colwin, Andrea Freedman, Rena Garshowitz and Micah Garten.

**Recorder:** Sabrina Vitoriano.

**I: Welcome – Karen Palayew**

Karen welcomed board members and called the meeting to order at 5:31 pm. She made a few opening remarks about the war in Israel and requested a moment of silence for the injured, the hostages and the IDF. She invited Tal Scher to recite the Prayer for the State of Israel. Karen then expressed her gratitude to Andrea Freedman and all staff for their hard work during this difficult time.

**II: Approval of Board Meeting Minutes – Karen Palayew**

Karen called for a motion to approve the minutes from the September 12<sup>th</sup>, 2023 Board of Directors meeting with the addition of the motion passed during the in-camera session to appoint Sarah Beutel as Interim CEO for Federation, which was moved by Michael Polowin, seconded by Kevin Barwin and carried unanimously. No questions were raised.

**Moved:** Danya Vered

**Second:** Michael Polowin

**Motion carried**

**III: Emergency Situation – Andrea Freedman**

Karen invited Andrea to present on the Emergency situation which was divided into three parts:

1. Security

Andrea stated that law enforcement continues to monitor the situation and there is no indication of an elevated threat level in Ottawa, at this point. She informed that since the war started, there are additional guards on Campus, with extra security on Friday October 13<sup>th</sup> on Campus and multiple other Jewish locations due to fears raised by the “Global Day of Jihad” circulating on social media.

She proposed to keep the additional guards on Campus. She added the possibility of extending a similar arrangement to Torah Day School.

Andrea concluded by explaining that these security measures have been designed to: intimidate any potential assault, bring comfort to the community, and facilitate the responsiveness of the police in the event of necessity.

All questions were answered to the board's satisfaction.

Karen called for a motion to approve funding for additional guards on Campus and Torah Day School for the foreseeable future with the ability of management, with the approval of the chair, to make any immediate adjustments as needed. The board agreed to review it at the next board meeting.

**Moved:** Gillian Presner

**Second:** Marina Milyavskaya

**Abstentions:** Tal Scher and Ian Sherman

**Motion carried**

## 2. Emergency allocations for Israel

Andrea described the present conceptual framework for allocation of the funds raised for Israel as follows: (a) for gifts made online, money is being transferred for short-term emergency needs; (b) for larger gifts, 50% is going for short-term emergency needs and 50% is going to be reevaluated in two months' time based on the long-term needs.

Andrea explained the Canadian system for allocating emergency dollars that, through its partners in Israel, covers the needs of the whole of Israel. Ottawa also allocates funds specifically to the north of Israel due to our Partnership with 5 regions and municipalities in the north.

The board had a fulsome conversation, and all questions were answered to their satisfaction.

Karen called for a motion to approve the conceptual framework for the Israel emergency allocation of funds as presented.

**Moved:** Michael Polowin

**Second:** Tal Scher

**Motion carried**

## 3. Top Donor Event

Karen invited Micah Garten to present on Top Donor Event. He informed that the event is scheduled for October 23<sup>rd</sup> and it was pivoted considering the current situation, with the intention to solicit more pledges for the Emergency Campaign. No questions were raised.

Karen thanked Micah and Andrea, and opened the floor for additional questions which were all addressed to the board's satisfaction.

**IV: Fundraising Update – Gary Viner**

Karen invited Gary to present on Fundraising Update. He said that, currently, Campaign 2024 has raised \$2.35 million from 614 donors, and the Israel emergency campaign has raised \$290,000 from 439 donors. He noted that 109 donors who contributed to the emergency campaign are people who made a gift in 2023 but not in 2024.

Karen thanked Gary, Evelyn, and Micah for their incredible work.

The meeting then moved in camera.

**VI: In Camera**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 pm.