



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

Summary of Discussion as a Report to the Community

Wednesday, September 13, 2021
Board Meeting

In Attendance: Kevin Barwin, Stacy Goldstein, Nikki Shapiro, Jeff Laks, Karen Palayew, Jacob Shabinsky, Ian Sherman, Danya Vered, Alice Retik, Gillian Presner, Josh Engel.

Staff: Sarah Beutel, Pauline Colwin, Andrea Freedman, Mark Gruner, Leslie Kaufman, Micah Garten

Recorder: Rebeca Palacios

I: Welcome – Ian Sherman

Ian welcomed the board members and called the meeting to order at 7:31 pm.

- Ian welcomed new board members Gillian Presner and Alice Retik.
- Ian welcomed new Federation team members – Rebeca Palacios, Executive Assistant and Mark Gruner, CFO.

II: Approval of Board Meeting Minutes – Ian Sherman

Ian called for a motion to approve the Minutes from the June 9, 2021 Board of Directors Meeting.

Moved: Danya Vered

Second: Kevin Barwin

Motion carried

III: Operating Budget – Mark Gruner

Ian invited Mark Gruner, CFO, to present the Proposed Operating Budget for 2021-22. The report was circulated to the board in advance of the meeting, and it will replace the Interim Budget approved at the June 9th, 2021 board meeting.

Mark explained that this budget was prepared with FY2020 as a comparative example as it was prepared prior to the pandemic and would be a better benchmark, as opposed to FY2021 which was greatly affected by the pandemic, with a reduced budget.

Mark highlighted some of the key points noted in the executive summary, and answered questions from board members.

Ian thanked Mark for his work on the budget, and then he asked for a motion to approve the Proposed Operating Budget 2021-2022.

Moved: Danya Vered

Second: Jeff Laks

Motion carried

IV: Year 2 Business Plan - Evaluation – Andrea Freedman

Ian invited Andrea Freedman, President and CEO, to present the Year 2 Business Plan – Evaluation. As the document was sent to the board in advance of the meeting, Andrea noted some highlights, including notable improvements in communicating how donor dollars were being used and raising an unprecedented amount of funds for the community..

Out of thirteen initiatives, ten were fully achieved and three were partially achieved. Key initiatives that are core priorities for this coming year are:

- Implementing the Generations Trust campaign for Jewish education, \$25 million endowment campaign.
- Holistic review of Federation activities

Andrea expressed her gratitude to the board and staff for their hard work and encouraged everyone to feel pride in everything achieved within the last year.

V: Year 3 Business Plan – Andrea Freedman

Andrea presented the Year 3 Business plan. This business plan contains five (5) main objectives, and she highlighted one main point from each. The focus of Federation’s work this year will be continuing to keep the foundation of Jewish Ottawa strong, to prioritize meeting pandemic needs, and to lead from a position of strength and possibility in building and widening the Jewish Superhighway.

All questions posed by the board were answered to their satisfaction.

Ian thanked Andrea and the executive team for putting together the plan, and then he asked for a motion to approve the Year 3 Business Plan.

Moved: Gillian Presner

Second: Karen Palayew

Motion carried

VI: Strategic Funding Recommendations – Sarah Beutel

Ian invited Sarah Beutel, Vice President, Community Building, to present the Strategic Funding Recommendations. As the document was sent to the board in advance of the meeting, Sarah answered questions to the board’s satisfaction.

Ian thanked Sarah and the entire Strategic Priorities Committee for all their work and then he asked for a motion to approve the Strategic Funding Recommendations.

Moved: Danya Vered

Second: Jacob Shabinsky

Motion carried

VII: Emergency Funding for Kosher Food Bank – Kevin Barwin

Ian called for a motion to formally approve the Emergency Funding for the Kosher Food Bank that had previously been presented over email.

Moved: Kevin Barwin

Second: Jeff Laks

Motion carried

VIII: Emergency Funding for the Ottawa Jewish Community School – Kevin Barwin

Kevin presented the request for Emergency Funding for the Ottawa Jewish Community School. This is a new request that requires formal approval from the board. It is consistent with past requests and in line with the board's stated commitment to meet year 2 pandemic needs.

Moved: Kevin Barwin

Second: Nikki Shapiro

Motion carried

IX: Members at Large – Leslie Kaufman

Leslie Kaufman, VP Corporate Services, presented the Members at Large slate for 2021-23. Ian then asked for a motion to approve.

Moved: Gillian Presner

Second: Alice Retik

Motion carried

X: Presidents Report – Andrea Freedman

Ian asked Andrea to provide updates to the report previously circulated to the board.

Andrea noted the following updates:

- There has been new and reasonable success with the Ottawa Carleton District School Board, Cantor Green & Sarah Lynn Levine are presenting a proposal tomorrow night to the school board regarding anti-Semitism, and colleagues at CIJA met with the school board to implement training sessions for staff. Recent communication from the school board to parents included an appropriate statement concerning anti-Semitism.
- Andrea met with Minister Lisa McLeod.
- Federation has organized election roundtables and have held the first 3. The final session will be held Sept 14th at 8am with the Green Party. We have recordings that will be shared with the community as well as a special edition of the e-Bulletin that will summarize key positions of various parties and candidates.

The board requested an update regarding the Mashgiach hire, Leslie Kaufman stated that all parties are working together to find a qualified and affordable candidate.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:01 pm