



Jewish Federation of Ottawa
Board of Directors Meeting
Summary of Discussion for the Community

Wednesday February 2, 2022
Board Meeting

In Attendance: Kevin Barwin, Josh Engel, Harold Feder, Stacy Goldstein, Jessica Greenberg, Jeff Laks, Karen Palayew, Michael Polowin, Gillian Presner, Alice Retik, Jacob Shabinsky, Nikki Shapiro, Ian Sherman, Evelyn Silverman

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

Recorder: Rebeca Palacios

I: Welcome – Ian Sherman

Ian welcomed the board members and called the meeting to order at 5:32 pm.

Ian welcomed new Campaign Co-Chair Evelyn Silverman who has joined as an observer to the board.

II: Approval of Board Meeting Minutes – Ian Sherman

Ian called for a motion to approve the Minutes from the January 11, 2022 Board of Directors Meeting.

Moved: Gillian Presner

Second: Michael Polowin

Motion carried

III: Program Funding Task Force discussion – Kevin Barwin

Ian invited Kevin Barwin to initiate the Program Funding Task Force discussion.

The Programming Funding Task Force is soliciting input from the board on its proposal for a revised program funding model, one that complements the successful Microgrants program. The proposal was included in the board package.

The board had a robust conversation regarding the proposal, with all questions posed by the board being answered to their satisfaction. A key point raised was the importance of communication and messaging.

Next step for the Programming Funding Task Force is to test out the proposal with agencies & get feedback, with a goal to come back in the Spring for final board approval.

Ian thanked Kevin for initiating the Program Funding Task Force discussion, Anne and Sarah for all their hard and thoughtful work in support of the committee, and the board for their valuable feedback.

IV: Campus Operating Budget – Mark Gruner

Ian invited Mark Gruner, CFO, to present on the Campus Operating Budget.

Mark highlighted some of the key points noted in the Operating Budget, circulated ahead of the meeting, and answered questions from board members.

Additionally, the issue of the shortfall for building 31 required discussion, and an overview was included in the board package. As Campus ended FY21 with an excess surplus of revenue over expenses, following a discussion with Harold and Jake, the recommendation is that the board approve the use of dollars from the excess surplus to cover the shortfall.

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

Ian called for a motion to approve the campus budget of FY23 as presented

Moved: Jacob Shabinsky

Second: Harold Feder

Motion carried

Ian called a second motion to apply a portion of the excess surplus from FY21 to cover the shortfall of **\$49,520** for FY23

Moved: Harold Feder

Second: Jacob Shabinsky

Motion carried

Ian thanked Leslie and Mark for all their hard work on the campus budget.

V: Finance Report (Mid-Year) – Mark Gruner

Ian invited Mark Gruner to present the mid-year Finance Report.

Mark highlighted some of the key points noted in the Financial Report, circulated ahead of the meeting, and answered questions from board members.

Ian thanked Mark for presenting the Finance Report.

Campaign Update – Josh Engel

Ian invited Campaign Chair Josh Engel, to present on the Campaign Update. Josh Engel provided the following updates:

As of February 2nd Campaign 2022 currently stands at \$ 4.7 million, 5% card over card increase; there is still about \$350,000 cards needed to be closed.

Ian thanked Josh for presenting on the campaign update, and thanked Karen, Micah and Yudit for all their hard work closing the campaign successfully.

VI: President's Report – Andrea Freedman

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

Andrea noted the following updates:

- Federation continues to coordinate with OPS & CIJA regarding security; there is no elevated threat to the community or members of the community despite what is currently taking place in the city.
- Federation has been in touch with OPS Hate Crimes and, unfortunately, they continue to see the yellow stars from the remaining protesters in town.
- In regards to the Amnesty International report, Federation's strategy is to repost CIJA's social media responses and limit any other commentary.
- Sometime ago Torah Day School had come forward with a plan to transition OTI and Machon Sarah & the board had voted at that time to transfer their allocations to Torah Day for purposes of running a high school. Torah Day School has now gone public with their plan for a combined Orthodox Jewish high school.
- Sarah Beutel & Anne Read met with Adam Aptowitzer to discuss the plans for the other Jewish high school (Am Yisrael High School). Adam reiterated that they are not going to reach out to Federation for funding.
- Hillel Lodge has been providing Andrea with regular updates regarding their Covid outbreak. They are currently down to 1 active case.
- The Governance committee met recently & one of the topics discussed was the community awards. One challenge is the Student Leadership Award, and one of the recommendations of the committee was for Federation to transition the award's administration to Rohr Chabad Student Network & Hillel Ottawa, if the board has no objections. Federation would provide the gift of Judaica to the student groups for the award recognition and profile the winners in the E-Bulletin.

VII: Business Arising – Ian Sherman

Ian introduced Business Arising, which will give the board an opportunity to raise issues for discussion from past meetings, in a more "open mic" fashion.

Andrea brought forward the compensation philosophy for Federation staff that was presented to the board by Shari Cooper in January. Andrea expressed her gratitude to the board for wanting to immediately remediate rather than gradually stagger the increases to get everyone to the 90% benchmark, but she did express that there was an error in the dollar amount needed to do it. Upon review, the board did not feel that this is something that needs to be revisited and did not have any objections.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 pm