



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

Summary of Discussion for
the Community

Tuesday, February 24, 2026

In Attendance: Leila Ages, Joelle Assaraf, SuYun Geithner, Jessica Greenberg, Evan Green, Josh Kardish, Jeff Laks, Elissa Lieff, Marina Milyavskaya, Karen Palayew, Gillian Presner, Samantha Sigler, Danya Vered, Gary Viner, Adam Zaret

Staff: John Davis, Rena Garshowitz, Anne Read, Adam Silver

I: Welcome – Danya Vered

Danya Vered called the meeting to order at 5:40 pm and welcomed Board members.

Evan Green was scheduled to deliver the D'var Torah but was unable to attend, so his remarks were shared with the Board by Danya.

Samantha Sigler volunteered to deliver the D'var Torah at the March 24 meeting.

II: Approval of Board Meeting Minutes – Danya Vered

Danya asked if there were any questions or corrections to the minutes from the January 27, 2026 board meeting.

Motion: To approve the minutes of January 27, 2026

Moved: Gillian Presner

Second: SuYun Geithner

Motion carried

III: OJCS Line of Credit Request (Follow-up discussion) – Danya Vered & Adam Silver

The Board revisited the Ottawa Jewish Community School (OJCS) line of credit request, which had been discussed at the previous meeting and decision deferred pending additional information.

Danya & Adam presented an updated proposal for an internal Federation line of credit designed to support the school's financial stability while longer-term sustainability measures are implemented.

Board Discussion

The Board engaged in a detailed discussion

Moved: Marina Milyavskaya

Second: Gillian Presner

Motion carried.

IV: Strategic Discussion – Future Board Agenda Priorities – Danya Vered

The Board engaged in a strategic discussion regarding future Board agenda priorities, with the goal of ensuring that Board meetings focus on matters appropriate to the Board’s governance and strategic oversight role, rather than operational management.

Danya noted that Board members had received background materials outlining the typical structure of Board agendas, including standing governance items, recurring updates, and opportunities for strategic discussion. The purpose of the conversation was to solicit input from Board members on topics they believe warrant deeper strategic discussion at future meetings.

It was emphasized that the discussion was intended to identify potential agenda topics rather than resolve specific issues during the meeting, and that ideas raised would be reviewed and scheduled appropriately in future Board agendas.

Next Steps

Danya thanked Board members for their input and indicated that the suggestions raised during the discussion will be considered as part of future Board agenda planning.

The goal is to ensure that Board meetings continue to support meaningful strategic oversight, while providing Board members with the information needed to guide Federation’s long-term direction.

VII: Annual Campaign Update – Leila Ages

Leila provided an update on the Annual Campaign, including current progress toward campaign goals and ongoing fundraising activities.

General Campaign Updates:

Money raised (as of February 23): \$4,424,369

Number of donors: 1,213

New and lapsed donors: 120 (\$150,000)

Leila also reported that the number of young adult donors has increased by over 30%, bringing us closer to last year’s YA campaign results.

Danya thanked Leila for the updated and commended the development team on their work.

VIII: President’s Report

Adam Silver articulated the fulsomeness of the report circulated, and provided an update on some funding related to JAFI and JFC-UIA.

The meeting then went in-camera.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:19 pm