



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

Summary of Discussion for
the Community

Tuesday, January 27, 2026

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

Staff: Pauline Colwin, John Davis, Rena Garshowitz, Michael Reznick, Adam Silver

Guests: Yossi Bokhaut, Keren Gordon, Miriam Peters (OJCS); Noah Shack (CIJA)

I: Welcome – Danya Vered

Danya Vered called the meeting to order at 5:34 pm and welcomed Board members and guests. She acknowledged International Holocaust Remembrance Day and noted the significance of the ceremony held earlier that day.

Adam Silver delivered a D'var Torah reflecting on the broader communal responsibility of remembrance and shared a poem highlighting themes of loss and hope.

Evan Green volunteered to deliver the D'var Torah at the February 24 meeting.

Danya advised that the February meeting will include a discussion to identify strategic priorities for future Board agendas.

II: Approval of Board Meeting Minutes – Danya Vered

Danya asked if there were any questions or corrections to the minutes from the December 8, 2025 board meeting.

Motion: To approve the minutes of December 8, 2025.

Moved: Josh Kardish

Second: Gillian Presner

Motion carried

III: OJCS Line of Credit Request

Representatives from Ottawa Jewish Community School (OJCS) presented a request to increase their Federation-guaranteed line of credit.

Key Points from OJCS Presentation

- The school is implementing all recommendations from the Prisma five-year sustainability plan.
- Enrollment is on target (181 students this year; modest projected growth next year).
- Tuition adjustments, reduced discounts, strengthened forecasting, and expense discipline are in place.
- The challenge is operational cash flow timing, not deviation from plan.
- The requested increase would provide operational stability and reduce recurring emergency requests.

OJCS representatives were thanked for their transparency and excused prior to Board deliberation.

Board Discussion

The Board engaged in a robust discussion.

After deliberation, the decision was to defer a motion to a later date after leadership was able to provide more context and options to the Board.

IV: Approval for GT Loan/ Advance

Adam Silver presented a request for approval of a Generations Trust (GT) loan/advance, outlining purpose, amount, and policy alignment. All questions were answered to the Board's satisfaction.

Motion: To approve the GT loan/advance as presented.

Moved: Evan Green

Second: SuYun Geithner

Motion carried

V: CIJA Update

Noah Shack provided an update on CIJA's advocacy priorities, including:

- Government relations efforts at federal and provincial levels.
- Community security initiatives.
- Antisemitism response and public policy engagement.
- Partnership with local communities.

Board members engaged in discussion and thanked CIJA for its ongoing work

VI: Financial Review

John Davis reviewed the year-to-date financial position, highlighting:

- Revenue and expense variances.
- Cash flow considerations.
- Investment and reserve updates.

Questions were addressed to the Board's satisfaction.

VII: Annual Campaign Update

Leila Ages provided an update on the Annual Campaign, including:

- Current totals raised.
- Donor engagement metrics.
- New and lapsed donor activity.
- Upcoming campaign milestones.

The Board expressed appreciation to the Campaign team. Danya indicated that Gary's term as Campaign Chair has now ended, and expressed her appreciation to all of his incredible work over the past few years in the role.

VIII: President's Report

Adam Silver highlighted key updates, including:

- International Holocaust Remembrance Day programming.
- Ongoing community security planning.
- Strategic initiatives aligned with Federation priorities.

The meeting then went in-camera.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:52 PM.