



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

Summary of Discussion as a Report to the Community

Wednesday March 2, 2022
Board Meeting

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

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

Recorder: Rebeca Palacios

I: Welcome – Ian Sherman

Ian welcomed the board members and called the meeting to order at 12:00 pm.

II: Approval of Board Meeting Minutes – Ian Sherman

Ian called for a motion to approve the Minutes from the February 2, 2022 Board of Directors Meeting.

Moved: Karen Palayew

Second: Michael Polowin

Motion carried

III: Funding for Supplementary Schools – Kevin Barwin

Ian invited Kevin Barwin to initiate the *Funding for Supplementary Schools* discussion.

Kevin highlighted some of the key points noted in the document circulated ahead of the meeting. There were no additional questions from the board.

Kevin made a motion to approve the recommended funding by the Grants committee for Strategic Supplementary School funding.

Moved: Kevin Barwin

Second: Nikki Shapiro

Motion carried

Ian thanked Kevin for his work on this file.

IV: Ottawa Talmud Torah – Andrea Freedman

Ian invited Andrea Freedman, President and CEO to present the last minute addition to the agenda of the allocation transfer from Ottawa Talmud Torah Afternoon School (OTTAS) to KBI.

Andrea summarized the document circulated to the board ahead of the meeting. Federation would be transferring roughly \$18,000/year to KBI specifically for support of OTTAS.

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

Ian asked for a motion as follows: should a new relationship between KBI and the Ottawa Talmud Torah Afternoon School come to fruition, then the funds that would be allocated for Ottawa Talmud Torah Afternoon School, as per the funding formula, would be transferred to KBI for the sole purpose of running said afternoon school.

Moved: Kevin Barwin

Second: Gillian Presner

Motion carried

V: Community Service Award – Harold Feder

Ian invited Harold Feder to present the recommendations from the governance committee pertaining to the student leadership award and the addition of an award for Jewish communal professionals.

Harold summarized the document circulated to the board ahead of the meeting. He highlighted the following points:

- The professional award would recognize tremendous achievement specific to the person's role within their organization but also recognize community service outside their specific role;
- This award is a vehicle to recognize those that may not otherwise be in the limelight.

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

Ian asked Harold to make a motion to approve the terms of reference for the Jewish Communal Professional Leadership Award.

Moved: Harold Feder

Second: Michael Polowin

Motion carried

VI: Reserve Fund Recommendation – Harold Feder

Ian invited Harold to present the Reserve Fund recommendation. This item is a follow-up to prior discussions about Federation and Campus reserves. The Finance committee has reviewed the issue and has prepared a recommendation to move a portion of the reserves to the Foundation for investment purposes. Harold summarized the Reserve Fund Recommendation memo and explained the process that the Finance and Audit committee has agreed on for investing the funds.

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

Ian asked Harold to make a motion to adopt the investment strategy as laid out in the memo prepared by Mark Gruner dated February 22, 2022 endorsed by the Finance and Audit Committee.

Moved: Harold Feder

Second: Stacy Goldstein

Motion carried

VII: Campaign Update – Josh Engel

Ian asked Josh Engel to present an update on the Annual Campaign.

As of March 2nd Campaign 2022 stands at \$4.7 million from 1,547 donors, representing a 5% increase on a gift by gift basis from the same group of donors the previous year. There are 230 donors who gave last year and have not yet confirmed a gift this year, representing approximately \$266,000.

Planning for Campaign 2023 is now underway. Leadership has started to reach out to volunteers and getting people to commit to assist, developing strategies and special initiatives, and working on the golf tournament.

Ian thanked Josh for presenting the campaign update and thanked Karen, Evelyn, Micah and Yudit for all their hard work closing the 2022 campaign successfully.

VIII: Presidents Report – Andrea Freedman

Ian invited Andrea Freedman to provide an update to the circulated report.

Andrea noted the following updates:

- Federation has begun to roll out the compensation philosophy to the team this week;
- This is the first week back to the hybrid model of 3 days/week in the office;
- Andrea attended the Ukraine briefing yesterday and found it quite impactful and eye opening to see the range of services being offered to the members of the Jewish community, from medical services to food to temporary housing, to facilitating aliyah;
- There has been a robust reaction to the soft campaign for Ukraine, featured in Andrea's Shabbat message and highlighted in social media. So far 180 donors have stepped up and the campaign has raised \$47,000 (plus an additional \$10,000 from a donor who was approached directly by the JDC), for a total of **\$57, 000** raised by Ottawa's Jewish Community;
- CIJA has convened a national immigration group; currently the focus is on family reunification but obviously there are a lot of moving parts to this humanitarian effort; and
- Fundraising has begun in earnest on the Generations Trust, with the goal to receive 3 gifts at the \$5 million level.

IX: Business Arising – Ian Sherman

Ian referenced the March of the Living and CRA reports previously circulated, and inquired if there were any questions that the board had.

In regards to the March of the Living it was noted that attendance had greatly decreased prior to the Ukraine crisis, and continues to decline.

In regards to JFC/UIA, though a motion had previously been passed to withhold 25% from JFC/UIA, the board agreed to pass a motion where Federation will be re-instating our full allocation while the situation remains critical in Ukraine and will further allocate \$13,000 (January & February amounts withheld) to the Ukraine Relief Fund.

Moved: Gillian Presner

Second: Karen Palayew

Motion carried

The meeting was adjourned at 1:18pm