

**Board of Governors
November 2024
Closing Board Plenary – November 19, 2024**

Minutes

Opening Remarks

Mark Wilf, Chair of the Board, opened the meeting and welcomed the participants. He thanked everyone for participating and being a part of the national effort.

Honoring Steven Lowy

Mark Wilf spoke about Steven Lowy, an outstanding Jewish leader, that has, as Chair of Keren Hayesod Board of Trustees, worked tirelessly to keep the collective together and strengthen the bonds between Israel and the Diaspora. He thanked Steven who is completing his term as the Chair of the Board of Trustees, for his dedication and devotion for our shared goals.

Doron Almog thanked Steven Lowy as well and specifically mentioned his standing by JAFI and the Jewish People and the launching of an emergency campaign immediately when the war broke.

Mark Wilf and Doron Almog gave Steven Lowy a modest gift on behalf of JAFI in appreciation.

Steven Lowy thanked everyone and said that he values greatly the strong relationship he developed with the leadership of JAFI along these years. He acknowledged the people that he had the privilege to work with these last few years within JAFI, JFNA and the WZO. He stressed that the work that we do together is enormously important, and the importance of partnership should not be underestimated.

Steven spoke and said that he is very proud that in the last nearly six years KH has raised over \$1.1 billion to the State of Israel. \$285M have come to the Jewish Agency to the critical goals of Aliyah, Connecting and Israeli Society. He expressed his appreciation for Diaspora communities that stood by Israel unquestioningly, even though they themselves faced enormous challenges.

Steven thanked everyone for the opportunity to serve, stressed that we must continue being the guardians of the partnership and the bonds between the State of Israel and Diaspora Jewry and congratulated Bruce Leboff for taking the role.

Approval of the Standards Document

Andy Groveman, Chair of the Ethics, Standards and Governance Committee, presented the document that was first approved by the Board in 2003 and reapproved in 2012. He gave some background information regarding the establishment of the Standards Subcommittee that spent a few intensive months to revise the document and adjust it that it will best define the working relationship between Lay and staff. Andy stressed that we tried to examine the collaboration in every area that we are touching. He thanked the Chairs of the Subcommittee, Mr. Adam Miller and Ms. Karma Feinstein-Cohen, the subcommittee members as well as the professional staff, for their commitment and hard work.

Andy concluded by stating that some parts of the implementation will surely take time, but we are confident that it will lead to more transparency and meaningful and impactful meetings.

The Board of Governors unanimously approved the proposed Standards Document.

2025 Budget

Bruce Sholk announced that we expect to deliver a balanced budget for 2024.

He reminded that in February we approved a two-years budget because there were changes in priorities. He also reminded that we made a promise that we would come back with updates and changes as for 2025 budget, as necessary. Mr. Sholk presented the way that in 2025 the core budget will no longer be affected by our activities related to the Russia-Ukraine War. He pointed out that core



budget for 2025 is NIS 30M higher than in what we approved in February because of incremental designated funds and thanks to additional increases and grants.

Bruce Sholk presented the proposed resolution for approving the 2025 budget.

The 2025 Budget Resolution was unanimously approved by the Board of Governors.

Resolutions from Committees

Harvey Blitz, Deputy Chair of the Assets and Liabilities Committee, presented two proposed resolutions for appointments of Associate Members of the Executive to JAFI Subsidiaries:

- Yehuda Setton as a Board member of the Spirit of Israel subsidiary, and ongoing tenure as Chair of the Board of the Daroma Tzafona Tikun Olam company
- Josh Schwarcz as a Board member of the "Voice of the People" Company.

The Board of Governors unanimously approved the above-mentioned proposed resolutions.

Campers2Gether

Shelly Kedar, Director of the Connecting the Jewish People Unit, opened this item by updating that the goal to connect young people from the North and the South of Israel and bringing them to meaningful camp experiences was achieved with great success and stressed that the experience really strengthens the resilience of the participants and actually helps to heal Israel.

Shelly mentioned that various bodies are part of this important initiative and thanked everyone for their collaboration.

A short film was screened to show the impact of the Camps on the participants.

Saluting JAFI Employees for their Activities

Mark Wilf said that the war introduced us to many acts of heroism by civilians, soldiers and reserve soldiers, and mentioned that also here at the Jewish Agency, many dozens of employees and shlichim and/or their spouses were called to significant reserve service, and it is important to honor them and their families for their determination, contribution and courage.

Elisha Donshik, an employee from the Strategy unit, that is a commander in the Alexandroni Brigade served more than 250 days and at the same time has been himself an evacuee from Kibbutz Dan in the North, spoke about his experience and his family's experience.

Samantha Robinson, an employee from the Community Services unit, whose spouse was called to reserve service for many months, spoke of her and her family's experience.

Both Elisha and Samantha thanked the Jewish Agency for being a very supportive employer and thanked the members of the Board of Governors for their commitment and ongoing support.

Meeting adjourned with Hatikvah.

Minutes: Aviva Shetreet.