

## Special Meeting of the Board of Directors Minutes

June 25, 2025, 5:00 – 6:00 pm (teleconference)

**Present:** Laura Weiss, Diane Krapf, Randy Rydel, Margaret Gerard, Heidi Beierle, Erin Grant, Jessica Gillis, Alexander McIntyre, Lisa Sedlar

**Guests:** Tim Baker, Lyn Fuller, Ann Suloway, Cherryne Kravitz, Colleen Curtis, Helen Aqua, Jessica Burchiel, Lindsay MacDonald, Melissa Schapiro, Susan Witter

**Facilitator:** Holly O’Neil **Administrator:** Annabelle Wesley

Topic	Key Points	Outcome
Welcome and agenda review		
Member Forum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Board Facilitator shared guidelines for the Member Forum.</li><li>• Members provided their thoughts on removing Israeli produced products from the Co-op. Comments were for and against a boycott.</li><li>• The Board Administrator shared a summary of the letters that were sent to the Board of Directors on the issue.</li></ul>	
Responding to members’ request to remove products based on country of origin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Board Facilitator provided an overview of the Board’s process for responding to a member advocacy request.</li><li>• A background of members’ request for a boycott was shared.</li><li>• The Board makes decision by consensus. Decisions are made in relation to board policy.</li><li>• Several concerns have been raised by Board members and Management when considering whether to conduct a boycott/product campaign against Israel. Two primary concerns: 1. This would be a change in how boycotts are used at the Co-op. 2. This boycott could create a potentially unwelcoming environment for customers and an unsafe environment for staff who would need to field questions.</li><li>• The proposal tonight is direction seeking, relative to two governing policies. Do the members of the Board support expanding our Consumer Boycotts and Product Campaigns policy P6.5(B) to include boycotts and product campaigns against countries? If so, do members of the Board have solution for how to address the concerns related to Customer Experience, to avoid a situation which would put our CEO out of compliance with policies B3.1 and B3.3?</li><li>• The relevant governing policies were reviewed. Research the Board conducted during the process was shared. There is no indication that the companies whose products we carry have any political affiliation or are out of alignment with our Ends. The CEO connected with Rabbi Samuels who shared his concerns that a boycott would make the community feel less safe and unwelcomed in the stores.</li><li>• Each Board member shared their response to a proposal to amend the policies to include country-based boycotts. Directors noted that while they do not support the</li></ul>	The governing policies will not be changed to include country-based boycotts.

	genocide in Gaza, they do not support the act of boycotting countries as a whole. The policies will not be changed. The member request is denied.	
<b>Next Steps</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A message describing this process and the board's conclusion will be shared with the membership.</li> <li>• The Board Chair will follow up with the members who have requested a follow up from tonight's member forum.</li> <li>• A donation will be made to the World Central Kitchen as food and food security is the Co-op's lane. We will encourage the community to support local food access programs and donate to the Bellingham Food Bank at the register.</li> </ul>	

*These minutes have been approved by the Board of Directors.*