

Minutes of TBI Board Meeting - February 9, 2017

Mindy, Nina, Pearl, Julie, Aura, Bella, Reisa, Jeff, Michael, Jessica, Nathan, Amy, Justine and RRS.

Torah Study is deferred to the membership policy exercise.

Minutes were reviewed and approved.

Mindy introduced the board membership policy exercise that is intended to give board members an opportunity to discuss openly their thoughts and questions so that the board can support the final policy recommendation 100%. Mindy recommends that VBDM processes in the future be started with a board discussion. Rabbi Ruhi began by asking members is our community caucus based or affinity based? A lengthy and spirited discussion ensued.

Mindy announced that the Strategic Plan is now called the "Strategic Doing" because we are already doing many things in the plan. The focus was on goal number 3.2 and the development of a communications policy. A discussion was held of how a policy might be developed and implemented, what the enforcement strategies would be, and how effective it might be.

Preschool update - program is in relatively good shape for the rest of the year, more students are coming in. Carol will retire in June of 2019. Time to start putting together a committee to develop a process for a search is now. Carol is planning on having a small summer program and next year a shorter session (9-12) as well as a mixed age class. Nina suggests developing two budgets for the program contemplating two different levels of enrollment. She also asked for help from board members about how to restructure the health insurance benefit, in particular for the preschool staff.

Financials - Amy presented the December statements - January is not ready yet. Brief discussion about making a payment on the building loan.

ED report - Nina asked the board to consider dropping the Keshet membership category. MSP to rescind the policy.

RRS report - Rabbi attended a conference about resisting the Trump agenda and suggests a possible program "Don't Kvetch - Organize!" Rabbi announced that she is 13 weeks pregnant and pointed out that the correct response is shona tova, not mazel tov.

Talmud Torah report - Jess reported that we have a large cohort of students graduating so the school is expected to get smaller. In order to keep the school solvent the committee is recommending raising tuition gradually. Mindy reported that she asked Gretchen to lead the development of the section of the strategic doing related to strengthening the Talmud Torah. A suggestion to offer tuition discounts to volunteer teachers was discussed. Other strategies for attracting volunteers were discussed.

Reconstructionist Plenum meets quarterly; Craig Starr has been the plenum representative and is no longer interested in that role. Mindy asked for a volunteer to replace him.

Mindy proposed that the newsletter article be written by board members other than the President from time to time. Nina suggested going back to a report on the board meeting if no one is available to write.

Lambda Legal made proposal to RRS to join as a plaintiff in a lawsuit against the government if a proposed "Religious Freedom" executive order is issued. RRS could join as an individual or we could join as an institution. Jeff will research legal and other issues. A discussion of community safety took place. RRS said she didn't think participating in this action would be controversial in our community. The board generally supports the idea and discussed the appropriate timing. Jeff volunteered to work on answering the many questions that Lambda Legal asked of the plaintiffs.

RRS will send out a statement to the media regarding the swastikas that have been appearing in the Whiteaker neighborhood.