

Board of Trustees Meeting

September 14, 2017

Temple Beth Israel

The meeting began at 7:06.

Present. Michael Griffel, Nina Korican, Bruce Kreitzberg, Justine Lovinger, Reisa Maddex, Geraldine Moreno-Black, Nathan Philips, Julee Raiskin, Jared Rubin, Mindy Schlossberg, Aura Solomon, Pearl Wolfe.

Minutes approval. August minutes approval is delayed pending their completion.

Executive Director report. Nina said TBI's surplus was closer to \$70,000 than \$68,000. Nina discussed the whistle blower policy. Michael asked a clarifying question about the policy proposal that Mindy will put before Sharon Rudnick. The Board will postpone a vote on the question until the uncertainty is clarified.

Nina reported that the preschool has only 19 students enrolled, though TBI had budgeted for 29. Some existing students may increase their scheduled attendance. Nina thinks the preschool is likely to gain more students, but at current enrollment, the school could lose \$30,000 during the fiscal year. The school's public outreach has been relatively strong on social media, etc. Nina asked who might work with her to brainstorm ideas to manage this situation. Mindy suggested that the preschool committee might be able to discuss it at their upcoming meeting. Aura wondered if lower enrollment could be a social or demographic trend or alternatively, if it might be due to the preschool's housing in a synagogue during a new period of noticeable antisemitism and fear. Mindy offered her own expertise to join Nina in discussion with Carol Diller. Reisa suggested that TBI's neighborhood may be in a demographic change due to the age of families and rising home costs. The conversation evolved to the preschool's long term viability and what the limit of financial loss concerning the preschool should or could be.

Financials. No financial data is available yet for July or August. The goal for Amy's dues committee is having a proposal for the November 2018 congregational meeting.

Talmud Torah report. No verbal report added to Gretchen's written report. Talmud Torah's attendance is lower this year, due to a large, graduating 7th grade class.

Open Board position. The open Board position has been advertised and Nina has created an application for people to apply for Board positions to make the process more transparent and professional. Mindy, Jeff and Damian Gilbert are on the nominating committee. One person responded to the open position solicitation, but changed her mind. There was discussion around how the selection process for choosing applicants should work. Pearl emphasized the importance of an equitable process and creating a scoring grid. Mindy asked trustees what

selection priorities should be. Nathan reminded the Board that only two people have ever volunteered for the Board, all others have been recruited. Aura volunteered to join the nominating committee. Pearl nominated someone to apply for the Board seat.

Membership committee. Justine reported about her committee making a robust survey. They have postponed their survey while the dues model conversation is forming. Their survey wants to ask people what they want from a synagogue. The survey would ask how people want to be involved after b'nai mitzvahs. Mark Watson is on the committee and has great data experience. Jared asked who should get the survey, particularly wondering if non-members or past members might be reached. Geraldine said the survey will try to discern who does come to events and what obstacles are to people participating. Discussion turned to loss of families after b'nai mitzvah and how that might be mitigated. Justine wants to ask families what they want from the synagogue after b'nai mitzvah. Rubin suggested that the survey be shared by TBI members with non-members and Justine embraced this idea. Justine asked how her survey be scheduled so as to not compete with the dues model process. Perhaps, the two projects could be combined at times.

Strategic plan revisit. The Board broke into groups to evaluate the Board's engagement with our long term goals. Board members evaluated the plan's goals

Items for next month. Our next meeting will be 7:00 pm on October 19. Board members were invited to suggest items for the next month's meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50.

Recorded and submitted by Bruce Kreitzberg