

# Beth El Board Minutes 2/14/2019

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## Board Attendees

- Jim Billings
- Yaakov Cohn
- Ken Fishman
- Aaron Friedman
- Ellen Glickman-Simon
- Judy Goldberg
- Sheila Goldberg
- John Harper
- Michael Joachim
- Toby Kopman
- Justin Lewitus
- Laurie Margolies
- Cinthia Meyersburg
- Steve Probst
- Lizza Sandoe
- Helen Shik
- Judy Sletzinger
- Jen Stevens
- Marcos Szydlo
- Susan Tohn

## Other Attendees

- Rabbi Josh Breindel
- Scott Newman
- Beth Schine

## Agenda

- D'var Torah: Rabbi Breindel
- Rabbi's report: 5 min
- Membership and administration report: Beth, 5 min
- Update on Education Programs: Scott 10 min
- Proposal regarding Health Care Fund: John 10 min
- Comments and questions about delivered reports: 10 min
- EXECUTIVE SESSION: Scott and Shoni's contracts: Sheila 10 min

## Board Votes

- Motion on extending free-membership promotion: To extend for the 2019-20 fiscal year the current free-membership promotion to new member households with children age pre-Kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> grade, with Year 1 membership and tuition being free, Year 2 at a 50% discount, and Year 3 at full rates.
  - Motion passed unanimously.
- Motion on Health Care Fund: That the Board adopt the following guidelines for use of the Health Care Fund:
  1. Purpose: The Health Care Fund is for the purpose of helping recipients facing significant health care-related expenses. Such expenses might include, but are not limited to, direct treatment costs, food, transportation, and housing costs during the treatment and convalescence periods.
  2. Allocation Responsibility: The Rabbi and the President are responsible for Health Care Fund allocations.
  3. Recipients: Members and staff of Congregation Beth El, or others determined to be part of the Beth El "family", at the discretion of the Rabbi and the President.
  4. Allocation Amounts: Subject to the discretion of the Rabbi and the President.
  5. Donations: Members and others may make donations to the Health Care Fund in people's memory or honor. Contributors may not earmark donations to the Health Care Fund to support particular recipients.
    - Motioned passed unanimously.
- Motion: To notify Shoni and Scott that we want to continue their employment for the next fiscal year
  - Motion approved unanimously
- Motion: To delegate authority for negotiating compensation for the Director of Youth and Family Education and the Director of Teen Education and Engagement to a team consisting of VP Youth and Family Education, VP Finance, and President, with the agreed-on compensation subject to approval by the Board.
  - Motion approved unanimously

## Discussions (excluding any votes/decisions)

### Rabbi's Report

- Has been a very busy 3 weeks; he will be on vacation next week
  - Now working with two conversion candidates
  - Actively working on revising Shabbat Rinah slides for better contrast, font size, visibility, etc.
  - Had first Tu B'Shvat seder last month; light attendance, probably related to bad weather
  - Working with Inclusion Committee; new video on our website
  - Scott and Rabbi have begun planning community Shabbat (intergenerational) services, one each in April and May; May service will coincide with Siyyum
  - Conducting baby naming for Isaac and Mitzi Young's daughter
  - Did teaching at Shulman House on Hesed – had about 40 attendees
  - Joined with Lorel to host MetroWest Shavuot planning session; we will not be the hosting congregation
  - Joined with other Rabbis to plan for MetroWest Yom Hashoah commemoration
  - Doing monthly Adult Jewish Literacy classes; last session was on divinity in a post-Holocaust world
  - Have finished first four sessions of the current pre-Bar-Mitzvah Torah class
  - Jordan, Jocelyn, and he have been planning for the next step in Rabbi transition and communicating with the congregation
  - Now have a reconstituted Rabbi Advisory Committee

### Administrator's Report (Beth)

- Highlights of her report:
  - Very brief, because Jim will present a report for Tsibur
  - Membership has not changed since last meeting: 263 households
    - Includes 6 households we have not heard from this year on dues
    - Three of these have participated in other Beth El responsibilities, including Oneg hosting, this year
  - Dues: have collected just under \$450,000 in dues; \$150,000 outstanding
  - Jane has now been with Beth El (as Temple Secretary) for a year, and we are very happy with her.

### Fund-Raising (Ellen Glickman-Simon)

- Planning event that will be a combination of social and fundraising
  - Guy Mendilow Ensemble
  - "Forgotten Voices: An Evening of Women's Songs and Stories"
  - He performs in large concert halls as well as in synagogues
  - Date: April 13, 2019
  - Price has not yet been set

### **Education Report (Scott)**

- It has been almost four years that Scott has been at Beth El.
- We have almost doubled enrollment in the lower school in this period.
- Last Sunday, our education programs got together and made snack packs for Open Table for students during the upcoming school break.
  - Two parents who are relatively new to Beth El organized this – very successful.
- Designed and executed a month of activities focused on helping students take care of each other – how to advocate for themselves and care for each other
- Request to Board to continue the free-membership promotion – see Motions

### **Health Care Fund (John Harper)**

- Discussion was focused on new policies for the Health Care Fund, which was created as a successor to the Mark Reich Fund after he died
- Sense of the Board was that we should publicize the availability of help to the Beth El community for people who need health care financial needs
- We discussed but did not reach a consensus on whether to fundraise to replenish this fund

### **Reports and Attachments**

- Beth El Inclusion Report - February 2019 (amended)
- Health Care Fund Proposed Guidelines for Board – February 2019
- Rabbi's Board Report – February 2019
- Ritual Committee Report – February 2019
- Tikkun Olam Report – February 2019
- Treasurer's Report through 1-31-2019
- Tsibur Report – February 2019