



Temple Beth Abraham

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Dr. Paul R. Siegel, *Rabbi Emeritus*

MINUTES TEMPLE BETH ABRAHAM BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING January 6, 2015

Attendees: Gayle Aaron, Herb Baer, Alan Berkson, Neil Bruckner, Karen Filler, Allison Fine, Cantor Margot Goldberg, Steven Gosset, Julie Gur, Rabbi David Holtz, Jodie Lane, Liza Karsten, Phyllis Leary, Kimberly Marcus, Marla Peers, Rick Misrok, Mark Polisar, Jen Povman, Loren Ratner, Mel Savitch, Jennifer Schwartz, Meredith Siegel, Stuart Skolnick, Jamie Wilson

Meeting commenced at 8:45PM.

- I. Invocation: Rabbi said that there are three different kinds of prayers and tonight is a thank you, to Allison, to her committee, and to the Board. The plan that we brought to the congregation was significantly better because of our work. Rabbi also wants to express thanks to G0d; who would know that a bunch of Jews would vote almost unanimously?!
- II. Approval of Minutes: Mel's name was left off the attendance. Marla noted some edits to clean up the December minutes and they were approved with corrections as noted.
- III. New Business
 - a. Proposed Conflict of Interest Policy and Whistleblower Policy: in 2013, the Non-profit Revitalization Act amended the not-for-profit law. There was one requirement; Loren Ratner said that we need a conflict-of-interest and a whistle-blower policy. Herb took the whistle-blower policy of the Westchester Jewish Council (which Michael Karnes helped to draft) and has asked us to adopt it. The conflict of interest policy, Loren added, includes a place at the bottom for name, date, and signature. We might need a sentence on the form acknowledging the terms of disclosure. Loren moved that we adopt the whistleblower policy as written and Jodie seconded. Moves unanimously.

Loren moves (Marla seconds) to adopt the conflict-of-interest policy, the form to be developed later. After some conversation, the Board voted to

adopt the policy (with one abstention).

IV. Old Business

- a. Capital Campaign Status Report – Bridges Campaign (new name). Gayle said that their kickoff meeting took place last night. The Communications Committee, along with the committee chairs came up with a new title and tag: Bridges Campaign: Connecting TBA's Rich Tradition to a Vibrant Future. The other active committee is the Finance Committee, which has formulated guidelines for accepting gifts and donor recognition. We will be given some policy drafts next month for our review and approval. We will have a logo and an RFP will be going out next week. The Connected Congregations consultant will be working with our Communications Committee. Several members on this committee are also on the dues-to-donations committee and will help ensure that our messages are consistent. Kimberly suggested that we consider an entirely new logo and there was some interest in this. Gayle noted that whatever they design for the campaign does not need to be the same as the Temple logo. Loren said that a logo change should be part of an entire rebranding but that perhaps we are not quite there; it's coming but there are many changes happening now and we might not be ready.

- V. Financial Report – Mel: Mel said that we've collected about 70% of our budgeted dues through December. We are ahead of the prior year. Generally speaking, we are ahead by about \$15K in our budgeted income through the end of November and our expenses are \$43K below, probably because of the timing of our expense hits. Mel added that we currently have 408 member units. Cantor Margot said that we have collected such a high percentage of our dues because of the diligence of the finance committee and the office staff. Allison asked Stuart if he has a sense of why we are doing so much better in terms of dues. Stuart said that most people are now opening their emails and many write back asking questions, etc. The language in the statements is gentler and friendlier, which will continue to help in terms of being more positive. Herb said that there are some concerns about the receivables with regard to the school. Mel asked who is responsible for applying funds from the Pincus Fund for scholarship. There is currently about \$14,000 in the Fund available for scholarship. That money, Rabbi noted, should be applied annually, to the Religious School. What we do not know is whether, of the \$19,000 that is owed in tuition, how many people cannot pay or have just not yet paid. Stuart was asked to go through the records and see who had asked for relief from tuition and that will enable them to allocate funds and then can call those who are expected to pay; those people have not yet been called.

- VI. Director Report – Stuart: he has been in touch with staff, internally. They are

going to migrate email into a cloud-based email system. When the change takes place over MLK weekend, ability to access emails and to reply will be delayed and may make communication slower. The congregation will be notified of this.

The copy machine will be replaced by a color machine that will reduce costs significantly. We will be able to print the bulletin (in black and white), in-house, which will save us a lot of money.

We now have office coverage five days a week and on Sundays, allowing both Rabbi Allison and Stuart to have much-needed support.

They are looking at insurance policies and are working with Neil to look to maximize both coverage and cost.

Stuart is working with Don Ostrower on financial oversight.

VII. Comments/Announcements:

Kimberly said that Dorot program is set for Sunday, January 25. They will need people to make gift bags and to visit seniors. We are hosting the program and others will be coming from outside the congregation to participate.

Elder Care Program: sponsored by Adult Ed, WJCS, and the JCC, a lunch-and-learn with a social worker and elder care attorney.

Olivia and Amanda Berkson founded an a cappella group in Ardsley and have been interviewed by the Enterprise; article to be in Friday's paper.

Condolences to Margot and Barry Goldberg on the death of Barry's father.

Refuah shleima to Renee Holtz, who broke her foot last month.

Caleb Gleit, Leah Monack got their learner's permits.

January 30th: Shabbat Shira; chavurah celebration (for anyone, even not in a chavurah), and Jeff Salkin, author of *Putting G-d on Your Guest List* will be speaking at services.

Rabbi will be at the "Oneg" Conference and not here this Shabbat.

Leah, Tess, and Yoni are representing TBA at NFTY Youth Group National Convention in Atlanta, February 13-17.

The NFTY pancake breakfast event for grades 5-8: Cantor said that Tamir went

and had a great time.

VIII. Next Meeting – Tuesday February 3, 2015 @ 7:30 PM

Meeting adjourned at 9:46.

Respectfully submitted,
Marla A. Peers