

**BETH EL CONGREGATION  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2023**

The following appear at Beth El: Audrey Wolff, President; Eileen Bloom, Financial Vice President; Kim Mertens, Education Vice President; Charleen Holt, Secretary; Alana Berrett, Ari Hoffman, Brad Ostrow, Bill Tuttle

Board members present via Zoom: Gail Ulan, Sara Zilversmit

Staff present: Rabbi Stein Kokin, Alicia Moskowitz, Executive Director; Joanie Charnmow, Preschool Director

Board members absent: Herb Dreiseszun, Facilities Vice President; Barry Becker, Treasurer, Jose Tafla, Danny Witenstein

Staff absent: Susan Finks, Interim Talmud Torah Director

6:36 pm Audrey calls the meeting to order.

Rabbi Stein Kokin gives a D'Var Torah.

**PRESCHOOL:**

Joanie is allowed to present her report out of order. Joanie states that she has/will receive grants in the amount of \$80,000. This money is to be used for Preschool and staff (bonuses, salary, incentives).

There has been a security lock down drill and some things need to be updated.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

Alicia states that on Friday, October 20, there will be a walk through of all buildings to check for security and emergency protocols. For the next

month there will be a security guard from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Wednesday and Sunday during school. The cost will be split with Torah Day School.

Rabbi Stein Kokin is looking for someone who can provide support for parents, teachers and students.

7:08 p.m. Joanie is excused and leaves the meeting.

Phoenix Police Department said to remove certain things from our web page. A very big thanks to Susan Finks and her husband Alan for all their hard work during the fall break. She has revised the security protocols, changed the pick up procedures, provided each teacher with a walkie talkie, and has temporary lighting for the outside of the building. Each classroom has a "bucket" to sustain them during any lockdown. Bulletin boards are being replaced to make the school seem more inviting.

Alicia shares that Beth El had been awarded grant money. Alicia shows pictures of proposed bollards to be placed at the front doors to the main building, the entrance to the preschool and Talmud Torah. The doors to the Youth Lounge, the exit doors from the Pavilion; cameras for the preschool; and outdoor audio equipment are all being covered under this grant money.

#### **RITUAL:**

Alicia informs that the new prayer book Lev Shalom Siddur will debut on October 28. Beth El has purchased 150 books. To date 34 have been "sold". A donation plate will be placed in each book in memory of Cantor Sam Goldman (of blessed memory). A sample is shown to the board.

Daniel Rosen and Joan Klein will speak about their learning from Cantor Goldman. Kiddish will follow services. At the present time no new Siddurs will be allowed to leave the premises or taken home. In the future, we plan to purchase extra books for members to purchase and take home.

This Shabbat is Adam Woldoff's Bar Mitzvah.

**FINANCIAL:**

Alicia reports that the Budget Committee Meeting is this Friday at 10:00 a.m. To date we have \$15,579 in pre-appeals; \$29,049 in Rosh Hashanah appeals; and \$21,559 in Yom Kippur appeals. This is 106 percent of our goal. The balance in the Operating Account is \$122,526; the new Certificate of Deposit has \$200,000 on a 30-day plan with the option to renew at five percent; the Security Fund has \$511,680; and payables are in the amount of \$16,470.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

Alicia provides the staffing update as follows: Ashton Brown submitted his resignation. His last date was Sunday, October 15. He has taken a job in the medical field. Andela is very efficient and willing to help. M, the Marketing Coordinator, will move to 30 hours a week and will do some of the programming.

**RABBI'S REPORT:**

Rabbi plans to call to schedule a meeting with every congregant. She shared with the Board her Sukkot experiences.

**FACILITIES:**

Herb reports that the breaker for the school lighting has broken and currently temporary lights are being used.

**SOCIAL ACTION:**

Sara states that Adam Woldoff's Bar Mitzvah project is helping the Lone Solider project.

The November social action project will be the annual Turkey Train and on December 25th will again be Mitzvah day.

Other community engagement activities and adult education are as stated on the agenda.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Ari says that on October 29 at Beth El there will be an informal gathering of anyone interested in joining or forming a Havarah.

Audrey reminds the Board that the next General Board Meeting is on Sunday, November 19 at 9:30 a.m. This is an in-person meeting only. The only two items to be discussed are staffing and dues structure.

Kim discusses the information she has obtained on insurance for the staff. The current plan will be renewed for one month so as not to interfere with the Jewish holidays in the future. Work continues on a new benefits package.

## **MINUTES**

Eileen moves and Brad seconds to approve the minutes as presented. The motion is passed unanimously.

Good and welfare.

8:05 pm The meeting is adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
Charleen Holt  
Secretary  
Beth El Board of Directors