

Temple Beth El Board of Directors
Special meeting, Jan 17
Open public meeting

Present:

Board members and temple staff: Amy Harrington, Leta Miller, Cary Sunberg, Tori Ow, Miles Dolinger, Judy Yokel, Jerry Frank, Dave Liotta, Shani Ginsburg, Josh Karter, Rabbi Paula Marcus, Melody Randall, Rabbi Shifra, Melissa Sunberg, David Ginsborg,

Non-board/staff members: Lisa Mendez, Sharon Papo, Naomi Dresser, Patty Bernstein, Elise Atkins, Caitlin Clancy, Luna Bey, Misty Wenisch, Logan Kreun, Claire Shorestein, Nathan Andrade, Jordan Turetsky, Tina Pasler, Bart ?, Aubrey ?, Heidi Olson, Max ?, Leanne Costello, Shana ?, Gisselle Stayerman, Amber Weiss, Robin Gladstone, Lenore Hindin, Jess Mitchell, Jan Wald, Danielle Lipson-Benz

Topic: The meeting addressed a single issue, namely, the intention of TBE to mandate COVID vaccines for K-1 students in Simcha.

David Ginsborg noted that written feedback had been extensive; there were 41 responses from parents and teachers.

MOTION proposed by Judy, seconded by Jerry, with the recommendation of the Senior Management Team: “It is the intention of TBE to mandate vaccination for COVID for all eligible children beginning in the fall semester.”

These comments were offered by guests: Some people opposed mandating the vaccination before it has been required by the state for K-12. Simcha has had no COVID cases and is already taking precautionary measures, including wearing masks, frequent hand washing, extra sanitation protocols, and rapid tests, which will begin tomorrow and will be conducted on a regular basis; so this mandate might be addressing a problem that doesn't exist. Several people expressed relief that the temple was not contemplating instituting the mandate immediately (the original intention), but waiting until the fall. Some people felt that if we were to mandate a COVID vaccine, we should also mandate a regular flu vaccination. Some people questioned the efficacy of the current vaccines against the latest variant and noted recent findings that the effectiveness of vaccines waned quickly. Others worried about possible negative reactions by some kids. Would the temple bear any liability in such cases if we acted prior to a state mandate? One person emphasized the temple's commitment to inclusivity regardless of divergent viewpoints and noted that some people would be alienated by the policy.

AMENDMENTS:

A friendly amendment to the motion was accepted, adding the following clause at the beginning of the motion: “In the absence of significant new scientific or legal information, it is the intention of TBE ... etc.”

A second proposed friendly amendment requesting a change in the language to specify that mandatory vaccination would be conditional on a mandate by the state of California, was rejected.

VOTE: The board voted on the following amended motion: “In the absence of significant new scientific or legal information, it is the intention of TBE that all eligible children be vaccinated for COVID in the fall semester.” 9 in favor, 2 opposed.