

Temple Beth El Board of Directors Meeting
June 28, 2023
Minutes

Present: Leta Miller, John Lubell, Bonnie Morr, Judy Yokel, Shani Ginsberg, David Ginsborg, Michelle Dennis, Cary Sunberg. Melissa Sunberg, Miles Dolinger, Josh Karter, Ray Kaupp

Absent: Tori Ow, Jessica Olamit, Wendy Strimling

Guests: Sharon Hoffman-Manning, Jen Kanter, Andrew Grabowski, Risa Lower, Julianne Bellin

I. Guest comments: none

Board member announcements:

Leta requests that anyone presenting a pdf at a meeting make available to her any charts or graphs included therein in the form of pdfs or jpegs so that she can insert them, if needed, into the minutes.

Judy announces board installation July 14 at the Rock Shabbat service.

As this meeting is Cary's last, Judy thanks him for his generous service as treasurer.

Others offer appreciation for the integrity he has brought to his position, for his attention to temple finances, and for his willingness to express opinions that are not always the most popular.

II. Relational question. Break-out into dyads for 8 minutes

III. Proposed COVID policy change for simcha (item 11 on the agenda)

The issue: On Jan. 17, 2022 the board passed the following resolution: "In the absence of significant new scientific or legal information, it is the intention of TBE that all eligible Simcha children be vaccinated for COVID beginning in the fall 2022 semester." The present question is whether to now rescind that mandate in view of the decline in the number of COVID cases. David recommends that the policy be rescinded but that vaccination be strongly encouraged.

Discussion: Extensive discussion ensued, consuming more than an hour of the meeting time. Guests Andrew Grabowski and Julianne Bellin made a plea at the meeting to keep our mandate policy in place at least for the time being. Among the points raised by members and guests were the following: In Santa Cruz for children under five, fewer than 9% have been vaccinated, and only about 4% boosted. If a resurgence occurs, we can quickly snap back to mandate masks and vaccination. David made his proposal based on advice from medical professionals and checked the policy of other pre-schools; as far as we can determine, we are the only pre-school with a vaccine mandate. Public schools are not mandating COVID vaccines and many medical facilities have designated them as recommended, but not mandatory. Caitlin (Simcha director) joined the meeting. She noted that she had reached out to parents and given them a lot of time for feedback; but she heard back only from one family, who asked that the mandate be retained. She noted that Simcha is nearly full even with the mandate in place. Questions were raised about whether we require boosters, or just initial vaccination.

MOTION: To rescind the mandate that Simcha children must be vaccinated, but strongly encourage it.

VOTE: Yes: 5; No: 5. Therefore the motion does not carry.

More discussion ensues, followed by a re-vote on the same motion.

SECOND VOTE: Yes: 5; No: 3; Abstain: 2. Motion carries.

IV. Additional items

MOTION: Approval of the minutes of June 6. **VOTE:** Approved with 1 abstention.

MOTION: Authorize Rachel Polhamus to serve as an authorized agent in matters concerning the 2022 Federal Security Grant. **VOTE:** Unanimous approval.

MOTION: Remove authorization for outgoing Treasurer Cary Sunberg and authorize newly elected Treasurer Sharon Hoffman-Manning to communicate with and to receive directly—or through the Executive Director—information from all TBE Financial Institutions necessary to fulfill duties as treasurer, including serving as a signing authority. **VOTE:** Unanimous approval.

Refrigerator replacement: update will be given at the next meeting.

MOTION: remove Quintes as authorized provider of Temple's 403 (b) plan (requires a resolution from board). **VOTE:** Unanimous approval

Employee handbook: David has posted the old and new handbooks and requests that everyone look at them prior to our next meeting. No action needed at this time.

Changes to board meeting schedule:

July 25 meeting moved to Aug 1.

The following meeting rescheduled to Aug 29.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm.