

Temple Sinai Board of Trustees Meeting 6/14/18

Board Members Present: Gene Rosenthal, Kathy Zeiger, Lane Feingold, Jen Feingold, Larry Jacobson, Vicki Goldman, Karen Kaplan, Wendy Vean, Grace Bach, Bruce Tully, Jeff Lavenhar, Amy Rittenberg, Michelle Weinraub

Staff Members Present: Rabbi Susan Rheins, Sheila Purdin, Sheila Nesis, Lisa Thorner

Guests Present: Dick and Gayle Glucksman, Dooley Gehr, Dina Zwerin

Larry Jacobson called the meeting to order at 6:35 P.M. It was noted that a quorum was present.

Rabbi Susan Rheins delivered the D'Var Torah.

Dooley Gehr provided his perspective regarding the religious school. He has taught in the religious school for 12 years. He expressed how important it is to ask the kids how they and their parents feel about various aspects of the religious school. For example he had asked the students how they felt about having an armed guard or armed teachers during religious school. The kids would feel safer if there were either armed guards or armed teachers. Regarding moving religious school for the older grades from Wednesday to Sunday, he feels that the older students do not want to be at the Temple with the younger students. He also questions the availability of space for all grades on Sunday. Dr. Glickman's survey several years ago revealed that Sunday was the least favorite day of the week for kids. Dooley feels that another issue is that parents are not giving the impression that religious school is important and that it is a priority. The question is, is the poor attendance due to the day of the week or the system? Dooley feels that the students are not being properly prepared for B'nei Mitzvah. Dooley also feels that the Hebrew tutors are having difficulty preparing the students due to the fact the students are lacking an adequate foundation. Dooley doesn't feel that moving the older grades to Sunday is beneficial. He also expressed that he will not be able to teach on Sundays, as he already works five days per week teaching and adding an additional day of work would be too difficult.

Lane Feingold presented the Strategic Plan for the board to vote on. Per the congregational meeting in April, the comments received were incorporated in the plans for youth. "Provide consistent and original youth programming for all ages." This is incorporated in the section providing a vibrant sense of community. Lane plans to present the implementation plan for the Strategic Plan at the next board meeting. Jeff Lavenhar moved to approve the Strategic Plan as presented. Gene Rosenthal seconded the motion. The motion passed as presented.

Rabbi Susan Rheins presented the proposed new religious school schedule. This new schedule would have all grades coming to Religious School on Sundays. The grades K-7 would attend from 9:00-12:00 on Sundays. The day would include core classes, Chug/Electives and T'filah or

Music. Grades 8-10 would meet on Sundays from 10:00-12:00. Their class time would include core classes plus T'filah/music. From 9:00-10:00 this group would have the opportunity to be Madrikhim or have TSYG in the Lounge. Wednesday nights from 6:00-7:30 grades 4-7 would meet for Hebrew enrichment and Chug/Electives. Wednesdays would be optional.

Concern was expressed regarding security for religious school on Sundays, particularly as both buildings are being occupied. Doors should not be propped open. Additional staff training regarding security should be implemented.

Board members were concerned that T'filah be age group appropriate. Rabbi Susan explained that the grades will have separate/appropriate T'filah.

It was expressed that the curriculum going forward will be student and project based. Curriculum will also be teacher guided with student choice. This should help with attendance.

The WIFI in the building needs to be improved. The internet is a great resource for the religious school.

The religious school curriculum will be worked on over the summer. Ron Leff is a professional Jewish educator and comes to his position with experience in building curriculum. Ron will also assist in lesson planning.

Congresswoman Black and Temple Sinai will host a meeting on 7/31/18 to discuss a CDOT project for Hampden.

There have been questions regarding how much the Temple is charging families for Onegs. The fee of \$250 will be charged going forward.

Kathy Zeiger is operating as the board liaison for the religious school

The budget will be discussed at the board meeting on 6/21/18.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 P.M.