

## Beth-El Board of Trustees

### Meeting minutes December 21, 2016

**Present:** Neal Goldman, Abby Steele, Chip Morris, Vickie Kennedy, Ron Van, Buzzy Klausner, Lou Arab, Ed Mercel, Marty Siegel, Jodie Leiser, Cathy Winterfield, Donne Ordile, Rachel Marcus-Mitchell, Jacquie Sinder (Office Manager), Rabbi Matuson.

A quorum was established and the meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Neal Goldman, President.

**Approval of the October Minutes:** The November 2016 minutes were approved and accepted as written.

**D'var Torah:** From our Rabbi Matuson: This passage talks about the message of Hanukah and the number of candles we light as well as its numerical meaning. There was some debate as to whether we light 1-8 or 2-9; the consensus was we take the shamas as the ninth and light 8 candles. There was also much discussion as to how we light the candles, do we increase the light (candles) each day or light all of them and decrease the one each day. Hillel influenced the decision to increase and kindle a candle each day, so we add to the light within. Did you know that double chai (36) represents 'Secret Saints', who the world depends upon. We don't know who the Messiah is, or when he/she will appear, but the message is predicated on light and life. "If we treat each other as if we were the "Lamad Vovnik" (36 righteous people/Secret Saints) then we recognize the light within our life and others.

**President:** Neal thought the Hanukah party held at the synagogue, "was just terrific". The coordinated effort was apparent and 110 people showed-up to attend and enjoy the festivities. He then reiterated that there are some sensitive topics discussed at Board meetings that require confidentiality. This information needs to remain confidential. Certainly we can have open conversation, but he asks that every Board member remember the need for confidentiality when relevant. He also expressed appreciation to everyone for all they do.

**Treasurer's report:** We approved and welcomed our newest member, Joseph Gavronsky and his fiancée this month. If a couple joins the synagogue and is married by the Rabbi, they must pay for the first year of membership. The following year, there is no charge for membership, as it is a gift from the synagogue. This policy was established by the Board two years ago, as an incentive to remain affiliated with Beth El. This was done in attempt to stay engaged with newly married couples who typically drop out once married. Membership payment would commence again in the third year.

Chip handed out a Cash Flow vs Prior Year sheet and introduced a different format comparing the last five months to our budget. "We are running a little behind because of preliminary expenses we have laid out. The total revenue is ahead because of security donations, but that will be more than offset by security expenses (which at the moment will exceed donations by about \$ 4-5k)." The interest rate was recomputed in March 2016. It is scheduled to be re-computed again in March, 2021.

#### **Business Matters:**

**Ways and Means:** Abby reported that the Gala date is April 22. Tammy Shumer is sending out the Save the Date. She is looking to expand the committee members. Although we are using the school building as the theme, Neal reminded us that this fundraiser is for operating expenses.

**New School Building:** Neal passed around a projected picture of the school. The building will start out with a first floor, and storage spaces in opposing areas will be used until a second floor is added and the storage spaces convert to stairwells. We are seeking 2/3 contractors for bids for the building construction. Nicholas Renard is the Architect.

#### **Committee Reports:**

**Education:** The Education Board reported that the Hanukah dinner was a success and they made over \$1,200. Initial planning for Sun, 1/29 Spaghetti Dinner/Bingo night is underway. Jody has resigned as Education Chair but will remain as a Board of Trustees for the synagogue. Many members of the school

thanked Jody profusely, for her leadership and her commitment to Beth El's Religious School. Charlie is looking for a new Education Chair.

**Membership:** February 3 is the next Shabbat Dinner.

**Facilities:** Neal passed out a Facility Fee Schedule for members and nonmembers. He recommended that we increase the fee. The Board recommended and agreed to \$225, per arrangement. The fees will be collected by the synagogue, and Jacquie will be reworking the contract for approval by the Board at the next meeting. The motion was passed unanimously for a revised form to reflect the fee changes.

**Adult Education:** No report

**Sisterhood Report:** Vickie reported that the Hanukah party had 35 ladies and it was a lovely event and lots of fun. Nancy Rubenstein was coordinating the food and logistics for providing food to the Ponte Vedra Police/Fire/ and Rescue people on Christmas day. Neal asked that they get a picture and submit it to the local paper and J News for enhanced PR for the Synagogue. Next year the sisterhood hopes to expand to Jacksonville Beach station. Trivia Night is 1/12, it is the 3<sup>rd</sup> attempt to have this and the fee is \$5. The Sisterhood sponsored the Oneg and Kiddush the following weekend.

**Brotherhood Report:** No report

### **New Business:**

There was discussion about Sunday mornings, the problems for the teachers and clean-up detail that needed to be ironed out. Chris Arab gave a schematic to Katie to help facilitate the process.

All requests are to go through Jacquie and she will direct Katie.

Marty mentioned that the stacking and wear and tear of the tables has resulted in huge gouges. He will get plastic wood and sand it to fix the problems.

After a request to send the e-blast to non-members, Neal reminded everyone that the e-blast is just for members and that FB is for the community. Our website is

up and functional, the calendar needs updating, and the Religious School website is also viewable on line.

Lastly, Vickie recommended that the Board recognize Jody Leiser's exceptional work and commitment to the Religious School. THANK YOU JODY for your dedication to our children and families enriching and educating all the lives of our community!

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned. The next Board meeting will be Tuesday, January 17, 2016.

Respectfully submitted,

Rachel Marcus-Hendry Mitchell