

Hebrew College Board of Trustees Minutes of Meeting January 25, 2024

Present [by video]: Nancy Kaplan Belsky, Myra Snyder, Mark Atkins, Sara Lee, Van Lankton, Justin David, David Hoffman, Lydia Kukoff, Deborah Feinstein, Susan Shevitz, Keith Dropkin, Susan Schechter, Laure Garnick, Steve Targum, Steven Lewis, Susie Tanchel, Sharon Cohen Anisfeld, Rosa Franck, Diane Troderman, Ross Silverstein, Jevin Eagle, Myra Musicant, Avi Killip, Bob Gielow, Harvey Chasen

4:03pm Nancy Belsky opened meeting and made a motion to approve minutes Nancy Belsky

4:04pm Deb Feinstein D'var Torah Jewish People have only one heart; we need each other to accomplish a great task. What does hope look like to you? Deb also explained the new art exhibit coming to Hebrew College – art created by children in various Jewish Day Schools in the area, called Hope Diaries.

4:10pm Development report with Rosa Franck

- Financials
 - Almost 64% of the 1.95M goal
- OnBoard Grant
 - Gave us funding for help with more grants
 - Applied for 8 grants, received 5
 - Hired grant writer, Jordan Namerow
- Development Events focused on the following goals:
 - Stewarding annual/capital donors
 - Bringing in new people with planned giving

4:18 Finance Report

- Rabbinical School Tuition, FY25 Discussion, led by Justin David
 - Proposing a 3% increase in tuition after researching background assumptions such as: Sustainability, Marketplace, Student Welfare, Competitive Position of Strength
 - Creating a new system to help manage the aid provided.
 - Students are applying to JTS and HUC at the same time as HC. JTS and HUC can offer aid and stipends that HC does not offer.
 - Other items attract students to HC, it's not all about money.
- Jewish Education Program, Tuition Impact, led by Susie Tanchel
 - Projecting 8 new students next year, 3 MJEd and 5 Certificate.
 - Looking at a 4% increase in tuition.
 - Why? To cover costs and help get the program off the ground.
 - HC receives a grant from Legacy to cover 60% of the financial aid given to Education students.
- Questions/Ideas/Comments?
 - Can we find out what it costs to run a Rabbinical course VS what it costs to run an education course?
 - Can we entertain the idea of “sponsoring” a student?

- HUC/JTS are providing more in terms of tuition relief and living stipends.
- Motions to vote on:
 - David Hoffman puts the motion forward to vote to raise the Rabbinical School Tuition by 3% and Jewish Education Tuition by 4%. Approved Unanimously.
 - Keith Dropkin makes the motion to add Sara Brown, Sr. Director of Physical and Financial Resources, to be among Hebrew College's authorized signatories with regard to certain banking matters relating to the College's various banking relationships and accounts, and, in particular, to approve Eastern Bank's standard banking resolutions designating Sara Brown to be included among the College's authorized signatories regarding certain banking matters with Eastern Bank. Approved Unanimously.
- Finance Report, Keith Dropkin
 - Ahead of last year in terms of contributions
 - Problem area: grants; how are we making up for the missing funds? More grants? Reduced spending?

4:48 Presidents Report with Sharon Cohen Anisfeld

- Meeting the Moment with Israel
 - Rabbi Sharon was able to participate in two missions to Israel, the Boston Women's Mission to Israel, and with Hadar. She is going once more in February.
 - Rabbinical School Seminar on Zionism
 - Adult Learning special spring courses on Israel, Zionism, and Antisemitism
 - Reflecting on leadership in a time of crisis and polarization; Hebrew College's Statement on Israel
 - There will be small group trustee conversations regarding Israel over the next few months.
 - How are we framing those conversations? The intent of doing this is to get to know each other based on each trustee's revolving relationship with Israel.
 - What are the goals for those conversations? Come together socially and psychologically as a group.
 - Leadership transitions
 - Back from Sabbatical: Rabbi Dan Judson, Rabbi Or Rose, Rabbi Dan Berman
 - On Sabbatical this semester Rabbi Rachel Adelman
 - On Leave for the year: Rabbi Jordan Schuster
 - Rabbinical School recruitment
 - 23 applicants
 - 3 deferrals
 - 5 hot prospects
 - Education recruitment
 - Not started recruiting this year yet, but have had 8 inquiries
 - Bonim Beyachad/Building Together
 - Accreditation and Compliance

- DHE
 - Title IX
 - NECHE
- Brief discussion on the political divides of the Jewish populations, specifically at Hebrew College, and the challenges that come with it. Faculty meeting weekly to discuss the various challenges.
- Report of Board of Managers, Susan Schechter
 - Budget is on course
 - Under on rentals
- Motions to vote on, Sharon Cohen Anisfeld:
 - Honorary Degrees for Commencement; proposing Dr. Cochav Elkayam-Levy, Thomas L. Friedman, Rabbi Sharon Kleinbaum. Approved Unanimously.
 - Award Recipients for Commencement; proposing Rabbi David Gedzelman (Hillsen/Bronstein Award for Promotion of Hebrew Language and Literature), Joni Blinderman (Benjamin Shevach Award for Excellence in Jewish Educational Leadership). Approved Unanimously.
 - Can we arrange a symposium if they accept and agree to come?

5:47pm Move to executive