

## Hebrew College Board of Trustees Minutes of Meeting June 27 2024

**Present [by video]:** Nancy Kaplan Belsky, Sharon Cohen Anisfeld, Van Lanckton, Susan Shevitz, David Hoffman, Diane Troderman, Susan Schechter, Keith Dropkin, Lydia Kukoff, Deborah Feinstein, Myra Musicant, Ross Silverstein, Suzanne Priebatsch, Gita Karasov, Dan Judson, Steven Targum, Steven Lewis, Tara Mohr, Rosa Franck, Susie Tanchel, Andy Offit, Michelle Black, Jevin Eagle, Myra Snyder, Avi Killip, Harvey Chasen

4:01pm Nancy Kaplan Belsky called the annual meeting to order and asked Steve Targum to elect the new trustees.

4:01pm Steve Targum proposes new trustees, Michelle Black, and Meredith Moss.

4:02pm Michelle Black and Meredith Moss were voted unanimously in by the board.

4:04pm Minutes approval with one correction – bylaws were NOT approved on 6/17/24 but will be today.

4:10pm Nancy Kaplan Belsky read missions statement and asked Rabbi Sharon Anisfeld to bless Ross Silverstein who is leaving the board.

4:10pm Sharon recognized Ross Silverstein for his years of dedicated service to Hebrew College.

4:15pm Ross Silverstein gives a small thank you.

4:17pm D'var Torah led by Lydia Kukoff.

4:22pm Nancy thanks faculty for attending board meetings and introduces Gita Karasov to discuss admissions, Rabbinical incoming class, and questions.

- 16 incoming rabbinic students (received 25 applications) – this is an increase from previous years. HUC is also expecting 16 students split between two students. JTS is expecting 12 new students.
- Age range 23-66
- Backgrounds in education, social work, musicians, Hillel
- 5 Mekorot, 8 Alef, 3 Bet
- Drawn to HC because of rigorous text study, non-denominational environment
- Admissions Process: Ta-Shma in November, usually has around 60 people; Gita follows up and meets 1-on-1; applicant comes for a visit; application; interview
- 61 leads for FY26
- Financial barriers are the biggest obstacle, and language barriers
- Q&A: Non-Jewish Spouses – one student in the incoming class; What are you seeing or experiencing with people's attitudes towards Israel – all applicants were grappling with their relationship to Israel; Do you see a clear cut relationship between those who come to TaShma and those who don't? Yes, people who come to TaShma are very invested. In light of the huge societal changes coming from Covid and dilemmas we face now, do you see changes in what prospective rabbis think their roles will be in the community? People come in with all sorts of

ideas/visions/dreams, where do they want to get to and how to we help them get there? The Jewish Landscape is changing so rapidly. How often are finances a reason not to apply at all? Encourage people to apply regardless. The concern is really not those folks – it's the folks who don't reach out at all.

4:43pm Financial Committee – David Hoffman presents high level of FY25 budget/projections for the end of the FY25 fiscal year.

- Deep dive into the FY25 Budget review & Q&A

5:11pm Motion to approve the FY25 budget; seconded. FY25 budget voted in.

5:12pm Actuals through May 2024

5:19pm Presidents Report with Sharon Cohen Anisfeld

- IJS & Hebrew College – mission aligned, overlap in trustees, lay leaders, donors;
- IJS approached HC with a potential merger/partnership; not perusing that
- Thinking about instead programmatic partnership instead of a merger
- Exploring ideas: Alumni, crisis in education, what can we be doing for undergraduates?
- What might we do creatively together with our new space during the summer months when there aren't as many people in the building?

5:57pm Nancy thanked various committees and gave out “virtual” awards

- Attendance award: Deb Feinstein, Myra Snyder, Steve Targum
- Most Committee award: Susan Schechter

6:01pm Governance Committee with Steve Targum and Van Lanckton

- Thank Ross on behalf of Susan Shevitz, himself, for early stage participation in evaluation committee. Helped develop evaluation strategy.
- Short term task force – structure and frequency of our board meetings.
  - Two live meetings again?
- Election of trustees and officers – unanimous approval; reappoint governance committee – unanimous approval
- Approval of bylaws – unanimously approved

6:10pm Move to executive session