

## Hebrew College Board of Trustees

### Minutes of Meeting August 29, 2023

**Present [by video]:** Sharon Anisfeld, Nancy Belsky, Mark Atkins, Justin David, Keith Dropkin, Jevin Eagle, Deb Feinstein, Rosa Franck, Laure Garnick, David Hoffman, Avi Killip, Lydia Kukoff, Van Lanckton, Sara Lee, Steven Lewis, Tara Mohr, Andy Offit, Susan Schechter, Susan Shevitz, Ross Silverstein, Myra Snyder, Susie Tanchel, Steve Targum, Diane Troderman

1. Nancy Belsky called the meeting to order at 4:02pm.
2. Board voted to admit Laure Garnick and Steven Lewis to the Board – both approved.
3. Nancy Belsky read the Hebrew College Mission Statement and allowed 10 seconds of reflection on the statement.
4. Nancy introduced Rabbi Sharon Anisfeld. Sharon explained that, in subsequent BOT meetings during the year, time would be allotted for different members to share text and/or Torah lessons at the beginning of each meeting. Sharon presented the first of these lessons, speaking on the Torah of Hospitality and Welcoming Guests.
5. Sharon introduced Justin David, the newly appointed Dean of the Rabbinical School.
  - a. Justin spoke of his welcome at Hebrew College and highlighted his plan to manage demands and changes of within the Rabbinic School; reshaping policies as times change; his collaboration with Jane Kanarek, Associate Dean & Professor of Rabbis; the addition of Jessica Kate Meyer as an artist in residence for the 2023/2024 academic year; and his focus on the curriculum.
  - b. Q&A:
    - i. Jevin Eagle asked Justin about his perspective on Israel. Justin quoted Israeli writer David Grossman and said that there are no words to describe what is happening right now.
6. Steve Targum gave a report from the Planning Committee:
  - There is no longer a need for a standing real estate committee
  - There is planning to add a standing personnel committee
  - Each committee will develop its own charter
    - There will be a template for board reports
      - The Governance Committee already has one
7. There will be a Board retreat in late October; dinner will be held at Hebrew College on October 25<sup>th</sup> for Board members and their spouses/partners, and the actual retreat will be held at Temple Beth Elohim on October 26<sup>th</sup>
  - a. The morning session on October 26<sup>th</sup> will examine the roles of the Board members and issues around the rabbinic, clergy and educator pipeline; the afternoon will focus on living on a shared campus.

8. Susan Shevitz spoke on the process of evaluating the President of Hebrew College, something that Sharon Anisfeld requested.
  - a. There have been 2 very successful evaluations during Sharon's tenure as President and a new evaluation process will begin soon.
  - b. Susan also discussed the Development Committee's campaign for "Planting the Seeds" and thanked Myra Snyder for agreeing to co-chair the Development Committee with Rosa Franck.
9. Several upcoming happenings were announced, and attendees were encouraged to visit the Hebrew College website to view the events page.
10. David Hoffman and Keith Dropkin reported for the Finance Committee.
  - Projections are on target but we are running short
    - Shortfalls in income as expenses exceed budget
    - "Extraordinary" expenses :
      - Disposal of items from old campus
      - Condo insurance much more expensive than expected
      - Unexpected legal services
  - \$12M has been transferred from restricted to unrestricted (Capital Campaign for building)
  - There is a questionable \$50K charge on the electric bill that is being reviewed
  - Our obligation to CJP has been settled
  - Reports on income/challenges in specific departments:
    - Adult Learning
    - Miller Center
      - Money as donations
    - MaTaRot
    - Teen Learning
    - Rabbinical School
      - Tuition should be set based on a formula for all 5 years of learning
11. A grant writer is being onboarded for FY24
12. The roof project is mostly being charged to HC as opposed to a shared expense with TR.
13. Sharon Anisfeld reviewed the President's Report that was sent in the board packet of materials.
14. There was discussion regarding the "Yoga Room"/Beit Neshama. This has reverted from a \$650,000 commitment for the space to a rental opportunity at \$100,000 per year with a strong potential renter. This has also become a naming opportunity.
15. Nancy Belsky ended the meeting with these thoughts:
  - Our goal is Radical Hospitality
  - We are all inter-connected

- Consider how the BOT can inspire the President and fellow Trustees
- How Trustees busy themselves with the needs of HC
- How to create a successful BOT experience

Meeting adjourned and went to Executive Session at 5:50pm.