

Highlights from the Board of Directors Meeting on April 12, 2017:

- Andrea Wasserman, TBS President, confirmed that Esther Herst will assume the role of Interim Executive Director effective May 1, 2017. Her 7-month contract will allow time for her to assess our current needs and to assist with recruiting for this most important senior staff position. It was noted that her contract can be extended by mutual agreement as deemed necessary. Esther is very experienced with the interim ED role and we are very much looking forward to having her join the TBS staff.
- Andrea Wasserman reminded the Board about the Special Congregational Meeting coming up on Monday, April 17th at 7:00pm. The Board discussed several points of feedback received to-date on the proposed by-laws document that had been sent to the congregation. The Board then discussed the specific process to be followed at the meeting. More specifically, the Board agreed to allow as much time as necessary for open discussion around by-laws issues and/or concerns to be followed by an up/down vote on the new by-laws as presented.
- Andrea Wasserman and Ferne Michaelson, VP of Membership, presented newly developed materials associated with the upcoming TBS membership renewal process. These included a new Renewal Letter and Commitment Form along with a summary of the new Kavanah Program. Kavanah (which translates to “direction of the heart”) replaces the existing Rabbi’s Circle with one that provides a clearer understanding of specific Temple programs. An important change in the dues structure for this coming year is that fees previously broken out in separate line items (i.e., oneg, facility and security fees) will now be bundled into the basic rate. It was also mentioned that May 19th will be a special Shabbat service focusing on membership.
- Jerry Rothblum, Treasurer, presented a final draft of the 2017-18 TBS operating budget to the Board. In addition to a number of line item adjustments, it was noted that the Irvine Hebrew Day School will be leasing two more TBS classrooms which represents \$36,000 of additional annual revenue. Jerry also expressed the need to conduct a High Holy Day appeal in conjunction with the 75th anniversary of TBS. In the spirit of full transparency, the Finance Committee is advising the Board to present a deficit (i.e., not balanced) budget to the congregation to reflect the challenges of generating sufficient revenue to manage TBS in a fiscally responsible manner. After transfers to capital reserves, the budget reflects an operating deficit of about \$41,100 for the year. The incoming Board, committees, Interim Executive Director and professional staff are committed to a strategic analysis of TBS functions and expenses to achieve long-term financial sustainability.
- Jerry Rothblum then led a discussion about the use of accumulated interest from the Fund For The Future. As of March 31, 2017, the interest in this account stands at \$43,393. Per the FFF by-laws, this interest may be withdrawn for operational purposes with the consent of the TBS Board of Directors. Jerry proposed applying \$25,000 in interest this year and an additional \$25,000 next year to address much needed school building repairs and equipment replacement.

The following motion was made by Michele Shugarman and seconded by Sylvan Swartz:

“To withdraw the total interest available from the Fund For The Future by June 30, 2017, in an amount not to exceed \$50,000, with \$25,000 of this amount to be allocated to the 2016-17 operating budget and the remainder to be allocated to the 2017-18 operating budget.”

This motion was passed by the Board with a vote of 13 yea, 0 nay and 1 abstention.

- Subsequent to the Board meeting, Jerry Rothblum e-mailed an updated version of the proposed 2017-18 TBS operating budget to all members of the Board and requested they vote via e-mail to approve this budget. By the end of business on April 17, 2017, all Board members had responded with an affirmative vote to unanimously approve the proposed budget.