



August/September 2021

board update

The past couple of months have been busy, here at TBE! With b'nai mitzvah, the Courtyard Cookout, the High Holidays, KBE starting, and more, it has been a true whirlwind of activity. Below you will find a few updates including summaries of the past two board meetings, information about the status of our Mitzvah Project, and exciting news about a security grant. Shabbat Shalom!

Maine Needs Mitzvah Project

Thank you to everyone who has participated in this so far! We're going to use the funds that we've collected to buy supplies for our Mitzvah Project Kit Assembly day on **Monday, October 11 at 10:00am**. We hope you can join us! We'll plan to be in the courtyard if possible, or in the social hall if it rains.

Maine Needs is a local organization that strives to help individuals and families in Maine meet their basic, material needs by providing donated clothing, hygiene products, household items, and other necessities. In 5782, TBE has committed to donating 100 Cleaning and Toiletry kits, which Maine Needs will distribute through social workers, educators, and others to families and individuals that need them.

Questions? Email office@tbemaine.org.

Nonprofit Security Grant Award

We are excited to share with the community that Temple Beth El has been awarded a third Nonprofit Security Grant award by the Department of Homeland Security in the amount of \$76,500. The award will fund a perimeter fence around the Devonshire/Deering side of the building, bollards, access control projects, and additional outdoor lighting. Thank you to Josh Filler, Sherri Quint, and Dave Carney for all of their work writing these grants and managing their implementation.

Executive Summary for August 24, 2021 Board of Directors Meeting

The meeting began with Rabbi blowing shofar, and approval of the previous meeting's minutes.

Eli then delivered the financial report. We ended the last fiscal year with a surplus of ~\$79,000, most of which is already allocated to various projects. The new fiscal year started with the budget balanced at \$0, and Sherri is now estimating a surplus of almost \$10,000 (based on the increase in dues). \$237,000 has been billed for dues, with about \$50,000 having been received to date, and Sherri estimates that we will be below budget for the High Holiday seat sales line item.

Rabbi then outlined her hope to re-hire Lorin Troderman specifically to work at KBE, with a focus on doing a deep dive into KBE's curriculum to see where we could innovate and expand certain areas, and to teach the Hebrew High class when Abby is away. He would be hired at \$1,000 a month for the school year (October-May), which would cover 10 hours of work per week. Lorin is an exciting candidate for this work because he knows the TBE community, has worked with Rabbi before, and, as such, would be better than hiring an outside consultant. He likes to have conversations with folks and has already made connections with KBE families based around his research about interfaith families at TBE. Abby fully supports this effort. Motion passed unanimously by the Board to allocate \$8,000 of last year's surplus to fund Lorin's second year internship.

Aaron Frederick, the fundraising consultant that Kate has been working with over the past few months, then joined the Board to go over the report he put together with Kate. The discussion focused on TBE's current financial needs and the different options that exist to meet those needs, with a focus on technical fixes, adaptive fixes, and what sorts of resources are needed when approaching fundraising. Time was set aside for Board discussion, which focused on what a capital campaign would look like. That discussion ended with an agreement to schedule a separate meeting to focus solely on TBE's financial strategy.

The Board meeting finished with Kate providing a brief report on the success of the Courtyard Cookout, new member families (we've had 31 join this past year), and the current High Holidays COVID-19 protocols, including the development of the Maine Needs Mitzvah Project.

Executive Summary for September 14, 2021 Board of Directors Meeting

The meeting opened with approval of the minutes from August 24. Eli then delivered a partial financial report, focusing primarily on KBE tuition received to date, and reported that everything is on track so far this year. He will be giving a full financial report at the next meeting in October.

Rabbi Braun gave a brief KBE update, focusing on Lorin's role as the new Hebrew High teacher. As of right now, there are six students enrolled, with the hope that more might join before the next meeting. Lorin is developing syllabi, sending them to Abby, and connecting with the other teachers to talk about their curriculum. There is a lot of good energy in the school right now, with excitement about being in person, new students, and new teachers all coming together. She also gave a big *yasher koach* to Kate, Zoe, and the entire TBE staff for putting together Rosh Hashanah services, reporting that she has received a lot of positive feedback so far.

In the Executive Director's update, Kate reported on a handful of topics before the Board broke out into discussion groups to finish out the meeting: the effective staff response to a security concern (which was resolved); the need to revise Yom Kippur plans due to the weather forecast; the increase in operations and facilities staffing needs due to more events being moved outdoors; the challenges of member re-engagement while balancing pandemic-related safety concerns; and current fundraising campaigns - Gary Prolman's Tailgate of the Century event and the Annual Appeal. Jon also provided an update on the status of the Levey Day School lease.

To finish out the meeting, the Board was broken up randomly into four groups and assigned discussion points/questions regarding fundraising, the operating budget, TBE's assets, and

TBE's partners and affiliates. When the full Board came back together, Kate reviewed each topic, pointing out important information for the Board to be aware of and indicating where further documents can be found if one needs to find that information.

The meeting closed with a reminder about the additional meeting scheduled in October focusing on TBE's finances and fundraising needs.



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