

Board of Trustees Meeting
September 26, 2018
Minutes

Chair: Heidi Schell ♦ Minutes: Arlene Rosenberg ♦ Timekeeper: Andy Oliff

Attendees

Board

Julie Feuchtwang
Jenna Fisher
Scott Haber
Jon Herstein
Marilyn Hollinger
Ware Kuschner
Jeff Lerner
Matt Mandel
Andy Oliff
Gene Podkaminer

Betsy Rosen
Arlene Rosenberg
Heidi Schell
Eric Schlezinger
Mary Ann Waterman
Maria Yarmolinsky

Absent

Nathaniel Bergson-Michelson
Sharon Silverman
Adam Steinberger

Staff

Rabbi Dan Feder
Rabbi Lisa Delson
Cantor Alexandra Fox
Ayelet Shapiro
Jonathan Harris

Guests

Sophie Saddik

Summary of General Trustee Action Items:

1. Board members will inform Heidi if they are able to attend the URJ Day of Learning on Sunday, October 28.
2. Board members will sign up to give the Board Welcome at two Shabbat services over the coming year.
3. Board members will complete voter pledge cards.

President Heidi Schell called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm (annual Board photo was taken at 6pm).

1. Welcome, Blessing for Community Service	5 min	
2. D'var Torah (<i>Arlene Rosenberg</i>)	5 min	
3. PARTY Update (<i>Sophie Saddik</i>)	10 min	Presentation
Sophie Saddik, PARTY Board President, reported on the teen High Holy Days services as well as recent and upcoming PARTY events. She stated that PARTY's goal for the year is to get more people involved, with particular focus on younger PARTY-age student (9 th and 10 th graders) as well as pre-PARTY students (7 th and 8 th graders).		
4. Reflections on High Holy Days (<i>Matt Mandel, Heidi Schell</i>)	30-45 min	Discussion

Both in small groups and as a whole Board, Board members discussed highlights of the High Holy Days and areas where they saw room for improvement.

Heidi presented a summary of the Board High Holy Day Survey results and noted the following “high level takeaways”:

- The feedback was generally positive.
- Board members felt that PTS’ atmosphere during the High Holy Days was warm and welcoming.
- Conducting Board outreach and serving on the Hospitality Team were generally viewed as worthwhile efforts to connect with congregants (although there were a few Board members who disagreed).
- Board members found it very meaningful to fulfill an honor during a service.
- Board members gave constructive feedback, which will be shared with staff and clergy.

Heidi noted the following for next year:

- A hope that we can achieve 100% Board participation on the Hospitality Team.
- A need to ensure that we have more Trustees in the sanctuary service on Yom Kippur to collect pledge cards after the appeal (there were only 4 Trustees in the sanctuary service this year).

Heidi also noted that it will be helpful in the coming months to conduct training and role playing to help Trustees learn how to receive and respond to congregant feedback.

Board members agreed that the survey was a good way to gather feedback from Trustees.

5. Story of the Month (<i>Jenna Fisher</i>)	5 min	Personal Reflection
6. Advancing Our Priorities: Community Engagement (<i>Matt Mandel</i>)	20 min	Presentation/Discussion

Matt reminded the Board that one of our priorities for the year is “community engagement,” which is related to our core value of “human connection.” The lay leaders who will lead our Community Engagement team will be Matt, Lauren Schlezinger, and Andi Zussman. The three of them have been meeting to discuss how to build on the momentum from the Board retreat. They will meet on October 4 with Heidi, Rabbi Feder, Ayelet, Karen, and Allison to develop a plan for the coming year, which they hope to present at the October Board meeting. They also hope to present a proposed name for their team (preferably a Hebrew name) at that time.

Trustees and staff members shared examples of simple but impactful ways in which they have been working to create connections with congregants. Heidi informed the Board that we will continue to share stories of connection and engagement at each meeting. The Community Engagement team will provide the Board with training on how to connect.

Matt reported that Andy Oliff and Michael Fried will be starting a team to work on creating engagement opportunities for men at PTS.

7. Board Packet Q&A	10 min	Discussion
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Trustees are asked to do the following:

- Consider attending the URJ Day of Learning on Sunday, October 28. The theme for this year’s Day of Learning is “Finding the Joy in Board Service,” and attendance is encouraged for Board members and senior staff.
- Remember to attend and participate in the Board consecration service on Friday, October 5.

- Sign up to deliver the Board Welcome at two Shabbat services over the coming year.
- Complete Voter Pledge cards so that we can achieve a 100% Voting Board of Trustees in November.

Action items: Board members will (1) inform Heidi if they are able to attend the URJ Day of Learning on Sunday, October 28; (2) sign up to give the Board Welcome at two Shabbat services over the coming year; and (3) complete voter pledge cards.

8. Consent Agenda Includes last month's Board minutes and approval of new members.	2 min	Vote
Consent agenda approved.		
9. Concluding Prayer		

Heidi adjourned the meeting at 8:25 pm.