

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF
THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF
THE SAN DIEGO JEWISH ACADEMY**

November 19, 2015

A regular meeting of the Board of Trustees (BOT) of the San Diego Jewish Academy (SDJA) was held at SDJA's central administrative offices on November 19, 2015 at 11:30 a.m.

Trustees Present

Theresa Dupuis (Chair), Michel Cohen, Jessica Effress, Ira Feinswog, Heidi Gantwerk, Ben Handler, Julian Josephson, Judy Lilienthal, Ingram Losner, Michelle Lyons, Rabbi Yael Ridberg, Leslie Fastlicht Russo, Russell Silberstein, Beni Surpin, Caryn Viterbi

Trustees Absent

Brenda Bielas, Dan Feldman, Laura Roselinsky

Also Present

Chaim Heller, Skip Carpowich, Rachele Jagolinzer, Kelley King, Mike Quigley, Sheila Reilly

D'VAR TORAH

Rabbi Ridberg delivered the D'var Torah.

CONSENT AGENDA

After discussion, the following resolution (motion by Heidi Gantwerk, seconded by Ben Handler) was unanimously adopted:

RESOLVED, the minutes of the regular meeting of the BOT on October 8, 2015 are hereby approved and the Secretary of the School is directed to insert a copy of such minutes into the School's minute book.

HEAD OF SCHOOL REPORT

Chaim reported that Mike Quigley was offered and accepted the position of SDJA Maimonides Upper School Division Head.

Chaim updated the Board on the Three Institutes Initiatives. He also reviewed SDJA's current tuition rates in comparison to benchmark independent schools, and commented that SDJA's tuition is reasonable positioned among these competing schools.

BOARD PRESIDENT REPORT

Theresa reported that she attended the fourth grade *Havdalah* Service and parents were definitely appreciative of her presence. She encouraged all Board members to look over the new events list that was included in the Board Package and choose a few to attend.

Theresa turned the discussion over to Heidi so that she could update the Board on the *Atidenu* group progress. Heidi reminded the Board that SDJA's target markets to increase enrollment are religious schools such as Chabad, Beth Am families, and the LaJolla/JCC/UTC area. Keri is meeting with several representatives from each group to strengthen relationships.

Heidi reported that the SDJA Open House held on November 17th was a huge success with 29 families attending. She then passed out a list of potential SDJA families and encouraged the Board members to contact any family they know. The goal is to end the year with a list of 250 to 300 prospective families.

Heidi next reported on the status of the group's retention efforts in relation to pre-K, four year old preschoolers, kindergarten, fifth grade, eighth grade and ninth grade. Historically those are the grades where SDJA loses students.

Theresa congratulated Heidi and the *Atidenu* group on doing such a fine job and thanked the group for its ongoing efforts. Although Keri was not present at the meeting, Theresa also congratulated her on the fabulous job she has been doing in her short time at SDJA.

Theresa drew the Board members' attention to the Annual Conflict of Interest form that needs to be completed and asked that all members review, sign, and return.

SUSTAINABILITY TASK FORCE REPORT

Julian reported on the Open Tent Scholarship Program and passed along the Sustainability Task Force's recommendation that the Board approve its launch. He then turned the discussion over to the Chaim who reported on the details of the Program.

After discussion, the following resolution (motion made by Beni Surpin, seconded by Ingram Losner) was unanimously adopted:

RESOLVED, the BOT hereby approves the launch of the Open Tent Scholarship Program, as presented and discussed at this meeting.

PTO UPDATE

Michelle updated the Board on the PTO emphasizing the need for the PTO to be kept in the loop on information coming out of Administration and the school divisions. She would like to see the PTO used as a resource for feedback. Chaim added that he has several ideas for restructuring the PTO that he will pass on to Michelle.

STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT

Russell and Chaim reviewed the *Vision of 2020* Strategic Plan dashboard and the school's progress on strategic objectives. Chaim highlighted key objectives for the Early Childhood Center (ECC), which will be added in as an addendum to the *Vision of 2020* Strategic Plan.

ADVANCEMENT REPORT

Jessica thanked the Board for all of the donations given during the three week blitz of the *Higher and Higher* Campaign and reported a 40% increase in money raised from targeted families. Advancement will continue to solicit targeted families that did not participate.

GOOD AND WELFARE

Theresa mentioned the Friends of Israeli Defense Force event taking place on November 21st. She reminded everyone to keep the Board informed of relevant community events such as this, so the Board/SDJA can stay connected.

Theresa then adjourned the regular meeting and the Board met in a brief Executive session.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, the Executive session of the Board adjourned at approximately 1:40 pm.

Ira Feinswog
Secretary