

Kehillat Beth Israel
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
February 26, 2026



PRESENT:

Ralph Anzarouth	Emma Mallach	Jeremy Rudin
Tina Azarin	Arryn Mills	Sheldon Wiseman
Gillian Koh	Jaimee Mitzmacher	
David Lyman	Janice Pleet	

ZOOM:

Jeff Greenberg	Adina Libin	Olga Strelchenko
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REGRETS: Judah Silverman

Secretary: Janice Pleet
Clergy Present: Cantor Jason Green
Staff Present: Yaron Starosta

1.0 PRELIMINARY MATTERS

1.1 Call to Order The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM	Jaimee Mitzmacher
1.2 Approval of Agenda <u>A motion was made by Gillian Koh and seconded by Jeremy Rudin to approve the agenda for February 26, 2026.</u> <u>All were in favour. The motion was carried.</u>	All
1.3 Call for declaration of Conflict of Interest Jaimee Mitzmacher excused herself during the ED consultancy conversation since her husband is an employee of a company who submitted a proposal.	All
1.4 Moment of silence to commemorate those congregants who have passed away since the last Board Meeting N/A	Jaimee Mitzmacher
1.5 Membership N/A new households / member units since last report N/A terminated households / member units since last report	Jaimee Mitzmacher
1.6 Approval of the Board Minutes from January 29, 2026 <u>A motion was made by Janice Pleet and seconded by Tina Azarin to approve the minutes of January 29, 2026.</u> <u>All were in favour. The motion was carried.</u>	Jaimee Mitzmacher

	1.7 Business arising from previous minutes No business from previous minutes.	All
2.0 D'VAR TORAH		Cantor Green
3.0 REPORTING WITHOUT DISCUSSION		
	3.1 Consent Agenda <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● President's Report ● Executive Director's Report ● Cantor's Report ● Interim OTT Director's Report ● B'nei Mitzvah Standards Policy (revised) 	Jaimee Mitzmacher
4.0 REPORTING WITH DISCUSSION BUT WITHOUT A VOTE		
	4.1 Adult Education Committee presentation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Adult Education committee chair reported that there have been many successful programs. Of special note are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ the Israel Series featuring several well-attended guest speakers with various and differing viewpoints and opinions, as well as Shabbat speakers, and ○ the Dirshuni program - a six-week program exploring women's midrashim written in response to the events of October 7th ● A question was asked whether the new Vetting Outside Speakers policy was used in the planning of the speakers' visits - policy has not yet been implemented. ● Another question was raised on the topic of potential security risks if Adult Education events will be advertised through social media to a potential audience beyond the Ottawa Jewish community. ● Though attendance at the Movies at KBI program has been increasing over time, it is not as successful as was hoped. It is expected that sound and screen upgrades will increase the attendance. 	David Roytenberg
	4.2 Life & Legacy Committee presentation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● After a review of the purpose and history of the Life & Legacy program, it was noted that, as of today, the results of the Life & Legacy program at KBI have been underwhelming. ● It is acknowledged that the two major issues hindering success are resources and leadership participation ● There is now a renewed push to interest all Board members in the program, and for the involved Board members to "talk up" the program to bring increased interest to the members of the congregation. 	Norm Ferkin

	<p>4.3 High Holy Days Satisfaction Survey Summary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The results indicate that the High Holy Days services offered were well-received, especially the Torah service, cantorial leadership, overall organization and structure, the availability of livestream access, and the balance of the English to Hebrew prayers. • There was an insignificant response for the chapel service and youth programming. • Suggestions were received around service pacing and transitions, thematic clarity, choir balance and placement, and family programming details, but only as incremental improvements • Going forward, we will prioritize service flow and transitions, thematic continuity, and enhancing the family and children’s programming experience. • Further work will be done to fine-tune the survey questions for this year’s High Holy Days to enable more information to be gathered, and to increase the level of response. One example of a possible improvement would be capturing the demographics of the respondents. 	Cantor Green
	<p>4.4 Rabbinic Search Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board members received a package of information to be used in the evaluation of the “fit” of Rabbi Kliel Rose on the weekend of February 27th through March 1st • The co-chairs of the Search Committee were thanked for the good work they have done to identify Rabbi Kliel as a qualified candidate, and to plan his visit for this weekend. • It was identified that outside circumstances could limit the timeframe in which our decision on the “fit” of Rabbi Rose could be made. • There is one other potential candidate who may be invited to visit KBI for us to determine their suitability. 	Arryn Mills
5.0 REPORTING WITH DISCUSSION AND VOTE		
	<p>5.1 Executive Director’s proposal for executive consultancy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The President recused herself for this discussion and vote because of a Conflict of Interest. • Two proposals were brought to the Board for discussion and vote. • The two proposals were discussed, and the decision of the Board was that before any consulting proposal could be voted on or even entertained, there has to be a “Needs Analysis” conducted to determine: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Who, or what position(s) is/are the client(s)? ○ Exactly what topics and types of consulting are required to meet that/these client(s) needs? 	Yaron Starosta

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Who will manage the contract, and ensure the defined requirements have been met? ○ Which are the consulting companies that we should approach? ○ What exactly should the resulting deliverables look like? <p><u>The decision of the Board was to not vote on either proposal, but rather to investigate KBI's needs further.</u></p>	
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6.0 NEW BUSINESS

	<p>6.1 Other issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● ● 	
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	<p>6.2 Parking lot items for next meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Update from Olga on behalf of the Adult Ed Committee on the 10 year anniversary celebration ● Update from Yaron on Kol Nidre pledge collection ● Update from Emma on behalf of Youth Committee on interim staffing of Youth Coordinator ● Update from Yaron on Programming and Development positions 	
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7.0 Good and Welfare

8.0 In Camera

9.0 Adjournment

	<p>The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 PM.</p> <p>The next Board meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 25, 2026; in person if possible with Zoom option.</p>	
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