Kehillat Beth Israel
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
June 24, 2026

PRESENT

Gillian Koh	Jaimee Mitzmacher	Judah Silverman
David Lyman	Janice Pleet	Olga Strelchenko
Emma Mallach	Jeremy Rudin	Sheldon Wiseman

ZOOM:
Jeff Greenberg

REGRETS:

Ralph Anzarouth	Adina Libin
Tina Azarin	Arryn Mills

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

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 A motion was made by Sheldon Wiseman and seconded by Gillian Koh to approve the agenda for June 24, 2026. All were in favour. The motion was carried.	All
	1.3 Call for Declaration of Conflict of Interest None of the members present declared a conflict of interest.	All
	1.4 Moment of Silence to Commemorate Those Congregants Who Have Passed Away Since the Last Board Meeting Jules Cogan Petr Gevantmakher Dundi Sachs (associate member / mother of member)	Jaimee Mitzmacher
	1.5 Membership 2 new households / member units since last report 0 terminated households / member units since last report	Jaimee Mitzmacher

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<tr><td></td><td>1.6 Approval of the Board Minutes from May 27, 2026
A motion was made by Janice Pleet and seconded by Olga Strelchenko to approve the minutes of May 27, 2026.

All were in favour. The motion was carried.</td><td>Jaimee Mitzmacher</td></tr>
<tr><td></td><td>1.7 Business Arising from Previous Minutes
No business from previous minutes.</td><td>All</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">2.0 D’VAR TORAH</td><td>Cantor Green</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="3">3.0 REPORTING WITHOUT DISCUSSION</td></tr>
<tr><td></td><td>3.1 Consent Agenda
President’s Report
Executive Director’s Report
Cantor’s Report
Interim OTT Director Report</td><td>Jaimee Mitzmacher</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="3">4.0 REPORTING WITH DISCUSSION BUT WITHOUT A VOTE</td></tr>
<tr><td></td><td>4.1 OTT Year-End Review
The last six months of the OTT school year were good
After some consultation with families of students, classes were changed to a three-hour model for one day per week
Enrollment in 2025/26 was 38 students, while in 2024/25 enrollment was 44. Some of these students switched to OTC.
An open house was held for OTT families - feedback was mostly positive, and many say they are “having fun”.
Opportunity to discuss the future of the school through direct communication with families
Clear and consistent communication on what students are learning
Monthly “what we learned” messages are sent home to update parents
Set realistic expectations of what students will learn in three hours per week
Seven large OTT/KBI programs were held - 1) OTT kick off, 2) Tashlich and apple picking, 3) Hanukkah party, 4) Tu-Bishvat seder (70 families were in attendance), 5) Purim carnival, 6) Chocolate seder, and 7) OTT graduation dinner
There is class focus on the holidays so that students can better appreciate the holiday-themed programs planned.</td><td>David Anzarouth / Gillian Koh</td></tr>
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	• The following initiatives have been developed:
	    ○ Monthly class updates
	    ○ Open house for parents and families to be heard. Follow-up of “what we heard” was sent out.
	    ○ Virtual chats with the Director
	• OTT students had a chance to interact with multi-faith housing initiatives, the KBI Ritual committee, TIRS, KBI youth, and the greater KBI community
	• Several areas of opportunity for success have been identified: 1) review of Hebrew curriculum for each class, 2) increased communication with OTT families, and about OTT to the KBI congregation, 3) increased budget oversight, 4) collaborative opportunities with other KBI committees and organizations, and 5) further integration into KBI
	• Challenges - no Rabbi, resignation of previous Director, termination of Grade 1-2 teacher, veteran teacher on maternity leave
	• Create volunteer opportunities for OTT graduates to volunteer in classrooms
	• KBI facility requires investment to improve OTT spaces
	• A question was raised about the possibility of raising fees, but the decision was that fees are already high. The current operating deficit will be decreased by reduced salary expense for the year.
	• Lessons learned
	    ○ Consistent leadership improves outcome
	    ○ Stability drives enrollment and builds trust
	• Strategic questions:
	    ○ What is the role of the new rabbi?
	    ○ Is any of the KBI space used by OTT covered in the current renovations?	

	4.2 Youth Committee Presentation
	• Programming has been successful
	    ○ A Camp Shabbat program was attended by 200 participants
	    ○ There were 130 participants at the Israeli Culture evening
	    ○ A sukkah party was held
	    ○ Bi-weekly Tot Shabbat services
	• Challenges:
	    ○ Low turnout of families on Saturday morning services, but Kabbalat Shabbat is a better time (can offer dinner)
	    ○ High turnover in staff and volunteers
	    ○ Competition - make partnerships
	    ○ Decision-making paralysis
	    ○ Financial priorities of KBI to youth
		Emma Mallach

	• Initiatives
	    ○ Ping pong tables
	    ○ Youth choir
	    ○ Professional development
	    ○ Food - kitchen team involvement - Erika teaching about Israeli foods
	    ○ Define role of youth at KBI
	    ○ Support and appreciate volunteers
	    ○ Strengthen planning
	    ○ Resource re-alignment
	    ○ Determine which programs can be free, and for which there should be a charge - look at member versus non-member pricing
	• Problems
	    ○ Email and distribution lists out of date
	    ○ No current count of KBI members children by age group
	• KBI is looking to move from ShulCloud to Constant Contact which should make youth demographics easier to track
	• Possible suggestion of a gift to kids when they come to shul
	• Question about bringing USY programming back to KBI because it encourages self-confidence, and empowers students	

	4.3 High Holy Days Preview • Report was reviewed without discussion as there were no additional questions or comments.	Cantor Green
	4.4 Rabbi Transition Plan • Rabbi Rose and his family have made their first visit to Ottawa to look for a home, visit OJCS, and investigate work possibilities for Ms Kosmin-Rose. A second trip will likely be required. • Two KBI members have come forward with interest in assisting with the Rose family's transition • The Ritual committee is prepared a KBI "minhag" and "other unwritten rules" pamphlet for the Rabbi • Priorities and planning document will be prepared with input from the Rabbi • Will need to identify a "KBI wing-person" for each of the Rabbi and Ms. Kosmin-Rose • Ms Kosmin-Rose and two of their daughters will attend High Holiday services at KBI • A pamphlet on "Welcoming New Clergy: Transitions and Change Management" was distributed to Board members • Suggestion to identify other Ottawa clergy who might want to help with transition	Report created by Arryn Mills

5.0 REPORTING WITH DISCUSSION AND VOTE		
	5.1 Board Elections Project ● Reasons to amend By-Law #1 election timeframe for Board members, and to schedule a Special General Meeting in the Spring ○ To allow the new Board to agree to the budget it will manage ○ To line up with KBI schedules for membership renewals, staff contracts, and the fiscal year which begins on July 1st ○ High holiday planning would be overseen by the current Board ○ Elections held at the Spring Special General Meeting would allow the Board to manage activities that will occur in the timeframe that Board will exist. ● Implementation Plan ○ Early Fall 2026 - Inform KBI membership of intention to hold elections in the Spring ○ Late Fall 2026 - Hold Annual General Meeting ■ Approve 2025/2026 financial statements, and ■ Seek approval of required By-Law amendments ○ Spring 2027 - Hold Special General Meeting and hold election ● Results of change ○ Directors and Officers with a Fall 2026 end of term date, will remain in office until Spring of 2027 ○ Directors and Officers with a Fall 2027 end of term date, will remain in office until Spring of 2028 ○ Directors and Officers with a Fall 2028 end of term date, will remain in office until Spring of 2029 ○ Any Board member who does not want to serve the extended term may resign when their term would have ended. The vacant position would then be filled with the person who would have been nominated for that role at the SGM. ● Ongoing practice - an SGM will be held every Spring as required ○ The AGM will continue to be held every Fall to present financial statements and conduct other business as required. ● Possible concern - will a quorum of members attend two General Meetings each year? ● Suggestions - possibly a meeting in person - a BBQ, or dessert or breakfast meal? <u>A motion was made by Jeremy Rudin and seconded by Olga Streltchenko that the Board of Directors approve the proposal to move the election of Officers and</u>	Jeremy Rudin

	Directors from the Annual General Meeting to a Special General Meeting held each spring. All were in favour. The motion was carried.	
	5.2 Proposal to Amend the General Operating By-law No. 1 ● There is a proposal to have three amendments made to the General Operating By-Law #1 ○ 1. An amendment to item 6.05(a) - to move Board elections from the AGM to a Special General Meeting in the Spring (see item 5.1 above) ○ 2. An amendment to item 9.06 - to remove the criteria that the Chair of the Governance Committee may not be a Director of the Board, to allow for more flexibility in choosing the Chair. ○ 3. An amendment to item 6.06 - that the term for the Past-President is two years to align with the terms for other Officers. ● Implementation Plan - see Implementation Plan in item 5.1 A motion was made by Janice Pleet and seconded by Judah Silverman to approve the following proposals to amend the General Operating By-law No 1 and direct the acting Chair of the Governance Committee to work with counsel to draft language. All were in favour. The motion was carried. A motion was made by Janice Pleet and seconded by Gillian Koh to approve the amendments be submitted to the membership for approval at the next Annual General Meeting. All were in favour. The motion was carried. ● The President offered a Thank You to the Governance Committee for the effort and good work done to understand, and to identify the changes required.	Janice Pleet
	5.3 3rd Quarter Financial Statement 2025-2026 ● Our budget to actuals for Income remain on pace ○ Income from Dues is $30K under budget (which is about 95% of the budgeted amount) ○ Income from Fundraising revenue is down by about $100K (it is similar to last year's numbers, but we budgeted for a large increase) ○ Office salaries are about $135K below budgeted numbers	David Lyman

	○ Next year, office and clergy salaries will rise substantially, so we will need to increase our fundraising. ○ Costs for security are dramatically above budgeted numbers and will continue to be higher next year. This is why a security surcharge was implemented on Membership dues ● In summary, after the 3rd Quarter fiscal year, our bottom line shows us right where we want to be. ● Quarter 4 is projecting similar numbers, which is good news. ● However, because of the increase in personnel costs next year, we will need to increase fundraising to maintain fiscal responsibility going forward. ● As of the June Board meeting, 68 memberships had been renewed ● A suggestion was made that all Board members renew their membership ASAP and to check with family and friends about their membership renewal status to avoid trying to get renewals completed immediately before High Holy Days. <u>A motion was made by David Lyman and seconded by Olga Streltchenko to approve the 2025-2026 third quarter financial statement as presented.</u> <u>All were in favour. The motion was carried.</u>	
	5.4 Jewish Memorial Gardens ● KBI has an understanding with Adath Shalom Synagogue that requires Adath Shalom members to have an Associate Membership with KBI in order for these members to have burial rights in the KBI sections of JMG ● Some Ottawa synagogues have recently changed their policy regarding burial of non-members - the question of whether KBI would do the same was raised. ○ Discussion reiterated that at KBI, one needs to be a full member for one year to purchase a burial plot, and then remain an Associate member to have burial rights ○ Other synagogues have removed the requirement to have been a member for a full year <u>The Board discussed this matter and maintains its current policy.</u> ● A question was asked about the change to allow a couple where one partner is Jewish and one partner is not, to be buried together in the new “New Traditions” area of KBI in the Osgoode Cemetery. This initiative was covered in the KBI Connection communication on June 23rd.	Yaron Starosta

	5.5 Rabbinic Intern – Sue Potechin ● Sue Potechin has been KBI's Rabbinic Intern for some time. She has expressed her appreciation for the opportunity, considers the situation a "win/win", and wishes to continue working with KBI. ● This has been discussed with Rabbi Rose and he agrees. The cost would be minimal to us, Sue would benefit from the experience, and KBI would benefit from Sue's work with youth, her ability to fill in for the Cantor when necessary for duties such as funerals, pastoral care, and the 9 a.m. Torah study class on Shabbat, etc. ● Sue Potechin's new KBI email address is sue@kehillatbethisrael.com <u>A motion was made by Jaimee Mitzmacher and seconded by David Lyman to approve the appointment of Sue Potechin to be KBI's rabbinic intern from July – December 2026.</u> <u>All were in favour. The motion was carried.</u>	Jaimee Mitzmacher
6.0 NEW BUSINESS		
	6.1 Other Issues ● A message from Erica Beck, OKFB has been received and was read to the Board thanking KBI for the "generous donation" made to OKFB that is now making it easier to supply OKFB clients with fresh produce. ○ OKFB also let us know that a group of local Loblaws stores recently donated two full skids of food to the OKFB ○ We learned that food received by OKFB from any source that is in excess of their needs or their ability to store it, does not go to waste. It is passed on to the Caldwell Food Bank to distribute to their clients. ● A letter of congratulation and thanks from a participant was distributed to Board members about the Queer Storytelling which took place at the recent Pride Shabbat celebration. ● The President delivered a message of appreciation to all Board members for stepping-up in the current atmosphere of transition and little clarity, and especially acknowledged our lay leadership for their great contributions in the absence of a Rabbi. ● The President also reminded all Board members to look for and read the Forward Agenda on Sharepoint and mark the dates of meetings on our calendars. ● It was announced that an offer has been made for the OTT Director position and is pending a signed contract.	
	6.2 Parking Lot Items for Next Meeting ● President offered to reshare her Google Sheet with the Youth Committee / staff to track grade to grade demographics to be more intentional with outreach, follow up and fundraising	

	• Moving forward, all KBI programming registrations should have the ability to leave a donation.

7.0 Good and Welfare

8.0 In Camera

9.0 Forward Agenda - September 3, 2026

- Q4 Financial Statement
- High Holiday Update
- OTT Kickoff Update
- Security Committee Presentation
- CBSOLF Priorities

** Please confirm all future Board Meeting dates on our complete Forward Agenda in Sharepoint**

10.0 Adjournment

	The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 PM. The next Board meeting will be held on Thursday, September 3, 2026; in person if possible with Zoom option.