

Temple Beth Emet – RSPA

September 13, 2015 Meeting – Minutes

Old Business:

RSPA 2015/16 Meeting Schedule:

The RSPA meeting schedule for the 2015/16 school year has been posted on the bulletin board in Blum Hall and is also available on the new RSPA page of the Temple website.

High Holy Days Children's Services

Will be held on September 14 (Rosh Hashanah) and September 23 (Yom Kippur) at 10:00 AM at St. Jude'

Sukkot Breakfast

The Sukkot Breakfast is scheduled for October 4. The class assigned to help out with this event is the 4/5 class under the direction of Cherie Rye. The group agreed to consult with the Rabbi as to what items he would like parents to bring this year.

Proposal for Event Honoring A Faculty Member

A suggestion has been made to have an event honoring a faculty member this year along the lines of the recent "Woman Of Valor" awards dinner which was held at the Temple a few weeks ago. It was the general feeling that such an event could be positive in terms of honoring someone who is deserving of recognition, in terms of some fundraising potential, and as a fun event for members of the Religious School community, However, there was also some concern about the potential for some hurt feelings on the part of faculty members not receiving this special recognition, so it was decided that it might be best to hold this in conjunction with our Teacher Appreciation night scheduled for May 13 when all teachers would be honored for their service and one teacher could be singled out for special recognition. The group like the idea of holding a dinner before the service with tickets being sold as a fundraiser. Email nominations can begin sometime this spring with further planning for the dinner to take place later this year.

Confirmation Class

There was some discussion about the curriculum for our Confirmation class and about the fact that in the past the class has varied between being highly structured which proves unpopular with the students and less structured which has proven unpopular with some of the parents. David pointed out that Josh is now teaching the class for the first time this year and that it might be best to wait and see how he decides to approach the curriculum once the year has begun. There was interest on the part of one parent in having Josh come in and talk to our group informally about his curriculum, David will follow up.

New Business:

Room Parents Needed For The 2/3 And Confirmation

There is currently a need for a Room Parent for the 2/3 and Confirmation classes. It was decided to ask the teachers of these 2 classes for suggestions as to parents who might be willing to serve. A few names of parents who might be interested were discussed, David will follow up with them to see who might be interested.

New RSPA Web Page/ Possible Other Social Media Sites

Laura has recently updated parts of the Temple website and there is now a new RSPA page. Also, our registration paperwork is all available on the site as are other items such as the school calendar, student handbook, and RSPA meeting dates. There was discussion about the possibility of creating other social media sites for the Religious School but there were confidentiality concerns expressed on the part of some parents who did want their child's photo or other identifying info posted online. It was the feeling of most parents present that any such sites should be set to private and should be used for communication among members of our school community as opposed to being used as promotional tools for the Temple and the Religious School.

Hanukkah Fundraising Performance

This year's Hanukkah performance is scheduled for December 6. Robyn and the Rabbi are working on another musical performance for the kids to perform. We charged an admission fee of \$7 per person for the first time last year and the feeling was that it was best to leave the fee the same as it was last year as the fundraiser proves to be successful and we also made money on water and soft drink sales. Everyone was in favor of having the truck from Canters Deli come again this year as this was quite popular last year, Laura will contact them as to their availability

Other Possible New Ideas for This Year

Amy discussed with our group the fact that although she is willing to do some form of last year's Virtual Gala end of the year fundraiser she thinks it makes much more sense to do this as an all online fundraiser this year by using e-vites, email, or other methods and thereby saving a lot of money on engraved invitations and postage. The group agreed that this event, which was our biggest fundraiser of last year, was likely to be just as successful if done this way.

Next Meeting-October 11 @ 9:00 AM