



TALMUD TORAH SOCIETY
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

June 10, 2025

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion to approve the agenda for June 10, 2025.

1st – Noga Vaisblat

2nd – Michelle Huberman

Status: Passed

2. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Motion to approve the minutes of the AGM for June 18, 2024.

1st - Noga Vaisblat

2nd – Doug Kondor

Status: Passed - Unanimous

3. PRESIDENT'S REPORT - NOGA VAISBLAT

Noga Vaisblat presented the President's Report and highlighted the Society's activities and accomplishments over the past year.

Governance and Financial Oversight

- The Board and Executive Committee met regularly throughout the year, maintaining quorum and overseeing strategic and operational matters. Governance practices and committee structures continued to be reviewed to support effective non-profit management.
- The Finance Committee, chaired by James Friedman, monitored the Society's financial health through regular review of revenues, expenditures, and budgeting, while maintaining focus on long-term sustainability and increased operational costs.

Facility Improvements and Capital Projects

- The Building Committee coordinated planning and vendor procurement for the full roof replacement project scheduled for summer 2025. Additional facility improvements during the year included repairs to the shed and continued planning for upgraded gym audiovisual equipment.

Educational Programming and ELC Oversight

- The Education Committee continued work on enhancing Hebrew Language Arts and Judaic Studies programming, including development of K-6 implementation guides and additional curriculum resources.



- The ELC Committee continued oversight of operations, enrollment, staffing, budgeting, and long-term planning for the Early Learning Centre and Out of School Care programs.

Communications, HR, and Security

- The Communications Committee continued to support engagement with families and stakeholders through newsletters, announcements, and website updates.
- The HR Committee oversaw staff reviews, employment contracts, job descriptions, and policy development.
- The Society also continued working closely with EPSB and security professionals to support school safety and maintain enhanced security measures and emergency preparedness protocols.

Strategic Planning and School Collaboration

- The Board extended the current strategic plan through June 2026 to allow for completion of outstanding priorities and preparation for future strategic planning initiatives, including community consultation.
- Noga highlighted the continued strong partnership between the Society and Principal Darin Johnson. Projected enrollment for the 2025–2026 school year currently stands at 147 students, with expectations for additional registrations over the summer.
- The Society committed \$375,000 toward supporting instructional time, enhanced Judaic Studies programming, small class sizes, and targeted literacy and math intervention supports.

Community Partnerships and Program Enrichment

- The Society continued collaborating with community organizations including the Jewish Federation of Edmonton, PJ Library, JNF, and Shalom Baby to support engagement and enrichment initiatives.
- Highlights included the launch of the Grade 6 graduation program and Shabbaton, supported through community partnerships and grant funding.

Acknowledgements

- Noga extended appreciation to Society staff, Board members, committee volunteers, school leadership, donors, and community partners for their ongoing dedication and support.
- Special recognition was given to outgoing and returning Board members for their service and contributions throughout the year.

4. PRINCIPAL'S REPORT – DARIN JOHNSON

Darin Johnson presented the Principal's Report.

Staffing and School Operations

- Darin confirmed he will continue as Principal for the 2025–2026 school year. He reviewed current staffing, including teachers, educational assistants, custodians, administrative support, and lunch supervisors.
- All classrooms received upgraded 84-inch smart displays to support interactive and visual learning.
- The school continued to benefit from support services including occupational therapists, speech and language consultants, psychologists, behavioural consultants, social workers, and mental health coaches.
- Darin shared that following the recent attacks in Washington, EPSB reached out proactively to ask how they could continue supporting the school community.

Academic and Enrichment Programming

- Highlights included:



- Grade 6 leadership and growth initiatives
- New Math and Science curriculum implementation
- Coding partnerships with the Telus World of Science
- Chess club, choir, running club, writing club, announcement club, and Purim carnival
- Literacy achievement initiatives with a focus on writing and student ownership of learning
- Continued growth in Hebrew and Judaic Studies integration

Diversity and Wellness

- The school continued supporting student wellness, Jewish identity development, and appreciation of diverse cultures within Edmonton.

Survey Results

- Darin shared positive survey results, including:
 - 96% of Grade 4–6 students reporting opportunities for success in learning
 - 100% of parents reporting staff care about their child
 - 100% of parents reporting their child feels a sense of belonging at school

Staff Recognition

- Special recognition was given to Jo on her retirement after 20 years of service.

Society Support

- Darin thanked the Talmud Torah Society Board, Noga Vaisblat, and staff for their continued support. He noted that Society funding allowed:
 - Smaller Grade 3 learning cohorts
 - Additional Grade 5 support
 - Literacy intervention programming
 - Wellness initiatives for Grades 5 and 6
- Darin stated that without Society support, the school budget would only support five full-time teachers and classes would look significantly different.

5. ELC REPORT – SACHA BRODIE, DIRECTOR AND JENNIE LEONARD, PROGRAM COORDINATOR

Sacha Brodie and Jennie Leonard presented the ELC Report.

Programs and Enrollment

- The ELC continues to serve children aged 12 months through Grade 6 through:
 - Early Learning programming
 - Kindergarten OSC
 - Grades 1–6 OSC programming
- Plans are underway to expand programming into the lunchroom space, pending licensing logistics.
- A question was raised regarding projected enrollment for next year. Administration advised that the program is licensed for 56 children in Rooms 1 and 6, with projected enrollment currently at 68 children.
- A question was also raised regarding staffing requirements. Administration confirmed additional staffing will be required to maintain licensing ratios.

Programming and Communication

- The ELC continued implementation of its Hebrew Language Arts and Judaic Studies framework focused on culture, values, traditions, and language.
- Enhanced communication tools included continued use of the StoryPark app.



Policies and Funding

- The ELC updated parent and employee handbooks, operational documents, operational policies, and personnel policies.
- Administration also reviewed government affordability grants and subsidy programs available to families.

6. 2023–2024 AUDITOR’S REPORT – MICHAEL SADOVNICK

Michael presented the audited financial statements for the year ended August 31, 2024, and highlighted the following:

- Improved financial performance for the ELC organization
- Overall strong financial health of the Society
- Review of general, restricted, and endowment funds
- Increased CWB investment income
- Increased alternative program contributions and security expenses
- Total revenues of approximately \$2.74 million and total expenses of approximately \$1.96 million.
- Excess of revenues over expenses of \$777,130 for the year.
- Net assets increased from \$5.06 million to \$5.84 million.
- Cash and restricted cash totaled approximately \$979,000 at year end.
- Total net assets were approximately \$6.05 million.

Major revenue sources included:

- Early Learning Centre (ELC) revenues and related programming: approximately \$1.34 million
- School revenues, including parent contributions: approximately \$530,000
- Investment income: approximately \$365,000
- Grants, fundraisers, and donations: approximately \$196,000
- Interest income: approximately \$49,000

Significant expenses included:

- Salaries and wages: approximately \$1.17 million
- Alternative program contribution: approximately \$215,000
- Security guard expenses: approximately \$129,000
- ELC, OSC, and other programming costs: approximately \$119,000
- Judaic program enhancements: approximately \$109,000

Michael also noted that the Society successfully resolved its Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS) and Canada Emergency Rent Subsidy (CERS) appeals, with approved subsidies recognized in the financial statements and additional amounts received subsequent to year end.

Motion to accept the 2023–2024 financial statements as presented by Sadovnick Morgan LLP.

1st - Noga Vaisblat

2nd – Aliya Spigelman

Status: Passed

Roof Project Update – Noga Vaisblat

Noga provided an update regarding the roof replacement project.

The project has been in development for approximately three years. With assistance from Barry Slawsky, the Society secured a contractor at significant savings compared to initial estimates.



The initial project quote is approximately \$650,000 plus any additional required work.

The roof replacement will be funded through available cash reserves without requiring withdrawal from investments. EPSB contributed \$270,000 toward the project.

The Society hopes the project will be completed before the start of the 2025-2026 school year.

Investments Update – James Friedman

James Friedman reviewed Society investments, noting:

- \$200,000 invested in State of Israel Bonds
- Remaining investments held with CWB

Election of Board Members – Noga Vaisblat

There were five available Board positions and six candidates standing for election. The following candidates were elected by ballot:

- James Friedman (3-year term)
- Nomi Steen (1-year term)
- Shaun Gluckman (3-year term)
- Kaitlin Pruitt (3-year term)
- Barry Slawsky (3-year term)

Elina Rivkin was not elected.

15. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 8:27 p.m.

Motion to adjourn.

1st - Noga Vaisblat

2nd – Leeor Eliyahu

Status: Passed