

KING DAVID HIGH SCHOOL  
JEWISH STUDIES STAFF ASSOCIATION

Minutes of Meeting held 1st December 1976.

The Minutes of the meeting held 18th October were signed as correct.

1. It was reported that no comments have yet been received from the Headmaster on the minutes of the 18th October meeting.
2. Following the comment "I was appalled by your fourth year Gemara paper," the examination paper in question was sent up to the N.U.H.T. for the professional observations of educationalists in Religious Knowledge. The following reply was received from Rabbi M. Bernstein B.Ed., Director of Education.  
" My colleagues and I have studied carefully your Gemara examination paper. We would like to complement you on the carefully prepared paper and also for ensuring that such an important area of Jewish learning is finding <sup>a</sup> place within your school curriculum."
3. The lateness in the mock examination timetable of the Religious Knowledge paper was brought up; it is in fact taking place after some subjects have already had their second paper. The Association felt that every subject should have one paper before any subject has a second paper.
4. It was regretted that the briefing for the 5th year mocks took place on Wednesday 24th November during a Jewish Studies period. This happens every year despite protests by the Jewish Studies Staff. The Association argued that such a briefing could have taken place that morning instead of Assembly.
5. It was regretted that some 4th year J.S. Assembly periods have had to be cancelled to facilitate arrangements for the mock examinations. This is just one of the many disadvantages of having Assembly periods.
6. The Association agreed to encourage girls to register for Mrs. Roberg's Ulpana.
7. The Association extended seasonal greetings to the non-Jewish staff.

The meeting was then adjourned.

KING DAVID HIGH SCHOOL

JEWISH STUDIES STAFF ASSOCIATION

Minutes of Meeting held 31st January 1977.

The Minutes of the meeting held 1st December 1976 were signed as correct.

1. On the first day of term (Thursday 6th January), the Jewish Junior Assembly was cancelled to enable dinner money to be collected. As a consequence, pupils did not lay Tephillin, daven or hear Keri'at HaTorah on that day. It was regretted that the arrangement proposed by this association on 10th February 1976 and agreed by the (general) Staff Association on 2nd March 1976 was not put into operation. Under this arrangement, five minutes is taken from each of the Assembly, ~~period 1~~ and period 2, thus making time for the collecting of dinner money.
2. Tu BiShevat: It was agreed that (i) at JJA a short talk will be given about Tu BiShevat (ii) the kitchen would be asked to supply fruit salad for the dessert at lunch on that day (iii) the sheets on the Sivat HaMinim would be used in lessons on that day.
3. The following proposals for the Purim timetable, which closely resembles last year's were made.

Start of school for all Jewish pupils	9. 15. am.
Shacharit and Reading of the Megillah in separate groups for years 1-4 and years 5 and 6, followed by Mishloach Manot and Matanot Laevyonim.	9. 15 - 10 40 am.
10. 40 - 10. 55.	Break
10. 55 - 12. 05.	Lessons 3 and 4.
1. 25 - 2. 00.	Lesson 5.
2. 05 - 3. 30.	Purim programme and Fancy Dress Years 1 - 4. Years 5 and 6 at discretion of teachers.
3. 30.	End of School.
4. It was reported that the J.S. staff have been trying to encourage pupils to enter the International Bible Quiz for Jewish Youth organised by the J.N.F., W.Z.O., Youth and Hechalutz Dept. and Torah Dept.

~~The meeting~~

The meeting was then adjourned.



KING DAVID HIGH SCHOOL

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Minutes of the Meeting held Monday 14th March 1977.

Present: R.S. Rd, Ka, Tr.

The Minutes of the meeting held 31st January 1977 were signed as correct.

1. The association agreed to congratulate David Prins on coming 4th in the country in the International Bible Quiz. Unfortunately he failed by only half a point to represent Britain in the World Finals to be held in Israel.
2. It was reported that for the first time in the memory of the members of the Association, the J.S. lesson on 16. 2. 77. was extended by 15 minutes.
3. The letter from the Merseyside Jewish Welfare Council thanking the pupils of the school for the Purim collection was read to the Association.
4. The Association expressed complete agreement with the R.A.C. that the full school assemblies should be secular in nature with no religious bias or hymns. The members of the Association have in fact always held this view.
5. It was reported to the Association that a trip which included pupils from the High School had involved Sabbath Desecration. It was agreed to send a letter to the C.O. of the Liverpool J.L.B. on this matter.
6. It was agreed to arrange a special programme for the 10th Yom Yerushalayim and to also bring out a magazine for the occasion.
7. Concern was again expressed about attendance at the Assembly periods.

The meeting was then adjourned.

KING DAVID HIGH SCHOOL  
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Minutes of meeting held Monday 13th April 1977.

Present: RS. Rd, Ka, Tr.

The minutes of the meeting held 14th March 1977 were signed as correct.

1. A letter of apology from the JLB. regarding Sabbath desecration involving pupils from the High School was read to the association.
2. It was reported that not even one parent had asked for an appointment with the JS Staff for the third form parents' consultation evening on 22nd March 1977. Regrettably the same thing happens for every consultation evening.
3. It was deeply regretted that two first year pupils were withdrawn in the presence of the entire year from the rehearsal Seder in order to attend a rehearsal for a music examination. Such an action indicates to the pupils that Music is more important than the Seder and lowers the prestige of JS in the School and hence the attitude of the pupils towards it. (It should also be mentioned that this rehearsal Seder was booked and publicised on the Staff room noticeboard weeks before the event, whereas the music rehearsal was not even booked.)
4. The entire programme for the last day of term (30th March) with the exception of the Assembly period was written on the blackboard by the pupils' entrance. As a result a lot of pupils did not attend the assembly period assuming that it had been cancelled.
5. Discipline  
The Association was extremely disturbed at the rapid deterioration in discipline during the period of the last year or so. This is in complete agreement with the comments repeatedly made by the Staff Association. Furthermore the JS Staff feel that they are not receiving adequate support from the administration in the maintenance of discipline. (continued)



The Association felt that there were three specific causes for JS bein\_g in a worse situation than other subjects:-

- (i) An almost total disinterest of the parents in Jewish Studies.
- (ii) A large number of the pupils enter the school with an attitude which is already not positive towards Jewish Studies. (Th\_e\_y have spent about seven years on the subject yet still lack basic Jewish Knowledge and basic Jewish skills.)
- (iii) Non-positive attitude of administration towards Jewish Studies and Jewish practices and observances.

The above points can be substantiated by documents and/or facts and figures.

The meeting was then adjourned.

KING DAVID HIGH SCHOOL  
JEWISH STUDIES STAFF ASSOCIATION.

Minutes of Extraordinary meeting held Wednesday 18. 5.1977.

Present: RS Rd Ka Tr.

It was reported that at the last Staff Association meeting held on the 10th May, the staff requested that the autumn half term holiday (4th and 7th November) be transferred to the beginning of the term, so that the autumn term would begin on the 5th September. At the Staff meeting held on the 17th May, the proposal was made that instead of transferring half term to the beginning of the term, that the school be open on Erev Rosh Hashana and Hoshana Rabba. (it should be mentioned here in passing that although the calendar dates for 1977 were first published last July, this is the first time that it has been suggested that any changes be made in the calendar).

The Jewish Studies Staff Association unanimously reject this proposal and consider it to be an insult to the Jewish Calendar and to be another nail in the coffin of the Jewish Character of the school.

What would the reaction of Christian staff in a Christian school be if it were to be proposed that in order that the summer holidays of the Jewish members of staff be longer, the Christian school should be open on Christmas Eve and on a Christian festive day?

The Association unanimously agreed that if necessary this matter would be taken to the NUHT and to the Office of the Chief Rabbi.

The meeting was then adjourned.

KING DAVID HIGH SCHOOL

JEWISH STUDIES STAFF ASSOCIATION

Minutes of meeting held 27th June 1977.

Present RS, Rd, Ka, Tr,.

The minutes of the meeting held 18th April 1977 and the extraordinary meeting held 18th May 1977 were signed as correct.

1. It was reported that not even one parent had asked for an appointment with the JS staff for the fourth form parents' consultation evening held near the beginning of the term.
2. The Association was informed about the case earlier this term of no action being taken against the boys who had missed their detention deliberately. The reason was given that it had been their Bar Mitzvah on the previous Shabbat.
3. The Association deplored the fact that the school secretarial staff were prevented from typing the Observations of the Jewish Studies Staff to the Committee of Enquiry's report. Great concern was expressed at this attempt to muzzle the Jewish Studies Staff from expressing their comments. The Jewish Studies Staff had their observations typed privately, the cost of the typing, the stencils, paper and staples being paid for from the pockets of the Jewish Studies Staff.
4. It was reported that after Synagogue Service on the previous Shabbat, a parent had been most abusive to a member of the Association over an internal school matter.

The meeting was then adjourned.



KING DAVID HIGH SCHOOL  
JEWISH STUDIES STAFF ASSOCIATION.

Minutes of meeting held on 10th October 1977.

PRESENT: RS, Rd, Ka, Gs.

The Minutes of the last meeting were signed as correct.

1. A report on the Conference on Jewish Education held at the King David High School, Manchester, in July was given to the Association.

Despite the serious difficulties which this School experienced a few years ago, one could feel that there was a genuine desire on the part of the Administration to improve the Jewish side of the School.

Some points which emerged from this Conference/visit, were:

- a) There were Netillat Yadayim facilities for the Primary School.
- b) The impressive scene of the Infants benching.
- c) All J.S. lessons in High School were integrated into the timetable.
- d) The High School was introducing services with tephillin laying at 8.45am. for the whole School, every day.

At the discussion session between the various Headmasters and Directors of Jewish Studies, the Conference was informed that the High School was introducing teacher specialisation in J.S. subjects throughout the School, i.e. every group will have a specialist Jewish History teacher, a specialist Dinim teacher, a specialist Chumash teacher, etc. In the ensuing discussion, only Mr Beebe dissented from this arrangement.

2. Following the School secretarial staff being prevented from typing the observations of the Jewish Studies Staff to the Committee of Inquiry's report, and the subsequent private typing of these observations, it was reported that discussion of these observations was suppressed in the Jewish Studies sub-committee.
3. The Association deplored the Governors' recommendation to hold School on 20th October 1978, a Jewish Festive day, when this date was not even in dispute. Furthermore, at the Staff Association Meeting on 12th July 1977 the motion was unanimously carried that "the Jewish Studies Staff's knowledge of the days required off for Jewish Festivals be accepted and that Rabbi Simon's allocation of holiday dates for this purpose should not be questioned". The Jewish Studies Staff Association is very surprised that Jewish Governors of a Jewish School can take such a negative attitude towards Chol Hamoed.
4. The Association completely concurred with the remarks made by the Principal of MATT at the Annual Prize Day in July 1977.....  
"Those who maintain that the age of 8 or 9 is a satisfactory goal for the attainment of fluency in Hebrew reading are themselves ensuring the ultimate failure of Jewish Studies in this City."

"For such a child arrives at the High School as an under-achiever, able to follow only a syllabus designed initially for 6 year-olds".

continued



"Naturally a twelve-year-old rejects such treatment, and does not respond to Jewish Studies and maintains this negative approach throughout his teenage years".....

(The Committee of Inquiry considered that "an important aim of the Primary School should be to have a large majority of pupils reading (Hebrew) well by the time they start the third year Juniors (average age 9½)"

5. In the O-level and CSE in Religious Knowledge this Summer, 87 per cent of all the Jewish pupils in the 5th year passed these examinations. It was reported that these were the best results ever obtained.

The meeting was then adjourned.

KING DAVID HIGH SCHOOL

JEWISH STUDIES STAFF ASSOCIATION.

Minutes of the meeting held on 21 November 1977.

Present: RS, Rd, Ka, Gs.

The minutes of the meeting held on 10th October 1977 were signed as correct.

1. It was reported that a group of Jewish Studies Staff went to the Jewish Book Fair in Manchester on the Fifteenth of November in the hope of finding suitable text books to supplement the almost non-existent suitable text books available for Jewish Studies. Regretably, no suitable Jewish textbooks could be found for the High School at this fair.
2. A report was given on the meeting for parents of Jewish third formers which dealt with the aims and curricula of J.S. and M.H. in the upper school. Despite the attraction of Dr. Conway, the parents of only about eight pupils (out of nearly 60 ) bothered to attend.
3. It was reported that for the first time, the mock examinations had been arranged over Chanukah in such a way as to make the hall free in time for Chanukah lights. Acknowledgements to Mr. Savitz for making such arrangements. It was hoped that the whole school including the fifth form would be required to attend the Chanukah lighting.

The meeting was then adjourned.