

RELIGIOUS ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF THE KING DAVID SCHOOLS

Minutes of meeting held on Tuesday, 14th September, 1976.

1. It was regretted that the points deliberated and communicated by the RAC had not even been acknowledged.
2. The RAC strongly recommended that there should be a reintroduction of a Minister of Religion to serve on the Board of Governors and Managers of the Schools. This has been the practice during a century of the life of the school as follows:-

Rev. David ISAACS	1843-63
Rev. Michael OPPENHEIM	1843- ?
Rev. A. FISCHER	1852-56
Rev. Herman BAAR	1860-67
Rev. Myer ELKIN	1867-72
Rev. Jacob PRAG	1868- ?
Rev. D.W. STERN	1873-85
Rev. Morris JOSEPH	1874-82
Rev. Joseph POLACK	1881-90
Rev. Harris BURMAN	1883-1914
Rev. Abraham RUTKOVSKY	1886-1910
Rev. Samuel FRIEDEBERG (FRAMPTON)	1891-1943
(Also President 1922-43)	

In addition it is standard practice in denominational schools (Catholic, Church of England, Jewish) for at least one Minister of Religion to serve on the governing body, often as Chairman. (e.g. JFS - The Chief Rabbi; Hasmonean - Rabbi Dr. Schonfeld, and Rabbi Cohn).

3. The RAC was pleased to note that the Headmaster of the Primary School had now added to the application form for new entrants, questions regarding the date and place of marriage of the parents of prospective entrants. It was regretted that this had not yet been done for the High School.  
  
Whilst utterly rejecting the giving of Jewish R.E. to non-Jewish pupils, it was noted that the governing body had also passed that the Headmaster was to speak to the parents of such non-Jewish pupils explaining the problems etc. The RAC would like to know whether this has actually been implemented.
4. The RAC reiterated that it is imperative for Jewish pupils from the fourth year upwards to have religious services, otherwise pupils stop laying Tephillin and davening. (The Christian senior pupils already have services). Even parents had complained about the lack of services. Also the non-holding of such services contravenes section 25 of the 1944 Education Act.
5. The RAC hopes that there will be Chol Hamoed activities for the whole school. They also strongly recommended that after last year's successful trip, a Lubavitch trip to Manchester be again arranged for Chol Hamoed this year.
6. The RAC regretted that although a number of written undertakings have been given regarding the integration of fourth and fifth year assembly periods into the timetable, the matter seems to have been "forgotten". They would like to hear what steps are currently being taken to implement them.

The meeting was then adjourned.

The Convener,  
Religious Advisory Committee.

Dear Mr. Malits,

The Governors at their Meeting on September 23rd considered the Minutes of the R.A.C. which you sent me. May I reply to you.

1. I do not understand the meaning of Paragraph 1. If the R.A.C. communicates with me or asks the Governors to consider any matter which the R.A.C. wants considered, the Governors will do so. I am not aware of any such request.

2. If the R.A.C. wants a change in the Constitution of Governors and Managers that would have to be done by a change in the constitution of the Foundation which provides that Governors and Managers are to be elected by members of the Foundation. If the R.A.C. is thinking in terms of a representative of the R.A.C. being present at Governors and Managers meetings I can only say for the Governors that the R.A.C. requested this some time ago and I then replied to you that so far as the Governors are concerned (I cannot speak for Managers) the Governors did not approve such a course. Many of the matters it considers (indeed most) have no connection with the religious life of the School, often they discuss confidential matters concerning staff and pupils, and they think it important that such matters should be confined to those duly elected to deal with such matters.

We are however very conscious that there are important aspects of School life on which the R.A.C. has views which it wishes to voice and which the Governors will wish to hear. What I should like to ensure is that there is



~~to ensure that there is~~ communication and we propose periodically to invite a representative of the R.A.C. to attend at a Governors' meeting and I suggest as a start that a representative of the R.A.C. come to the next Governors' meeting which is on December 2nd at 8 p.m. at the High School and we will allot the first part of the meeting to a discussion of such matters as you may wish to raise.

It might also help if you in your turn invited from time to time a representative of the Governing Body to your meetings so that the flow of ideas from your end could be communicated orally rather than in the cold print of Minutes.

3. So far as questions about marriage of <sup>parents of</sup> entrants ~~are~~ concerned the Headmaster will incorporate this in the High School application form. The Headmaster informed the Governors that he had indeed spoken to parents of mixed marriages.

4. It has been made crystal clear by the Governors (who have devoted more time to this matter than any other in the past two years) that they have arrived at a firm and unanimous decision that there will not be any reduction in the hours of secular studies in 4th and 5th year. This appears clearly in the Minutes of the Jewish Studies sub-committee of 22nd January 1976. The matter has not been "forgotten" but I do want to make it clear that the present Board of Governors are not proposing to spend further time in discussing what they have found an insoluble problem.

5. So far as your Paragraph 4 is concerned this must be looked at in the light of the Governors' decision that no reduction of time for secular studies can be accepted. The matter was again reported by me to the J.S. Committee (see Minutes of Meeting).

6. I do not know what Chol Hamoed activities are. If it means eating in the Succah and bensching lulav I am sure the R.A.C. can rely on Rabbi Simons. So far as a Lubavitch trip is concerned this is obviously a good idea and can be undertaken during the part of Chol Hamoed when the children are on holiday.

Sincerely,

*Henry Lachs*

HENRY L. LACHS  
(Chairman of Governors)

RELIGIOUS ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF THE KING DAVID SCHOOLS

Minutes of meeting held Monday, 25th October, 1976.

Rabbi Roberg, the new Rabbi of Childwall Hebrew Congregation was welcomed as a member of the R.A.C.

The undated letter from the Chairman of Governors to the convener of the R.A.C. was put before the R.A.C. and an answer was formulated as follows:-

(Paragraphs refer to numbering in Chairman of Governor's letter).

Paragraph 1

Examples of items which the R.A.C. have sent the Chairman of Governors, but were not even acknowledged, include the letter of the convener dated 29th February, 1976 and the R.A.C. minutes of 7th April, 1976.

Paragraph 2

No comment has been made to explain the fact why we should be different from other denominational schools where the standard practice is to have at least one Minister of Religion serving on the Governing body, and also why it was perfectly acceptable to have at least one Minister of Religion on the governing body during a century of the life of the school.

At the last Annual General Meeting of the Foundation, the President Lord Cohen of Birkenhead, stated that Jewish Studies are the purpose of our school and without them we should not exist as a Foundation, and the Chairman, Mr. Globe, stated that the main object of the school is that there should be Jewish education in the city. The Headmaster of the High School told the Liverpool Jewish Gazette (13th September, 1974) that to maintain a Jewish atmosphere is an over-riding principle. It therefore follows that it is essential that a Minister of Religion should serve on the governing body, even if most of the items have no direct connection with the religious life of the school, since a Jewish atmosphere is the whole ethos and purpose of the school and a Minister would be able to make a valuable contribution. To deliberately exclude a Minister negates the whole purpose of the school.

We trust that the intention of the statement about "confidential matters concerning staff and pupils" was not to suggest that Ministers cannot be relied upon to maintain the confidentiality of such matters no less than the other people present. By virtue of their work, Ministers constantly receive confidential information regarding their congregants. Another reason stated in this letter for the exclusion of Ministers from meetings of the governing body is that "such matters should be confined to those duly elected to deal with such matters". However, it is a fact that a representative of the Parents is present at every Governors' and Managers' meeting and throughout the entire meeting. We should like to hear how this accords with the above statement. A representative of the Ministers has no less right to be present than a representative of the parents.

With regard to the Governors' meeting on December 2nd, Rev. Abenson will be present.

We are quite happy to invite a representative of the governing body to our meetings from time to time.

Paragraph 3

We are pleased to note that a question regarding the date and place of the marriage of parents of applicants to the High School has now been incorporated into the High School application form. However, the addition of the comment "Not required if already supplied to the Headmaster of King David Primary School.." should be deleted.

Paragraph 4

Can written undertakings be dismissed like a wiff of smoke?

In this letter, this matter is referred to as an "insoluble problem". It is significant to note that the secular staff, who between them have considerable and varied professional experience, consider that a ten-subject course (plus P.E.) which our pupils study is too

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demanding for almost all our pupils. Not only do less than a handful gain all ten subjects, but many do not complete the course and from January in the fifth year are left with only a truncated course. The suggestion by the secular staff to ask the L.E.A. advisory staff who are specialists in curriculum planning to give their assistance was not only ignored, but was treated with the comment that we do not need their assistance - we can make our own decisions! Reducing the number of subjects by just one to make nine subjects (plus P.E.) would be both educationally sound and would solve this so-called "insoluble problem". In which other school do pupils study ten examination subjects?

Paragraph 5

It is unfortunate that the Governors do not seem to be sufficiently concerned with the fact that pupils from the 4th year upwards are stopping to lay Tephillin and davening due to the fact that the school has no services for these pupils. Incidentally, from where do the Governors get the power to over-ride Acts of Parliament (i.e. Section 25 of 1944 Education Act). The solution given in Paragraph 4 would also automatically solve this problem.

Paragraph 6

Following the decision of the Jewish Studies sub-committee regarding the arranging of special activities on Chol Hamoed Sukkot, etc. a very instructive and successful Chol Hamoed trip was arranged last year with the Lubavitch. It was hoped to repeat the same thing this year on the Tuesday of Chol Hamoed. This is an educational trip and not an outing and should, therefore, be arranged on a school day. Surely this can be the only raison d'etre for school on Chol Hamoed. This activity was not permitted to take place on the Tuesday. Instead it was suggested that the pupils should give up a day of their holidays for it. This would not have been acceptable to the majority of the pupils concerned, thus making such a trip non-viable. It is significant to note that on the same day (Tuesday), a geography trip took place. No suggestion was made that this should take place on a day when the children were on holiday. Do we therefore take it that Geography is regarded as more important than Religious Instruction in the school?

Furthermore, only last week, a group missed an entire afternoon's school to attend a concert and a number of pupils were allowed to leave school early for a football match!

The meeting was then adjourned.

RELIGIOUS ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF  
THE KING DAVID SCHOOLS.

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday December 14th, 1976

- 1 It was reported that apart from a formal acknowledgement by the Chairman of the Governors, no answers to the points raised had been received, although due requests for such answers had been filed. The RAC agreed that a comprehensive reply to these questions would be appreciated,
- 2 The RAC records with regret the fact that no representative of the RAC had been invited to attend the lunchtime meeting with the ZF Inspector, Mr Mayblum on Wednesday 24th Nov. The RAC requests a full report concerning this meeting.
- 3 The RAC is somewhat surprised that hearsay opinions regarding JS at the High School had been discussed & minuted at length at the Jewish Studies Sub-Committee, whilst facts and figures on the inadequate nature of basic Jewish Knowledge on the part of new entrants into the High School are being withheld from the scrutiny of the same subcommittee. In fact these two activities are closely linked since if pupils have attended JS lessons for approximately seven years and still have not acquired the most rudimentary facts of Jewish Knowledge, it is more than likely that their entrance into the High School would be accompanied by their probable lack of interest in these subjects as a result.  
The RAC suggests the appointment of a Director of Jewish Studies for the Primary School.
- 4 The RAC records with regret the continued exploitation of JS periods for patently non-JS objectives (external exams, briefings etc.) A number of years ago the RAC had been given an assurance that such exploitation would cease, and that where it was found necessary to use periods for specifically extra curricula activities, all subjects on the curriculum would face the same degree of cancellation of periods for such "administrative" purposes, and that cont...

minutes of RAC meeting, continued.

JS periods would not be the only ones liable for cancellation of studies, to accomodate such activities. These assurances have obviously not been adhered to.

- 5 It was reported that the overnight visit to London, proposed for January, to the Pompeii Exhibition had now taken the form of a day visit and hence the arrangements made by Rabbi Simons regarding Kasher food and tephila were no longer applicable. It is hoped that suitable arrangements for holding the Morning Service en route will be implemented.

- 6 It was agreed that Rabbi Roberg would attend the next scheduled meeting of the governors.

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RELIGIOUS                      ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF THE  
KING DAVID SCHOOLS

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MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 15th FEBRUARY

1977

Present:                      Rabbi N. Roberg (chairman)  
                                 Rev. M. Malits  
                                 Rabbi Dr C. Simons (Director of Jewish  
   Studies)  
                                 Rev. B. Kass (observer)

Apologies:                      Rev. R. Abenson (funeral)

Rabbi Roberg was elected Chairman of the RAC.  
The Minutes of the meeting held on 14th December 1976  
were confirmed as correct.

1. It was regretted that the RAC had still received no answers to or acknowledgement of the points raised in the past. The deliberate exclusion of Ministers from committees and meetings associated with the schools was deplored -- the latest example being the intentional exclusion of Rabbi Roberg from the Committee of Enquiry into the Jewish affairs of the schools.
2. With the recent appointment of a permanent Principal of MATT and a new Rosh Yeshiva, it was felt that the time had come to call a meeting of the sub-committee of professionals teaching religious instruction to look at the question of syllabuses etc., the institution of which was decided by the RAC at its meeting of 3rd February 1976. This subcommittee would consist of:

the RAC <sup>Jewish</sup>  
Director of Studies, KD Primary School (if  
   elected)  
                                 and KD High School  
One member of Religious Instruction staff  
of KD 1) Primary School 2) High School  
Principal of MATT  
Principal of Yeshiva.

It was agreed to call a meeting within the next few weeks.

3. The nature of the evidence <sup>to be</sup> by the RAC "Committee of Enquiry" was discussed and agreed upon.
4. It was agreed that full school assemblies should be secular in nature with no religious bias or church hymns.
5. The RAC completely concurred with the letter written by Rabbi Dr Simons to Mr Savits, the organiser of the recent KD High School Pompeii trip, with regard to davening. Organisers of trips must encourage pupils

to observe Mitzvot and not to answer that pupils "make private arrangements" or "we have a tight schedule and have no time for davening".

6. An analysis of subjects showing that no parents asked for appointments to see Jewish Studies staff for the Second Year Parents Evening was placed before the RAC.

The meeting was then adjourned.