

KING DAVID FOUNDATION  
JEWISH STUDIES SUB-COMMITTEE

Minutes of 4th Meeting held on Thursday 24th April 1975

Present:

| <u>Foundation</u>  | <u>FZET</u>      | <u>Governors</u> | <u>Managers</u> |
|--------------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| Counc. F. Gaier    | Mr. L. Levy      | Mr. H. Lachs     | Mr. B. Goodman  |
| Mr. I. Rabinowitz  | Mrs. F. Woolwich | Dr. E. Rogans    |                 |
| Mrs. R. Silverberg |                  |                  |                 |

And Mr. C. Beebe, Mrs. C. Capek, Rabbi Dr. C. Simons, Mr. J. Wiener, Rev. M. Malits (RAC) and Mr. Y. Levine (FZET Inspector). Mr. Lachs was in the chair. There were apologies from Mr. T. Globe (Foundation), Dr. M. Goodman (FZET), Dr. D. Dover (Governors), Mrs. A. Compton (Managers) and Dr. M. Goldman (Managers).

1. Staffing from September 1975.

A review was made of the requirements after the completion of the Schlichut of the four Israeli teachers. Mr. Wiener reported that Mrs. Verbov would be taking over from Mrs. Abenson. Representatives of the Managers had met a Miss Nathan and offered an appointment to her. He would require further assistance either full or part-time. Mr. Beebe said that the High School needed full replacement for its two returning teachers.

The Committee reviewed the possibilities presented to them by the Jewish Agency and Mr. Rabinowitz who had interviewed potential candidates in Israel. An order of preference was agreed on to be submitted to the Jewish Agency and implemented as expeditiously as possible.

It was pointed out that it was vital to provide candidates well in advance with precise information as to salaries, rents and conditions of service.

2. Matters arising from minutes of 3rd Meeting held on 2nd December 1974

- a) Hebrew Room in High School  
The Governors had trimmed the project to bring the cost below the £2000 limit on Governors approval.
- b) Streaming in 1st year High School  
Streaming had followed the exams at the end of the 1st term and had proved satisfactory.
- c) J.S. periods in 4th and 5th years  
In January Rabbi Simons had made a new proposal for 4th and 5th year assembly periods. Mr. Lachs reported that this proposal involved a drastic reduction in the lunch time break and was not acceptable to the Governors. Mr. Levine strongly urged the need to increase the number of J.S. periods within the normal time-table as previously resolved. Mr. Lachs asked the Headmaster again to look at the School time-table with a view to including two Assembly periods within the normal time-table.
- d) Seminary stream in High School  
This proposal had not been implemented owing to the lack of available and suitable staff.
- e) High School Study Holiday  
The holiday in December in Wales had been successful. A further one was planned for May with approximately the same number of boys. Rabbi Simons and Mr. Yahalom would be assisted by someone from outside the school.
- f) Religious Advisory Committee  
The meeting welcomed Rev. M. Malits who was the nominee of the R.A.C.

3. Inspectors' Report

Mr. Levine said his tour of duty would soon be completed. He would be succeeded by Mr. Chanoch Ron.

Mr. Levine said he had talked to the Israeli Teachers who had indicated their desire to finish their Schlichut in a satisfactory manner. Comments were made on the past performance and attitude of the teachers and hopes expressed that the final period would indeed be satisfactory.

4. Date of next meeting

No date was fixed for the next meeting.

KING DAVID FOUNDATION

JEWISH STUDIES SUB-COMMITTEE

AGENDA FOR SUB MEETING TO BE HELD ON MONDAY 6TH OCTOBER 1975

1. Welcome to MR L. GERTNER, Education Director 2FET,  
MR M. MAYBLUM, Inspector 2FET,  
and to new Jewish Studies staff.
2. Apologies
3. Minutes of 4th meeting
4. Matters arising
5. GCE and CSE examination results
6. RK examination at end 4th year?
7. Inspectors report
8. A.O.B.
9. Date of next meeting



KING DAVID FOUNDATION

JEWISH STUDIES SUB-COMMITTEE

Minutes of the 5th Meeting held on Monday, 6th October, 1975.

| <u>Present:</u>    |                  |                  |                 |
|--------------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| <u>Foundation</u>  | <u>FZET</u>      | <u>Governors</u> | <u>Managers</u> |
| Mr. T. Globe       | Mr. I. Harris    | Mr. H. Lachs     | Mrs. A. Compton |
| Mr. I. Rabinowitz  | Mrs. F. Woolwich | Dr. E. Rogans    | Dr. M. Goldman  |
| Mrs. R. Silverberg |                  |                  | Mr. B. Goodman  |

and Mr. C. Beebe, Mrs. C. Capek, Rabbi Dr. C. Simons, Mr. J. Wiener, Rev. M. Malits represented the RAC. Mr. L. Gertner (Education Officer) and Mr. M. Mayblum (Inspector) of the ZFET were present throughout the meeting and Mrs. Daphni, Miss Natan and Mr. Tayar, the new Israeli Jewish Studies staff, were present for item 1. Mr. Lachs was in the chair and there were apologies for absence from Counc. F. Gaier (Foundation), Dr. M. Goodman (ZFET) and Dr. O. Dover (Governors).

1. Welcome to Visitors

The Chairman welcomed Mr. Gertner, Mr. Mayblum and the new teachers and regretted the difficulty Miss Natan and Mr. Tayar were having with accommodation. Mr. Gertner and the teachers responded. The teachers then withdrew.

2. Staffing

Mr. Wiener said that because he had only 1 4/7ths teachers (Miss Natan full-time and Mrs. Onne 4/7ths) instead of Mesdames Netzer and Yahallom, he had had to reduce from 4 to 3 the number of groups in the 2nd and 3rd year Juniors. Mr. Beebe and Mrs. Capek and Rabbi Simons were very content with Mrs. Daphni and Mr. Tayar in place of Messrs. Netzer and Yahallom. Mrs. Capek reported there was a teaching gap for the 5th Form non exam. Hebrew class.

3. Hebrew Room in High School

The project had gone forward and had been discussed on the 30th September at a meeting between the architects and DES officials.

Mr. Gertner said the most up to date teaching methods would be possible in the new room and he would be happy to supply cassettes which pupils could listen to for 15 - 20 minutes daily.

4. Streaming in 1st year High School

This year the 1st Form had been streamed immediately for Modern Hebrew on the basis of liaison with the Primary School. Streaming for RE would follow examinations at the end of the first term.

5. JS periods in 4th and 5th years

A working party of Governors and teachers had met for the first time the previous week to discuss the integration of some of the 4th and 5th year assembly periods into the normal timetable.

6. High School Study Seminar

A successful seminar had been held in May, but one projected for 2nd and 3rd year boys for this term had fallen through due to lack of response. Mr. Gertner spoke of the great value of such seminars. It was agreed that a seminar should be arranged for early in the new year.

7. External examination results

Modern Hebrew All three candidates at A level had passed (2B and 1C grades). All 17 candidates at O level from the 4th form, but only 2 out of 8 from the 5th form, had passed. In 1976 it was likely that there would be 20 candidates from the 4th & 10 from the 5th forms, Mrs. Capek taking the 4th form and Mrs. Daphni the 5th.

Scripture Knowledge 18 out of 30 candidates had passed the O level examination. The paper had been very searching. Some pupils who had been expected to pass well had failed, and it was agreed that some enquiries should be made about possible reasons for this. 12 out of 19 candidates for the CSE examination had passed; of the failures 4 had submitted virtually blank scripts. The possibility that SK examinations should be taken mainly in the 4th rather than solely in the 5th year was raised but after discussion it was agreed to keep the status quo.

8. Group visits to Israel

Mr. Beebe reported that discussions about a winter seminar were under way with the Agency. If successfully concluded support from pupils and parents would be sought. Also, Dr. Conway had indicated that 3 or 4 places on the JFS Givat Washington Scheme leaving in March might be made available for 3rd year pupils. It was agreed that whether or not the winter seminar would be held, a meeting of parents of 3rd and 4th year pupils should be called during the present term to discuss future visits.

9. Date of next meeting

The next meeting would be held at 8.00p.m. on Thursday, 22nd January, 1976.

Ian Rabinowitz



KING DAVID FOUNDATION

MODERN HEBREW AND JEWISH STUDIES SUB-COMMITTEE

Minutes of the 6th Meeting held on 22nd January, 1976.

Present:

| <u>Foundation</u>  | <u>FZFET</u>     | <u>Governors</u> | <u>Managers</u> |
|--------------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| Counc. F. Gaier    | Mr. I. Harris    | Dr. O. Dover     | Mr. A. Compton  |
| Mr. T. Globe       | Mr. L. Levy      | Mr. H. Lachs     | Dr. M. Goldman  |
| Mr. R. Polak       | Mrs. F. Woolwich | Dr. E. Rogans    | Mr. B. Goodman  |
| Mr. I. Rabinowitz  |                  |                  |                 |
| Mr. M. Silverbeck  |                  |                  |                 |
| Mrs. R. Silverberg |                  |                  |                 |

and Dr. M. Goldberg, Mr. C. Beebe, Mrs. C. Capek, Rabbi Dr. C. Simons, Mr. J. Wiener, Rev. M. Malits (RAC) and Mr. M. Mayblum (Inspector ZFET). Mr. Lachs who was in the chair welcomed Mr. Polak recently elected to the Foundation Committee and to the Sub-Committee, and Dr. Goldberg who had been co-opted by the Foundation Committee to the Sub-Committee, and Mr. Mayblum.

1. Hebrew Room

A tender had been accepted and work would probably start mid February and be completed mid April.

2. Modern Hebrew and Jewish Study periods in 4th and 5th years

The Governors had unanimously felt unable to approve any scheme suggested by the staff or Rabbi Dr. Simons to integrate some of the assembly periods into the normal timetable.

3. Study Seminar

It was felt that the time would be ripe in a few weeks to raise with pupils the idea of a seminar in the summer term for 2nd and 3rd year boys.

4. External examination results

An examiners report on the 1975 O Level results for Scripture Knowledge (Religious ideas of the Bible according to Rabbinic Thought) had been received, but was not available to the meeting. (The following is a summary of the points made. On the set passages, candidates did not accurately recall the details, did not distinguish between text and interpretation, showed a lack of critical analysis of the texts, and did not discuss divergent interpretations. On religious ideas, candidates made bald statements of their religious convictions and did not argue to support their views or to derive them by close exegesis from the text. Although Hebrew was not required by the syllabus the examiner welcomed its use except when it was used irrelevently or when it was misspelt).

5. Group visit to Israel

Mr. Beebe said replies were due in to a circular for a visit by 3rd and 4th formers. 7-8 positive replies had been received so far, 25 were required. The cost had been given as £150 although the real cost was £220, and a subsidy from the Agency would be required. It was reported that the Youth Centre were just sending out a circular for a visit of their own. It was agreed that if numbers were not forthcoming for the School visit, the school should drop out quickly leaving the Youth Centre a free field.

6. Inspector's Report

Mr. Mayblum said he had spent three days at the Schools, covering all age groups. Generally he had been impressed by the good ruach, Jewish atmosphere in both schools. Primary School Miss Natan was a success. He hoped she would stay for 1976/77 and the two half-time (hebrew) teachers replaced by one fulltime more experienced teacher. He felt that Nach should be left to the High School and that the whole of Chumash should be covered in hebrew in the four Junior years. High School The new teachers, Mrs. Daphni and Mr. Tayar, had established good relations with the pupils. He felt that there should be more integration between the Modern Hebrew and Jewish Studies Departments, by using more texts from the tenach and siddur in MH, and by introducing more hebrew in JS by studying tenach in hebrew. On the JS syllabus, he felt it was too fragmented, resulting, in the 1st form, in one period a week on each of seven subjects, and that a better system would be to devote, over the first two or three years, all periods in a term to a single subject. He hoped the Hebrew Room would allow more interesting material for the non-O level pupils in the 4th and 5th year. He felt the best approach to the unmotivated sixth formers was by discussion groups.

Mr. Lachs thanked Mr. Mayblum for his excellent report which he hoped would be written up. Commenting on the implementation of the proposals Mr. Wiener said the idea of teaching Ivrit B'Ivrit was excellent but depended on the level of the pupils and the abilities of the teachers. Mr. Beebe said that he had not had the opportunity to discuss the proposals with Mrs. Capek and Rabbi Simons but he himself supported them.

7. Report from the Religious Advisory Committee

Rev. Malitz raised two points from the minutes of the RAC, the procedures for deciding the religious affiliation of pupils, and a suggestion of Jewish assemblies for the 4th and 5th years. Mr. Lachs said the Foundation had set up a Sub-Committee which included the Headmasters and Rev. Malitz to discuss the first point. It would meet the following week. The timetable for the 4th and 5th years would not allow time for assemblies for 4th and 5th year pupils.



Rabbi Dr Simons - advance copy

KING DAVID FOUNDATION

MODERN HEBREW AND JEWISH STUDIES SUB COMMITTEE

Minutes of the 7th Meeting held on 4th November, 1976.

Present:

Foundation

Mr. F. Gaier  
Mr. T. Globe  
Mr. R. Polak  
Dr. I. Rabinowitz  
Mr. M. Silverbeck  
Mrs. R. Silverberg  
and Mr. C. Beebe, Mrs. C. Capek and Mr. J. Wiener. Mr. Lachs was in the chair.  
Apologies had been received from Dr. M. Goodman, Dr. E. Rogans and Rabbi  
Dr. C. Simons.

FZFET

Mr. I. Harris  
Mr. L. Levy  
Mrs. F. Woolwich

Governors

Dr. O. Dover  
Mr. H. Lachs

Managers

Mrs. A. Compton  
Dr. M. Goldman  
Mr. B. Goodman

1. AGENDA

The Minutes of the 6th Meeting were agreed and signed. However, it was agreed to leave over matters arising and to concentrate on staffing, on the recent external examination results and on points arising out of the meeting of parents organised by the Foundation on the 12th October to discuss the increased Hebrew and Jewish Studies fees which had been introduced in September.

2. STAFFING

Mr. Wiener reported that Mr. Plotkin, who was working full time in place of Mrs. Kahanov and Mrs. Onne who had both worked 4/7ths, was settling in well. In order to staff the periods not replaced in this re-arrangement, and to comply with a suggestion from Mr. Mayblum that all Junior years not just J1 and J4 should have four streams, a Mrs. Abrams was working two mornings a week and a Miss Gore was taking the Shabbat party. The position of Miss Natan re September 1977 was unknown. It was agreed that Miss Natan should be asked to declare her position by the end of the year.

Mr. Beebe reported that Miss Babad who had replaced Mrs. Daphni was working well. She had a slightly reduced timetable due to her teaching Modern Hebrew but no Jewish Studies. However, she was also involved in a new 5th form programme on the History of Zionism. A replacement for Mr. Tayar would be required in September 1977.

3. EXTERNAL EXAMINATION RESULTS

Modern Hebrew

At O level there had been 29 candidates (mainly from the 4th form). There had been 4 grade A passes, 10 Bs and 7 Cs. Most of the 8 failures had come from the 5th formers who had been too weak to take the examination the previous year. A discussion took place on the relative quality of the teaching in the 4th and 5th years and on the point of anyone taking the examination in the 4th year.

At A level the 4 candidates had obtained 3 grade A and 1 grade C passes.

Religious Ideas of the Bible according to Rabbinic Thought

At O level there were 2 grade A passes, 3 Bs and 5 Cs. The 5 failures gave a total of 15 candidates compared to 30 the previous year.

In the CSE, there were 3 grade 1 passes (equivalent to grade C at O level), 2 grade 2, 8 grade 3, 6 grade 4, 12 grade 5 and 2 failures.

4. DISCUSSION ON MEETING OF PARENTS 12th OCTOBER

The following points arose out of the discussion on the meeting of parents.

- 1) It was agreed that the proper forum for parents to raise grievances was the PTA or the PA. The PTA had a meeting arranged for the 8th November when, no doubt, the debate on quality would continue. The PA had just sent out a newsletter which mentioned that they would be devoting part of their meeting on 10th November to continuing the discussion on quality.
- 2) The PA had written asking for direct representation on the Sub Committee. It was agreed that the PA and the PTA could each have two representatives who should preferably not be members of their executives.
- 3) A strong feeling at the meeting of parents had been the lack of enthusiasm for Jewish Studies in the High School. It was felt that the trouble came after the 2nd (bar-mitzvah) year when parents lost interest. It was agreed that parents had to be involved at this stage and that the Headmaster should call a meeting of parents of 2nd year pupils at the end of the Spring Term. However, it was felt that this would be to no avail without the eradication of the general feeling of boredom which Jewish Studies apparently produced at present. Possible causes and remedies were discussed at length and it was agreed to return to the subject at the next meeting when Rabbi Dr. Simons would be present.



KING DAVID FOUNDATION

MODERN HEBREW AND JEWISH STUDIES SUB COMMITTEE

Minutes of the 8th Meeting held on 7th February, 1977.

Present:

| <u>Foundation</u>  | <u>FZFFT</u>     | <u>Governors</u> | <u>Managers</u> | <u>PA</u>         |
|--------------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| Mr. F. Gaier       | Dr. M. Goodman   | Dr. O. Dover     | Dr. M. Goldman  | Mr. M. Hesselberg |
| Mr. R. Polak       | Mrs. F. Woolwich | Mr. H. Lachs     | Mr. B. Goodman  | Mrs. A. Lev       |
| Dr. I. Rabinowitz  |                  | Dr. E. Rogans    |                 |                   |
| Mr. M. Silverbeck  |                  |                  |                 | <u>PTA</u>        |
| Mrs. R. Silverberg |                  |                  |                 | (To be appointed) |

and Dr. M. Goldberg, Mr. C. Beebe, Mrs. C. Capek, Rabbi Dr. C. Simons and Mr. J. Wiener. Rev. M. Malitz and Rabbi N. Roberg represented the Religious Advisory Committee. Mr. Lachs was in the chair. An apology for absence had been received from Mr. T. Globe (Chairman of the Foundation).

1. WELCOME

A welcome was extended to the recently elected representatives from the Parents Association of the High School, and the Sub-Committee looked forward to welcoming two representatives from the Parents and Teachers Association from the Primary School. A welcome was also extended to Rabbi Roberg on his first attendance as a representative of the Religious Advisory Committee.

2. MINUTES

The Minutes of the 7th Meeting which had been circulated were agreed unchanged.

3. STAFFING

In the High School, a replacement for Mr. Tayar would be needed in September. Mr. Lachs reported on the interview that a number of members of the Sub-Committee had had that evening with a Mr. M. Gillis who had written to Mr. Beebe seeking a post. Mr. Gillis was orthodox, a graduate in law, with a post-graduate Teaching Diploma, and currently unemployed. He would be able to teach Jewish Studies (Chumash and Rashi, Mishna), but his Modern Hebrew would be weak without further study. His specialist secular subject was History and he had a personal interest in Jewish History particularly that in the last 100 years.

A discussion followed. It was reiterated that in principle the Foundation wished to employ home-born teachers in the Jewish Studies Department and in fact had advertised for the same in October 1974. Mr. Gaier pointed out that the market for teachers had changed radically since that time.

It was agreed (a) that the vacancy in September for a (mainly) Jewish Studies teacher in the High School should be advertised in the Jewish Chronicle as soon as possible, with a closing date around the 25th February; (b) that Mr. Gillis should be told that the Foundation was sufficiently interested for him to return to Liverpool on Monday 28th February to meet the Education Officer and Inspector of the Zionist Federation Educational Trust and to spend a few days at the School.

In the Primary School, Miss Natan would definitely not be available in September and an Israeli replacement was required.

4. JEWISH STUDIES

The Sub-Committee turned again to the criticism of aspects of Jewish Studies in the High School. Mr. Lachs said that in his opinion solutions would not come from discussions in the present meeting and he was recommending that a small Committee of Enquiry be set up to examine Modern Hebrew and Jewish Studies in both Schools by considering the points already made, inviting former pupils and parents who have positive comments to make to appear before it, and to draw up a report to the Sub-Committee giving recommendations.

A discussion followed. All speakers supported the idea of a Committee of Enquiry. A number of points on Modern Hebrew and Jewish Studies were also made.

It was agreed that a Committee of Enquiry should be set up and that its members would be Mr. F. Gaier, Mr. R. Polak, Dr. I. Rabinowitz and Mr. M. Silverbeck, and that if possible it should report back to the next meeting to be held on Thursday, 28th April.

5. TEACHERS CONFERENCE

Mr. Lachs reported that on the 27th and 28th February there would be a Conference in Liverpool of teachers in Zionist Federation Schools. It was likely that members of the Sub-Committee would have an opportunity to meet Mrs. Etan and Mr. Mayblum.

6. NEXT MEETING

This was arranged for 8.15p.m. on Thursday 28th April, 1977, in the High School.