

MINUTES FROM THE JPPS-BIALIK ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Held on November 29, 2010 at 7:00pm
Bialik 4th Floor

1. Minutes of the Annual Meeting From September 29, 2010

On a motion Neil Creme, seconded by Ian Greenwald, the minutes from September 29, 2010, were unanimously approved with corrections: 4) Appointment of Auditors – the name of the firm appointed as our auditors of the school should say Nexia Friedman.

2. Address by the President

Arnold Cohen, President, welcomed everyone to the Annual General Meeting and commenced his speech by mentioning that the AGM was special this year, the first recipient will receive the Nachum Wilchesky Memorial Educational award.

He acknowledged the past year's work on streamlining our governance structure. One of the outcomes of this work was the reduction to 18 positions on the Board, a far cry from more than 50 on two Boards. None of this would have happened without Len Lewkowict '81 and Jamie Malus, both graduates from the Class of '81 and parents in the school, who dedicated themselves to the task at hand, which involved more meetings than you can imagine with each of the stakeholder groups ensuring that all voices were heard loud and clear.

As you will also read in the annual report, 2009-2010 was the year JPPS-Bialik was accredited by SEAL (Standards for Education And Learning, formerly the Canadian Education Standards Institute, or CESI). It is like the ISO 9001 of the educational world, validating what we knew all along - that when you choose a Jewish school such as JPPS-Bialik, you are doing so because it measures up to any other private school in every respect, academically, socially, facilities, etc., with the added benefit of being Jewish-defining.

We are indebted to the Partnership for Excellence in Jewish Education or PEJE, Federation CJA's GEN J program, the Bronfman

Jewish Educational Centre, and the SEAL, each of whom has supported us either financially or in terms of expertise, or both, in bringing about this new model of governance as well as our accreditation.

It is always gratifying to receive this well deserved recognition of our efforts, as was also the case this past fall when Professor Mark Talesnick from Israel's Technion University repeatedly remarked on how impressed he was with Bialik students and specifically their demonstration of scientific knowledge and curiosity. And, this he noted after visiting many high schools in Montreal. While we can and should always be confident, we gain much by benchmarking ourselves alongside all of our peers, and not just those in the Jewish community.

We are also a school committed to not just ensuring that all Jewish children can attend a Jewish school regardless of their family's financial means, but also that a Jewish school is an attractive, viable option, where opportunities abound for students to ultimately succeed as leaders and valuable contributors to society.

JPPS remains all Bialik could hope for in a feeder school – whether it is the members of the team who last year won the Canadian National Mathematics League Competition (for the second year in a row) or the JPPS Pugs basketball players, they all have already enriched Bialik. This fall, they joined a near record number again of incoming students, 138 to be exact, up from 120 the year before. They have already enjoyed a newly built – thanks to donor-parents and Secondary V students' hard labour – *succa* for use year-in-year out. Some of the Secondary Is are already singing their hearts out in Yiddish in Bialik's Choir (probably a continuation from JPPS) or have signed up to participate in Bialik's Glee Club, making up the majority of the students. You may have heard them on the CBC radio recently. Others have already auditioned for a *Bands-on-the-Run* student-initiated fundraising event to take place in January, in support of a new music studio initiative. They even wasted no time to get involved in Bialik Theatre's performance of *Grimm*. If you haven't got your tickets yet, it is not too late – December 1st and 2nd this week.

While it will be a few years before they participate in Bialik's renowned Stock Exchange or in the Weizmann Institute's Physics Tournament that takes the winners to Israel, the opportunities abound. Their timing couldn't be better as Bialik has expanded,

facilities have been upgraded with the addition last year of a new Fitness Studio, thanks to Mrs. Rhoda Rappaport, and programs including Judaic Studies are being revamped.

In the printed annual report, you will also read about two Bialik students being among the top ten in the International Bible Contest, following in the footsteps of Jeremy Little's remarkable placing the year before – 5th in the world. This makes me intensely proud because we are a community school, with a pluralistic mission, committed to academic excellence, not just in general studies but in Judaic Studies as well. I have to also share with you that last week, I had the privilege of participating in a mezuzah installation at Bialik. Thanks to an initiative of JPPS-Bialik Board member and parent, Etan Jaggerman, a mezuzah in honour of the boys Class of 2014's Bar Mitzvah, Rabbi Mark Fishman was affixed to a classroom door.

All of this does not happen by accident. On behalf of the Board, I must acknowledge the outstanding professional leadership of Laurence Fhima, Head of School, under whose direction Randy Zucker, Director of the CPE (Centre de petite enfance), Andrew Trager, Principal of Bialik and his administrative team, and Adina Matas, Principal of JPPS and Debra Michael, Vice Principal worked assiduously.

From JPPS' Junior Pre-K (now filled to capacity) and its growing Section Française, to Bialik's expanded facilities, JPPS-Bialik continued to thrive under their watchful eyes because of the programs and curriculum that they, together with the faculty, implemented, and the caring atmosphere they all inspire on a daily basis. Their continuing commitment to developing the whole child in accordance with the individual needs of each makes JPPS-Bialik the envy of not just the Jewish day school system, but the entire Montreal private school system.

We are also grateful to Dr. Shimshon Hamerman, Head of School and Francine Wiseman, last year's President of the Board, of Solomon Schechter Academy, for their partnership and for their formative contribution to their alumni who continue with us to become our shared success stories.

Allow me, on your behalf, to thank our JPPS Home and School Association under the tireless leadership of co-Presidents Mimi Bercovitch-Mendelson '82 and my wife, Marnie Mitnick Cohen JPPS

'78, and Bialik Home and School Association President Maura Hoppenheim Wacjman '82, the many parent volunteers and, on a personal note, the JPPS-Bialik Executive, under the chairmanship of Amy Katz, and Board with whom it remains a privilege to serve on your behalf. I want to pay special tribute to Michael Eliesen, President of Bialik, who steadfastly presided over the Bialik Board, seeing to its dissolution in June while ensuring the members' concerns and voices were heard. Not the least of his challenges was his managing of the needs of our other feeder school, Solomon Schechter Academy, which he will continue to do on the newly constituted JPPS-Bialik Board with the same level of commitment and passion to ensuring the best for our students.

A discussion took place regarding the rumours that JPPS is merging with UTT/Herzaliah. The President said in the past few years we have been involved with GEN J and Federation CJA are prepared to turn over millions of dollars to have schools come together. There are some projects in the works and nothing will move forward before we know the money is there to back it up. If there is any coming together it would be a true community school.

The President said we will look at the different ways to keep parents informed. If there is a project or anything to announce we will need 2/3 of the Board approval and consultation and a vote at the general meeting.

A discussion took place regarding the teacher substitution at Bialik. The President said we are committed to fixing the problems. It is a process that requires parents support as well.

Laurence Fhima is working with the union negotiations and with the collective agreement.

3. Approval of the Financial Statements, June 30th, 2010

Neil Creme thanked the Finance committee; Ian Greenwald and Ethan Jagermann. He also thanked Betina Shadowitz and her team for all the hard work. He followed with a PowerPoint presentation and explained the breakdown of the budget; the income, the allocation of funds as well as the expenses.

On a motion by Neil Creme, seconded by Michael Savelson the June 30, 2010 financial statements as presented were unanimously approved.

4. Appointment of Auditors

On a motion Michael Savelson seconded by Ian Greenwald the appointment of Nexia Friedman as auditors for the school year end of June 30, 2011 were unanimously approved.

5. Head of School, Principals, Parent Council and Board Committee reports

Included in the Annual Report.

6. Consideration and Adoption of any Amendments to the By-Laws

None

7. Ratification of all Acts of the Board During 2009-2010

On a motion by Arnold Cohen, seconded by Josh Newpol the ratification of all acts of the board for 2009-2010 was unanimously approved.

8. Good & Welfare

At last year's Annual General Meeting, following the passing of our beloved Nachum Wilchesky, a Memorial Educational Leadership Award was inaugurated in his name. Arnold Cohen said that he is indebted to Trustee and Board member Shelley Cohen, from the JPPS Class of '69, and former President herself, for having agreed to chair a committee to select the recipient for this very prestigious award. As per the agreement with the family the committee included non-JPPS-Bialik members in addition to those from within. We are very grateful for their hard work, and I wholeheartedly endorse their choice of recipient, as being particularly appropriate, this the first year of the award. Please stay afterwards for a wine and cheese reception to truly celebrate this momentous occasion, and during which a number of agreements will be signed, agreements that represent important legacies to the long term viability of the school, just as critical as us ensuring that the legacy

of Nachum Wilchesky lives on in the awarding of the Nachum Wilchesky Memorial Educational Leadership Award.

Shelley Cohen was honoured to present the award of the Nachum Wichesky Memorial Educational award to the first recipient, Sheila Witt` 69.

Sheila Witt thanked Laurence Fhima, Arnold Cohen and all board members, Adina Matas and Ronnie Wilchesky. She felt honoured to be receiving such a prestigious award; she was speechless when Shelley Cohen called to inform her.

Sheila thanked her family and the JPPS family for having made this most memorable and for being the first recipient of this special honor.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20pm