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Senior Policy Advisors meeting. 15 June 1989. Minutes,
June 1989.

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MINUTES: Senior Policy Advisors, Commission on Jewish Education
in North America

DATE: June 15, 1989

DATE MINUTES ISSUED: July 7, 1989

PRESENT: Morton L. Mandel, Chairman, David S. Ariel, Seymour Fox,
Annette Hochstein, Stephen H. Hoffman, Arthur J.
Naparstek, Joseph Reimer, Carmi Schwartz, Herman D.
Stein, Jonathan Woocher, Henry L. Zucker, Virginia F.
Levi (Sec'y)

COPY TO: Arthur Rotman

I. Impressions of the June 14 Commission Meeting

Senior Policy Advisors were asked for their quick reactions to the Commission meeting of the previous day. There was general agreement that the meeting went very well and that the desired outcomes which were listed by Senior Policy Advisors on June 13 had been achieved. These include:

- Read*
- A. Our approach to personnel and community should be better understood and supported, leading to a fuller development of the issues.
 - B. Commissioners should feel more comfortable with the idea that by dealing with personnel and community we will impact their programmatic interests.
 - C. We should raise the level of commissioner excitement toward prospects for Commission outcomes (stronger sense of ownership and involvement in decisions).
 - D. Commissioners should feel we are reflecting their views in the background materials.
 - E. We should establish greater clarity on the role of funders.
 - F. We should determine how commissioners feel about the concept of Community Action Site ("CAS").
 - G. We should get reactions to the concept of change through doing, reviewing, revising, redoing.
 - H. There should be a wide expression of ideas without a feeling that decisions must be reached at the meeting.
 - I. There should be a critique of the papers which had been prepared and an understanding that they will be rewritten to reflect the ideas expressed at the meeting.

Assignment

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It was noted that a number of requests were made for specific action. Senior Policy Advisors were requested to list any such requests which they heard in their groups and submit them to VFL for follow up. In addition, AH will see that assignments are pulled out of the tapes and will get them to VFL for circulation among Senior Policy Advisors.

It was noted that expectations have indeed been raised, leaving an enormous challenge for the final report.

It was noted further that, while the Community Action Site is seen as a logical way to demonstrate a means to change, we must continue to show how the Community Action Site fits into a broader vision. We need a sense of strategic direction rather than a series of isolated experiments. An outline for the final report will help to put the Community Action Site in context.

Questions were raised about the future role of the Commission and about how to involve those commissioners who were not present. It was also noted that we should now pull together data which we have and determine what we still need to know.

Assignment

In identifying potential problems, it was suggested that we seek a way to encourage even better attendance at Commission meetings and that we identify those commissioners who wish to be more deeply involved and ask that they be involved in preparing reports in their areas of expertise. Commissioners so identified included Evans, Hiller, and Lipset.

II. Next Steps

It was noted that we have endorsement for dealing with Personnel and Community, for the Community Action Site concept, and for the continuing mechanism. We now need a means of determining how to move toward implementation. One possible approach is to hold a seminar to discuss these issues. Another is that we should now commission papers on these key issues.

We were reminded that commissioners seem to have agreed to the Community Action Site as one means of learning through action and that we, therefore, should not expect to have determined all the answers prior to the completion of a final report. The report must, therefore, be a combination of statements of what we know and a list of questions which we hope to answer. The report should include concrete recommendations, an agenda for Community Action Sites, and a description of a means for implementation--a catalyst for change.

It was noted that we must now design the mechanism for implementation, develop a research plan which will result in Community Action Sites and a final report as road map, and establish a plan of action. This is one possible work plan toward preparation for the fourth meeting of the Commission. In addition, we must begin to develop ways to involve

federations and must consider the role of the mechanism in strengthening the national bodies.

It was noted that there is an expectation that the Commission will complete its work by June, 1990. In order to accomplish that goal, it is necessary to begin now to prepare the components of a final report: state of the field, vision, statements on personnel and community, and an implementation plan. Another formulation of the final report proposes that it include a statement on where Jewish education is today, a report on action we propose at present, and a statement on what we still need to know about Jewish education and how we intend to arrive at answers--learning by doing.

It was suggested that by the next meeting of the Commission, we should be prepared to present a set of tentative recommendations to which commissioners would be asked to react. In addition to the components of the final report already proposed, we might add a section on historical context.

We received a mandate from the Commission to establish Community Action Sites, to determine a mechanism for implementing this approach, to gather data on the current state of Jewish education, and to begin work on a final report. By the next meeting of the Commission we should be prepared to spell out a next step--the IJE--so that if commissioners agree to the concept, we might begin to put it in place following that meeting. We should also be prepared to present an outline for a final report and a research status report. One suggestion was that we concentrate now on working out the details of the IJE so that the proposal can be submitted for critical review at the next meeting of the Commission while we begin work on the papers for the final report.

In preparation for commissioning papers for the final report, it was suggested that Senior Policy Advisors review the Reimer proposal distributed (but not discussed) at this meeting. In addition, Reimer will consult with various researchers to begin to explore available data, but will make no commitments regarding the commissioning of papers.

Next Commission Meeting

Fox will recommend a date for the fourth Commission meeting by early July (October or November).

At the next Commission meeting, it is proposed that we anticipate some Commission outcomes: an outline of the final report, Community Action Sites, a continuing mechanism, and research. We will be prepared to present statements on vision, best practices, personnel and community (and possibly history as context). We may wish to divide the Commission into small groups to focus on these issues. A presentation on Community Action Sites will describe their operation and the process of planning and evaluation through an implementation mechanism.

Assignment
Assignment

Assignment

III. Other Commission Issues

A. The Denominations

Assignment

We have not yet resolved how to interact with the bodies which represent the denominations. It was agreed that MLM with Woocher and/or Rotman will meet with Lamm, Schorsch, and Gottschalk for their input on this issue.

B. Funders

Assignment

It has been proposed that the commissioners who represent foundations be convened. (Prior discussions suggested follow-up with federations, as well.) This was discussed and it was agreed that, while it may seem premature to some, it is a way of keeping this group involved and should be pursued.

C. Key Commissioners

Assignment

It was suggested that, while we wish to involve all commissioners in the process, there are some whose involvement must be strongly encouraged. A group of commissioners was identified as critical to the process. A list of this group will be kept on file by VFL.

D. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Senior Policy Advisors was tentatively scheduled to take place on Thursday, August 10, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the offices of JWB in New York, subject to the availability of participants.

INTER-OFFICE
RESPONSE

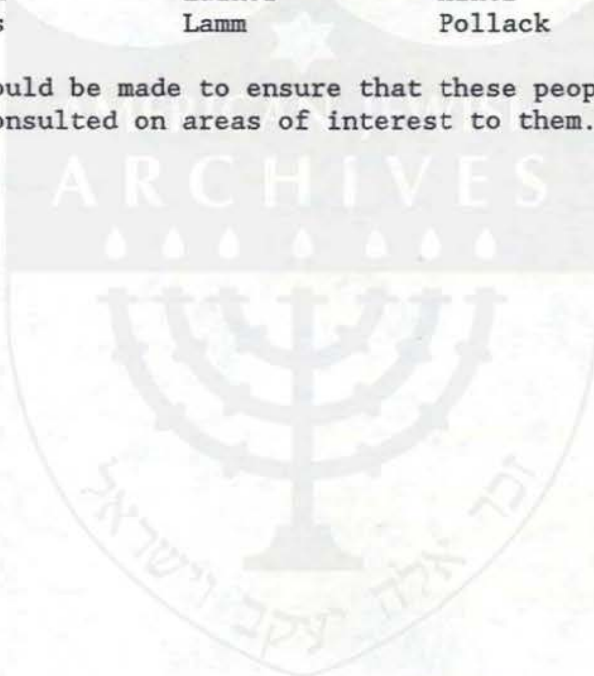
TO: Commission File FROM: Virginia F. Levi DATE: 6/22/89
NAME NAME
DEPARTMENT/PLANT LOCATION DEPARTMENT/PLANT LOCATION

SUBJECT: KEY COMMISSIONERS

At the Senior Policy Advisors meeting of June 15, 1989, the following commissioners were identified as "key" to Commission progress:

Ackerman	Evans	Hiller	Lipset	Ratner
Arnow	Fisher	Hirschhorn	Maryles	Ritz
Berman	Gottschalk	Koschitzky	Melton	Schorsch
Bronfman	Green	Lainer	Mintz	Twersky
Crown	Gruss	Lamm	Pollack	Yanowitz

Special efforts should be made to ensure that these people attend Commission meetings and are consulted on areas of interest to them.



TO: HLZ FROM: VFL DATE: 6/29/89
NAME NAME
DEPARTMENT/PLANT LOCATION DEPARTMENT/PLANT LOCATION
REPLYING TO
YOUR MEMO OF: _____

SUBJECT: June 28 Telephone Conversation with Fox and Hochstein

Following is a summary of points made in a phone conversation of Zucker and Levi with Fox and Hochstein on 6/28/89.

1. HLZ indicated that he will take responsibility for coordinating the work of staff and other Commission-related matters formerly handled by AJN. Reimer is to be responsible to SF for content.
2. SF and AH reported that they are presently working on preparation of the following documents:
 - a. Outline of their conception of the final report, including data collection and analysis needs and recommendations for how to bring researchers on board - to be completed within 10 days.
 - b. Recommendations for the content of the next three Commission meetings - to be done in 10 - 14 days.
 - c. Proposal for the mechanism for implementation - Community Action Sites and Initiatives for Jewish Education - timetable to be clarified on 7/3.
3. Discussion of future meeting dates is postponed until 7/3, when SF will call with a progress report and recommendation regarding dates for the fourth Commission meeting. Possibilities include 10/4, 10/24, 25 or 26, and 11/13 (a Monday, requiring a Sunday pre-plan meeting and a Tues. AM follow-up before the GA). Also on 7/3 we will discuss possible rescheduling of the 8/10 policy advisor meeting.
4. SF and AH will be meeting with Federation planners where they will report our goals and the status of our efforts and potential for funding concrete action outcomes.
5. SF and AH identified the following assignments which require follow-up:
 - a. meeting of funders (HLZ reported that he is working on a proposal for such a meeting.)
 - b. preparations for Aug. CAJE meeting
 - c. PR
 - d. further action with the denominations
 - e. continuing meetings with commissioners