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UNITED SALISBURY JEWISH DAY SCHOOL AUTHORITY

Syllabus Sub-Committee

Summary of Discussion

The Sub-committee met at the residence of Mr. B.M.Kass, on Sunday 27th October, 1963, at 10.30 a.m.

PRESENT: Mr. H. H. Gollop (in the Chair), Mr. I.N.Alhadeff, Mr. B.M.Kass, Dr. D. Krikler and Mr. B.Salkind. Present by invitation: Mesdames A. Hatchuel, B. Jones and V. Todes.

The Sub-committee was presented with a typed programme compiled by Mrs. Hatchuel setting out what she considered to be an adequate syllabus for the Hebrew Department of the School. It was based mainly on South African practice.

Mrs. Hatchuel told the Sub-committee that she did not at present have sufficient time in which to conduct the Hebrew syllabus and that as a result she was falling behind with her work.

After considerable discussion of the subjects and syllabus to be taught, the Sub-committee decided that every effort should be made to teach the syllabus as drawn up by Mrs. Hatchuel. On the problem of whether to try and cut the syllabus to fit the time available, the Sub-committee tended to the view that it was not desirable to sacrifice any part of the syllabus, but rather it would be preferable to add to the overall teaching time available, thus enabling the Hebrew subjects to be adequately covered.

The discussion then revolved around the short-term and long-term solutions to the problem.

In the short term (i.e., until the School moved to its permanent premises) it was felt that by starting the School day earlier and by subtracting from the break and P.T. periods it would be possible to provide the additional time necessary for Hebrew subjects.

The long-term solution was thought to lie in the provision of a longer School day, i.e., from 7.40 or 7.50 a.m. to, say, 4.30 p.m., making ample provision for all Hebrew and secular subjects, games, rest periods, lunch at School, and supervised prep. periods. There was a difference of opinion as to whether it would be advisable to introduce all-day School at Standard 1 or Standard 2 level.

Turning to the non-Hebrew syllabus, Mrs. Todes said that the time available was adequate. Government school inspectors had indicated that a much higher standard obtained at Sharon than at Government schools, and the question had been raised that the children at Sharon were being pushed too hard.

The Chairman then posed the question with which the Sub-committee is vitally concerned: "What product are we aiming at?"

Explanation of this refers to Christianisation of School
Dr. Krikler believed that it was desirable to aim at a standard which would enable pupils to cope with the entrance examination set by English public schools.

This raised the point whether extra time would have to be made available to enable the standard of "B" stream pupils to be sufficiently increased. It was felt that this could comfortably be arranged within the all-day system envisaged.

What about the poor children who attend HS down
Mrs. Jones, however, drew attention to the climatic drawback affecting tuition during the middle period of the day, and also expressed doubts concerning the ability of Standard 1 children to cope with the longer day.

Dr. Krikler undertook to obtain medical opinion on these points, and also to make inquiries regarding the syllabus at St. Johns School, and to seek information on the requirements and standard necessary for admission to English public schools.

The question whether King David School used similar teaching methods for Hebrew and secular subjects, and whether they had evolved special