



**Talmud Torah of Minneapolis - Town Hall Presentation**  
**NOVEMBER 14 & 17, 2010**  
**SUMMARY OF ACTIONS**

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**BUILDING FOR TODAY: Talmud Torah Internal Actions**

*Accomplished or In-Process since August 2010*

**Communications:**

- ✓ Redesigned the look of communications, "Mah Chadash" and "This Week from Talmud Torah" and color coded the different school departments
- ✓ Use a professional email tool (*Constant Contact*)
- ✓ Electronic School Directory
- ✓ Added the secular grade level to all communications
- ✓ Teacher communications sent in teacher's name with responses directly to the teacher

**Website - new posting of:**

- ✓ Curriculum scope and sequence for all the grades
- ✓ Behavior Policy
- ✓ Attendance Policy
- ✓ High School manual
- ✓ Faculty contact information

**Conferences:**

- ✓ Easier to register with more options
- ✓ More specific data and reports of student work from teachers

**Curriculum:**

- ✓ Creating measurable outcomes for each grade level
- ✓ Baseline testing for students progress in all Hebrew classes and Gimel Torah studies
- ✓ We are rewriting report cards to better report goals and progress
- ✓ Redesign of special programs so there is only one per year per grade level
- ✓ High School students to be Teaching Assistants in Elementary department
- ✓ Elementary and Middle School students address teachers as either "Mr/Mrs/HaMorah"

**Administration:**

- ✓ Re-evaluate administration roles and responsibilities
- ✓ Title change to Head of School to reflect the professional educational organization and the reality of Susie's role within the school in addition to her role as the director of a community agency
- ✓ Restructured functions within the office to better work with website and communications

Affiliated with the  
Association for Jewish Education  
Service of North America

A beneficiary of the  
Minneapolis Jewish Federation

"Talmud Torah's mission is to fulfill the mitzvah of teaching Torah and our people's heritage to our students and families so that they and generations to come will lead committed Jewish lives."

שמחת תורה יום יום  
CELEBRATE TORAH EVERY DAY

- ✓ Targeted teacher professional development in technology, classroom management and classroom innovations

Other:

- ✓ The start time of our first session at 4:10pm with staff at front door from 3:50 until 4:20p
- ✓ Parent support in facilitating carpooling options

### **BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE: Talmud Torah Internal Actions**

*To be addressed through collaborative Talmud Torah and Synagogue Planning Committees during the next one to two years.*

*We envision setting up at least two different committees: One committee to deal with the **education issues** and another one dealing with **governance and financial issues.***

- ✓ Investigating at a K-2 model where synagogue and Talmud Torah programs collaborate and build upon one another instead of compete with one another. **This will entail the creation of a K-12 unified educational model for Conservative Jewish education that will provide a clear road map for parents.** This will be done by :
  - Creating a defined CURRICULUM for all grades by content area with clearly defined outcomes and measurable goals that meets learner needs and synagogue objectives.
  - Investigating HEBREW goals by school department – thinking about student development, skill building needs and challenging gifted learners.
  - Creating a 5<sup>th</sup> Grade/Gimel model that preserves the integrity of expectations for student literacy and knowledge while preserving family time.
- ✓ Investigating a Confirmation/10<sup>th</sup> grade model where students participate in the uniqueness of their own synagogue community while having opportunities to integrate as a whole 10<sup>th</sup> grade community.
- ✓ **Securing Talmud Torah's financial stability for the future**, despite recent economic downturns and significant decreases in Federation allocations, through creative solutions, including your innovative suggestions.

**The items we were unable to address:**

- ✓ Blanket permission slip for the entire year due to liability and communication purposes.