



September 2018

Dear Newton Community,

For the past seven years, the Newton Public Schools have been the target of outside groups claiming anti-Israel bias in our history curriculum. These baseless claims, often reliant upon materials and documents taken out of context, are misleading and only serve to denigrate the hard work and professionalism of our skilled and dedicated faculty.

In recent months, the attacks have grown increasingly and unjustly personal. Our history teachers have been singled out, harassed and subjected to harsh and unfair criticism in the media and online. As a result, there is growing concern among our faculty about teaching controversial topics. Should these attacks continue, we worry it will jeopardize our ability to expose students to diverse opinions and to teach them about controversial issues that require open minds and critical thought.

We stand behind our faculty members, who are guided by the mission and values of the Newton Public Schools and their professional judgment. Whether it is the history of the Middle East or contemporary American politics, they are committed to engaging students around complex and challenging issues in a responsible, intellectual and balanced way.

In every class, our teachers work to ensure that students learn to separate fact from opinion, discern between different points of view, challenge their own thinking and that of their peers, and develop evidence-based opinions through study and the testing of ideas. They also provide space for students to actively listen, particularly to those voices in the minority - whether it be political, racial, ethnic, religious, or gender.

As always, we encourage our families to bring any questions about curriculum to their child's teacher or department head. Information and teaching materials are always available to families and our administrators and faculty are happy to discuss them. For more information on teaching controversial topics in the Newton Public Schools, please visit our Frequently Asked Questions on our website.

Sincerely,
David Fleishman

The City of Newton Law Department filed a motion on Friday, April 26, 2019, to dismiss in its entirety a lawsuit it argues lacks merit procedurally and in substance, and attempts to censor certain materials used by Newton's educators.

The lawsuit, filed in March 2019 by six Newton residents, claims without support that anti-Semitic and anti-Israel curriculum is being used in the Newton Public Schools. We are particularly disturbed by the targeting of individual teachers.

We celebrate diversity in Newton and reaffirm our uncompromising support for our teachers. The Newton Public Schools' faculty are dedicated professionals who work to combat all forms of bias and are committed to engaging students around complex and challenging issues in a responsible, intellectual and balanced way. Critical thinking is a core value of our school system and is incorporated in the class activities led by our educators every day.

As a school system, we have a responsibility to educate our students so that they become productive, engaged and compassionate citizens ready to address the challenges of our increasingly complex and diverse world.

Newton School Committee
Ruthanne Fuller, Mayor, City of Newton
David Fleishman, Superintendent of Schools



May 13, 2019

"The Middle East Day at Newton North was very educational, informative, and accepting. Students had an open platform to speak freely and comfortably." Yael Dekel, NNHS Israeli-American student. participated in the student panel.

Dear Community,

I am writing to update you on *Understanding and Appreciating the Middle East Day* which took place at Newton North High School on Thursday, May 9. This is the third year of this event.

For the past seven months, the IAC has been working collaboratively with NPS to ensure that Israeli American students feel safe and welcome at both high schools. We have hosted meetings with principals and other administrators and have also met with the senior administration and School Committee. Our dialogue is open and frank.

As you know, last year's Middle East Day was viewed by some as unbalanced. As a result of our positive relationship with NPS, Newton North Principal Henry Turner invited me to attend two sessions that were of particular interest to me and to our community during this year's event. It was clear to me that the students are highly engaged in learning about the Middle East and are eager to learn more about this important part of the world.

I am grateful that this year's program was both balanced and comprehensive while reinforcing the skills of critical thinking, asking questions and listening with an open mind. The two sessions I attended were:

- 1) Block B- The Student Panel: This panel featured Newton North students who identify as being from the Middle East (Israel, Lebanon, Armenia, Iran and Egypt). Students shared how their Middle Eastern background shapes their personal experiences in the United States, the inter-generational issues they face, and their lives as immigrants.
- 2) Block C- Media Coverage of the Middle East: Stefano Kotsonis, producer of WBUR's OnPoint and previously CNN's Amman (Jordan) bureau chief and correspondent. He spoke about his experience as a field correspondent in the Middle East, giving the students tools to critically consume news.

I would like to thank Dr. Turner for opening the doors of NNHS and allowing me to witness a day of wonderful educational work. The day was both moving and instructive; students learned how complex, layered and wonderful the Middle East really is. Kudos to the student organizing committee and the supporting faculty!

With the hope that this collaboration will continue to flourish,

Lital Carmel
Regional Director
IAC Boston

Superintendent Update

School Visits included Bowen, Peirce, Newton North, Burr and Angier.

METCO Director Search

On Monday, we will see three semi-finalists for the METCO director position. We are cautiously optimistic and even hopeful that a candidate will emerge from this strong semi-finalist pool. I will be joined in the interviews by METCO parents, METCO counselors, Toby, Mary, and the Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion at METCO, Inc.

Leadership Transition Planning

With Julie Kirrane's departure, I will be working closely with Liam in the current days to examine the structure of the Business, Finance and Planning Department. Julie's job is diverse and vast, and some of the job responsibilities are uniquely suited to her skill set in planning and finance. We will be looking at the workflow of the department, as well as how we communicate information to the School Committee in a manner that continues to be thorough, while at the same time, efficient.

The Assistant Superintendent for Student Services

The assistant superintendent for student services position has been posted, and our fingers are crossed. Given what I know about the applicant pool, the search could take a good while. As a result, I am spending a significant amount of time thinking about how the Student Services Department can continue to make very good progress with the excellent leadership team we still have in place. I expect to have an interim leadership structure in place by early June.

Newton North Middle East Day

Last week, I had the privilege of attending Middle East Day at Newton North. It was thoughtfully planned by students and faculty and the learning was powerful. Henry invited Lital Carmel from the Israeli-American Council (IAC) to be his guest at the event. Attached is the letter that Lital sent to her community. I am happy to let you know that we also received positive reports on the day from the ADL and the Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC).

Human Rights Commission Meeting

Last week, Joel Stembidge and I attended the monthly meeting of the Human Rights Commission (HRC). There are student members of the HRC, who often raise questions and issues related to their perceptions of their high school experience. As you can imagine, without NPS representation at the meeting, it is a challenge for the

May 17, 2019

HRC to have discussions about what takes place in our schools. Joel and I were able to clarify processes and procedures when there are incidents, as well as discuss existing efforts to ensure that our schools are inclusive and welcoming for all. As we look to next year, I will need to make sure that NPS staff members are represented when school issues arise.

Brandeis Education Program Graduation Ceremony

This afternoon, I am the keynote speaker at the Brandeis Education Program graduation ceremony which includes undergraduates who major or minor in Education Studies. The graduates include both teacher education candidates, and candidates interested in education policy and human development.

From: Alan Ripp Wednesday, May 22, 2019 12:33:44 PM
Subject: Re: Supporting our Teachers
To: David Fleishman

Thank you for this.
Alan

David Fleishman writes:
Dear Colleagues:

I wanted to send a short note to recognize a challenging event that took place at Newton South yesterday. A Rabbi and a group of students from his school in New York held a rally outside the school related to the history curriculum. Thanks to Newton Police and South staff, the rally was conducted without incident. Unfortunately, this event, and the ongoing criticism of our curriculum and teachers, is creating a tense and unhealthy environment, as well as taking time and energy away from the classroom.

When there is real anti-Semitism happening around the globe and in our country and region, it's really discouraging that this group chose South for their rally. We know our curriculum is not anti-Semitic and we know our teachers are not biased in their instruction. Our skilled educators work every day to bring history to life in ways that engage students and support the development of critical thinking skills so important to life beyond high school.

I know how discouraging it is that this unfounded criticism continues. But, I also know that we have the support of families here in Newton. When Newton South Principal Joel Stembidge notified South families of the event, many emailed him to say that the South teachers had their support. Our community has always been wonderfully supportive of your commitment to our students and it's clear that you continue to have their full trust and confidence.

I know firsthand it is a very stressful time for some of our faculty right now and they deserve our full support. I hope you have a good finish to the year.

Best,
David

Alan Ripp, Coordinator of History and Social Sciences K-8
Newton Public Schools
100 Walnut Street Newton, MA 02460
617-559-6155
www.newton.k12.ma.us/history

When responding, please be aware that the Massachusetts Secretary of State has

determined that most email is public record and therefore cannot be kept confidential.

From: David Fleishman Wednesday, May 22, 2019 6:27:03 PM
Subject: Fwd: Supporting our Teachers
To: Anping Shen Bridget Ray-Canada
bridget4ward1sc@gmail.com,internet dfgomberg@gmail.com,internet
Diana Fisher Gomberg Kathleen Shields
kburdettshields@yahoo.com,internet Margaret Albright
Matt Miller (Sch Comm) mlalbright@comcast.net,internet
mmiller942@Gmail.com,internet rfuller@newtonma.gov,internet
Ruth Goldman ruthgoldperson@gmail.com,internet
shen07@gmail.com,internet steve@stevesiegel.org,internet
Steven Siegel

Dear SC members,

Below is an email I sent to the faculty and staff today.

DF

----- Original Message -----

Dear Colleagues:

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Best,

David

From: David Fleishman
Toby Romer
Wednesday, May 22, 2019 6:00:04 PM
Subject: Oak Hill letter
To: Anping Shen Bridget Ray-Canada
bridget4ward1sc@gmail.com,internet dfgomberg@gmail.com,internet
Diana Fisher Gomberg Kathleen Shields
kburdettshields@yahoo.com,internet Margaret Albright
Matt Miller (Sch Comm) mlalbright@comcast.net,internet
mmiller942@gmail.com,internet rfuller@newtonma.gov,internet
Ruth Goldman ruthgoldperson@gmail.com,internet
shen07@gmail.com,internet steve@stevesiegel.org,internet
Steven Siegel

Dear SC members,

Below is a letter that was sent to the Oak Hill community following a very troubling incident.

David

----- Original Message -----

FYI

May 22, 2019

Good afternoon Oak Hill families,

I have some upsetting news to share. Yesterday and this morning, we conducted an investigation that involved a video with students saying a racial slur, which was shared with and viewed by a small group of students. The video with a hateful word being repeated has caused deep hurt and pain among students, faculty and community members of all races. We are closely following our district protocols for responding to acts of bias and discrimination, including notifying the Newton Police.

At Oak Hill, we take incidents such as these very seriously. It is a violation of our core values and will not be tolerated. We reject racism, anti-semitism, gender intolerance or any other form of discrimination. We work continuously to build an inclusive and caring community in which all students and adults feel safe and respected.

In addition to taking the appropriate disciplinary and educational steps with the students involved, we also will lead a workshop with all 8th grade students to emphasize there is no place for hate speech, racial jokes or racial slurs in our

school community.

Faculty and staff are aware of this incident. If your child expresses any concern to you, please let them know they can contact a teacher, guidance counselor, or other trusted adult in the building for support.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to me. Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

John Harutunian

From: David Fleishman
Carol Halberstadt <carol@migrations.com>,internet
3/12/2019 4:55:38 PM
Subject: Fwd: Re: New England Insider Newsletter--ADL: HOLOCAUST AND GENOCIDE
EDUCATION IN MA SCHOOLS
To: carol@migrations.com,internet View in Browser

Dear Carol,

We certainly think the teaching of the Holocaust is important and we have had teachers update the unit on the Holocaust in the last year. Our educators follow the state standards when developing their lessons and curriculum and the standards are typically general. I think that might be the source of your frustration. The standards have recently been updated and our teachers will in turn update their curriculum. Please note that the 10th grade course does not do an extensive unit on the Middle East as there are a number of other regions to cover.

I know that Carolyn has forwarded you an overview of what our teachers cover. I expect that we will have an updated document in the coming months.

Best,

David

----- Original Message -----

----- Original Message -----

Hi Noah,

Many thanks for your quick reply—I look forward to hearing from Superintendent Fleishman.

all the best,

Carol

On Feb 23, 2019, at 2:14 PM, Noah Rivkin <[mailto:nrivkin@newtonma.gov]
[nrivkin@newtonma.gov] wrote:

Hi Carol,

Thank you for your email.

I am forwarding this along to our Superintendent David Fleishman.

Very respectfully,

Noah Rivkin

From: Carol Halberstadt <[mailto:carol@migrations.com]carol@migrations.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 23, 2019 11:37 AM
To: Ruthanne Fuller <[mailto:rfuller@newtonma.gov]rfuller@newtonma.gov>
Cc: Carol Halberstadt <[mailto:carol@migrations.com]carol@migrations.com>
Subject: Fwd: New England Insider Newsletter--ADL: HOLOCAUST AND GENOCIDE EDUCATION
IN MA SCHOOLS
Importance: High

Dear Ruthanne,

Are the city of Newton and the Newton schools supporting this statewide bill? And is the Facing History program still being presented in the Newton schools?

As antisemitism continues to rise, and ethnic, skin-color-based, and sexual-orientation hate continues to corrode our democracy, fueled by a nationwide resurgence of "white supremacist" neo-Nazi bigotry and hatred, it is crucial that education begin in kindergarten and continue through high school.

I've received nothing but generalizations and links to nice-sounding but empty content statements and platitudes about the Newton school curriculum, and no information whatsoever that actually describes the content of what is being discussed and taught.

I look forward to your reply, and thank you for caring.

with all good wishes,

Carol

Carol S. Halberstadt

9 Whittemore Rd.
Newton 02458-2105

Tel: 617-332-0290

Begin forwarded message:

From: "ADL New England" <[mailto:boston@adlmail.org]boston@adlmail.org>
Subject: New England Insider Newsletter
Date: February 6, 2019 at 1:38:46 PM EST
To: <[mailto:carol@migrations.com]carol@migrations.com>
Reply-To: "ADL New England" <[mailto:reply-feffc1171746301-151_HTML-9781158-10977539-3@adlmail.org]reply-feffc1171746301-151_HTML-9781158-10977539-3@adlmail.org>

[Image]

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<http://view.adlmail.org/?qs=708211acbde8bf85dcbb5e33a65c9c49ed6f927677979ef511a9ae84cccdd50f4c0202c5a56d9fba66a7746a7c760949828b9afae2d528d6f2fed9c8cd5ab3e0c2df62731a29370e>]View in browser

[Image]

February 2019

HOLOCAUST AND GENOCIDE EDUCATION IN MA SCHOOLS

[Image]

This legislative session, we are working with our community partners to ensure that Massachusetts students receive Holocaust and genocide education prior to high school graduation.

We are thrilled to report that, as of today's deadline, 76 Representatives and 39 Senators have co-sponsored ADL's Holocaust and Genocide Education Bill in Massachusetts!

There will be plenty of advocacy opportunities in the coming weeks, so please stay tuned. We look forward to your continued support this legislative session!

Why is genocide education so important?

- Hatred and anti-Semitism are on the rise. In 2017, ADL tracked an 86% increase in

anti-Semitic incidents in K-12 schools right here in Massachusetts. Many of these incidents involved Holocaust-related imagery and language.

- Memory of prior atrocities is fading. According to survey data released last year, many adults lack basic knowledge of the Holocaust, and this lack of knowledge is even more pronounced among millennials. Yet, the overwhelming consensus (93%) is that all students should learn about the Holocaust in school.

- Education is key to combating hate. By learning about the Holocaust and other genocides, students will have the opportunity to explore how stereotypes, prejudice, and religious and ethnic hatred can escalate to atrocity.

EXPLORE THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM THIS FEBRUARY WITH ADL!

[
<http://click.adlmail.org/?qs=ddb52ac0097107308da290db903fc60dc103b2a0f24ac93aca8c4646de8aa7eba254f72b05409d550f7f1385e7b4ba9b7da68f255722f89d>][[Image]


Join ADL and Chabad of Downtown Boston on February 20th for "Crime and Consequence," a new six session CLE accredited course that tackles criminal justice reform through a Jewish lens.

With Special Guest Presenters:

Hon. Ralph Gants (Chief Justice of the MA Supreme Judicial Court)
Hon. Roanne Stragow (First Justice of Cambridge District Court)
Comm'r William Gross (Commissioner of Boston Police Department)
Sheriff Steve Thompkins (Suffolk County Sheriff's Dep't.)
Carmen Ortiz (former U.S. Attorney for the District of MA)
Starting February 20th, 2019
8:00-9:30 a.m.

[
<http://click.adlmail.org/?qs=ddb52ac009710730ccb63a146f6a1dc87841c290cadbcc9c9bfa294727a4fe729f27b1d892b87f7dfce812387093976f2aa0e477b7043559>]LEARN MORE

SAVE THE DATE FOR ADL'S ANNUAL BOSTON SEDER!

[
<http://click.adlmail.org/?qs=ddb52ac0097107306934ff3b9a5446e082f61836cec8975989effff6e139ecbc0896c6e9adccef1ec142fd0a66f2c0db84e192109a1348e4>]

Join us as we continue our tradition of bringing diverse communities together to build bridges of understanding. At this special event, we will model the traditional celebration of the Passover Seder and also share readings, songs, and stories from the diverse communities in our region.

When: Sunday, March 24th, 2019

Where: UMass Boston Campus Center (100 Morrissey Blvd, Boston, MA)

[
<http://click.adlmail.org/?qs=ddb52ac0097107308364afccb6bbc78bc3add054ff9d11fe43b728cab137d69507d12e9df658e122c896a3f96933193d2f24087fe60d173f>]RSVP

REPORT ANTI-SEMITISM

[Image]

#FightAnti-Semitism

Know what to do when you encounter anti-Semitism: record, relay, and report it to ADL. Watch the video below created by the IAC Media Room to learn how you can fight anti-Semitism.

[
<http://click.adlmail.org/?qs=ddb52ac00971073086c0bbf01c3b208f7f791909a55d060a6ec3c6e95e4f9c7ed501146878447aea9efcda104419b9f9b4eca6e9f268c9de>]WATCH HERE

[Image]

We are excited to welcome over 1,500 students from across New England to our 25th annual Youth Congress on April 12th!

This inspiring day will provide middle and high school students with the opportunity to explore what it means to speak out against hate and injustice, and to hear an inspirational keynote presentation from Holocaust survivor, George Elbaum.

Watch the video below to learn more about this impactful education program.

[
<http://click.adlmail.org/?qs=ddb52ac009710730883e122793f3738bb0d612ead891fd5575da78f9b9e006a3c0ed0759b91e437948e64ee15b57acdb0a5e835fc6f17e51>] WATCH HERE

MEDIA

[Image]

[<http://blavity.com/>] Blavity.com

A Deeper Look at Hate Crimes Against People of Color in Boston

"Hate crimes against people of color and those of a certain religious belief continue to rise at an alarming rate. The Anti-Defamation League in Boston reports that hate crimes have had a 17 percent increase across the nation while 37 percent of hate crimes target Jews and Jewish institutions."

[
<http://click.adlmail.org/?qs=ddb52ac009710730abbbe2fe3460e59bc8640cb39c5ba935a596b5734234d3b4df0803868c06d965b35c06df9b138e67e43f7461b2ad6546>]READ MORE

CAREERS AT ADL NEW ENGLAND

We are currently seeking an Associate Regional Director. Learn more about the position [
<http://click.adlmail.org/?qs=ddb52ac009710730f530859c51ef99b1ef930e993dc43cf5e50e63c0e7f9f486d6c6d75d726985ed38bb426ba776cd2cad90460a04ef01cd>]HERE.

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<http://click.adlmail.org/?qs=ddb52ac009710730df94d1e362fcf79db0cb032d51e311c5d9caa0ec956aa9da13e5ab4f6bcd656865f32511c09789048b0fd8e0dc79da0>]SUPPORT OUR WORK

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<http://click.adlmail.org/?qs=ddb52ac009710730d6552aba75e479a2d91175138fd76cdd8398cac0cf8651895e2290c7f7294363a9916d25b57fa483182a5bcaa0c65bf3>]READ OUR BLOG AND FOLLOW US

[
<http://click.adlmail.org/?qs=ddb52ac009710730369cb4b4397a46d508e542c0786ae20d947fa50679e2cc8ef5b964086d8090f7b8556c3294edf690724f744f27a3523c>] [Image] [
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ADL / 605 Third Avenue. / New York, NY 10158
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<http://view.adlmail.org/ftaf.aspx?qs=708211acbde8bf85dcbb5e33a65c9c49ed6f927677979ef569c807c663d6ea50bd7cab0e6b883422167384da7e3bc7ea>]SEND TO A FRIEND
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<http://click.adlmail.org/?qs=ddb52ac0097107303dc1e5916be31f3bdd7b11dcd3d701290bfe75a29281cd35dbde317a8d91f0cbeb079e630b56c7fdbad63eca15413023>]Privacy Policy
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<http://click.adlmail.org/?qs=ddb52ac009710730bd3088298608abfd68d37b2eedfdf988a3823a04d93e7b0a617e4e0d2ed73a2655b4357fdbd4b56388c70893512f1706>] [Image]

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From: Carol Halberstadt <carol@migrations.com>

Sent: Saturday, February 23, 2019 11:37 AM

To: Ruthanne Fuller <rfuller@newtonma.gov>

Cc: Carol Halberstadt <carol@migrations.com>

Subject: Fwd: New England Insider Newsletter--ADL: HOLOCAUST AND GENOCIDE EDUCATION IN MA SCHOOLS

Importance: High

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Carol S. Halberstadt
9 Whittemore Rd.
Newton 02458-2105

Tel: 617-332-0290

Begin forwarded message:

From: "ADL New England" <boston@adlmail.org>

Subject: New England Insider Newsletter

Date: February 6, 2019 at 1:38:46 PM EST

To: <carol@migrations.com>

Reply-To: "ADL New England" <reply-fefc1171746301-151_HTML-9781158-10977539-3@adlmail.org>

[View in browser](#)



Serving Massachusetts, Maine,
New Hampshire, Rhode Island & Vermont



February 2019

HOLOCAUST AND GENOCIDE EDUCATION IN MA SCHOOLS



This legislative session, we are working with our community partners to ensure that Massachusetts students receive Holocaust and genocide education prior to high school graduation.

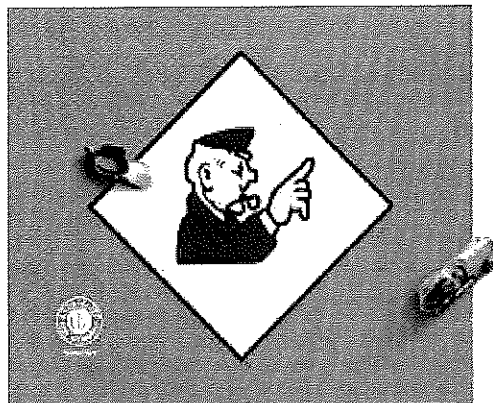
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- **Memory of prior atrocities is fading.** According to survey data released last year, many adults lack basic knowledge of the Holocaust, and this lack of knowledge is even more pronounced among millennials. Yet, the overwhelming consensus (93%) is that all students should learn about the Holocaust in school.
- **Education is key to combating hate.** By learning about the Holocaust and other genocides, students will have the opportunity to explore how stereotypes, prejudice, and religious and ethnic hatred can escalate to atrocity.

EXPLORE THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM THIS FEBRUARY WITH ADL!



A NEW SIX-SESSION COURSE FROM
THE ROYAL JEWISH LEARNING INSTITUTE

CRIME

and CONSEQUENCE

Join ADL and Chabad of Downtown Boston on February 20th for "Crime and Consequence," a new six session CLE accredited course that tackles criminal justice reform through a Jewish lens.


With Special Guest Presenters:

Hon. Ralph Gants (Chief Justice of the MA Supreme Judicial Court)
Hon. Roanne Stragow (First Justice of Cambridge District Court)
Comm'r William Gross (Commissioner of Boston Police Department)
Sheriff Steve Thompkins (Suffolk County Sheriff's Dep't.)
Carmen Ortiz (former U.S. Attorney for the District of MA)

Starting February 20th, 2019
8:00-9:30 a.m.

[LEARN MORE](#)

SAVE THE DATE FOR ADL'S ANNUAL BOSTON SEDER!



ADL New England's 12th Annual
"A Nation of Immigrants"
 Community Seder

SAVE the DATE
 SUNDAY, MARCH 24TH, 2019

Officiated by Rabbi Claudia Kreiman
 Temple Beth Zion

Doors open at 2:30 p.m.
 Seder begins promptly at 3:00 p.m.
 UMASS Boston Campus Center
 100 Morrissey Blvd, Boston, MA

TO PRE-REGISTER, visit
adl.org/bostonseder

ADL
 FIGHTING HATE FOR GOOD

Join us as we continue our tradition of bringing diverse communities together to build bridges of understanding. At this special event, we will model the traditional celebration of the Passover Seder and also share readings, songs, and stories from the diverse communities in our region.

When: Sunday, March 24th, 2019

Where: UMass Boston Campus Center (100 Morrissey Blvd, Boston, MA)

[RSVP](#)

REPORT ANTI-SEMITISM



Record

Take a photo



Relay

Note time and location



Report

Go to ADL.org/ReportIncident

#FightAnti-Semitism

Know what to do when you encounter anti-Semitism: record, relay, and report it to ADL. Watch the video below created by the IAC Media Room to learn how you can fight anti-Semitism.

[WATCH HERE](#)

25TH ANNUAL YOUTH CONGRESS



LEADERS IN ACTION: ADL'S 25TH ANNUAL YOUTH CONGRESS

FRIDAY, APRIL 12, 2019 | 7:30 AM - 1:00 PM

THE SHERATON BOSTON HOTEL

We are excited to welcome over 1,500 students from across New England to our 25th annual Youth Congress on April 12th!

This inspiring day will provide middle and high school students with the opportunity to explore what it means to speak out against hate and injustice, and to hear an inspirational keynote presentation from Holocaust survivor, George Elbaum.

Watch the video below to learn more about this impactful education program.

[WATCH HERE](#)

MEDIA

BLAVITY

Blavity.com

A Deeper Look at Hate Crimes Against People of Color in Boston

"Hate crimes against people of color and those of a certain religious belief continue to rise at an alarming rate. The Anti-Defamation League in Boston reports that hate crimes have had a 17 percent increase across the nation while 37 percent of hate crimes target Jews and Jewish institutions."

[READ MORE](#)

CAREERS AT ADL NEW ENGLAND

We are currently seeking an Associate Regional Director. Learn more about the position [HERE](#).

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When responding, please be aware that the Massachusetts Secretary of State has determined that most email is public record and therefore cannot be kept confidential.

From: Carolyn Campo Wednesday, March 20, 2019 11:13:15 AM
Subject:
To: David Fleishman

Carolyn Campo
Executive Assistant
The Office of the Superintendent
Newton Public Schools
100 Walnut Street, Newtonville, MA 02460
617-559-6100

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----- Original Message -----

Dear Colleagues,

While I was originally going to send this just to our high school faculty, I thought I would share it with everyone given that this topic continues to receive news coverage. A lawsuit has been filed against the Newton Public Schools related to our history curriculum. This civil action seeks a ruling that the curriculum is biased, discriminatory, anti-Semitic and anti-Israel. The plaintiffs, who are not parents of NPS students, are asking the court to order NPS teachers and administrators to change the curriculum.

While it is not atypical for me and the School Committee chair to be the subject of lawsuits, I'm especially sorry that several of our faculty members and the high school principals are named in the lawsuit. We strongly disagree with the accusations and stand by the message we share with the NPS community last fall (see below).

You continue to have my unwavering support for the work you do with our students every day.

Best,

David

Dear Newton Community:

For the past seven years, the Newton Public Schools have been the target of outside groups claiming anti-Israel bias in our history curriculum. These baseless claims, often reliant upon materials and documents taken out of context, are misleading and only serve to denigrate the hard work and professionalism of our skilled and dedicated faculty.

In recent months, the attacks have grown increasingly and unjustly personal. Our history teachers have been singled out, harassed and subjected to harsh and unfair criticism in the media and online. As a result, there is growing concern among our faculty about teaching controversial topics. Should these attacks continue, we worry it will jeopardize our ability to expose students to diverse opinions and to teach them about controversial issues that require open minds and critical thought.

We stand behind our faculty members, who are guided by the mission and values of the Newton Public Schools and their professional judgment. Whether it is the history of the Middle East or contemporary American politics, they are committed to engaging students around complex and challenging issues in a responsible, intellectual and balanced way.

In every class, our teachers work to ensure that students learn to separate fact from opinion, discern between different points of view, challenge their own thinking and that of their peers, and develop evidence-based opinions through study and the testing of ideas. They also provide space for students to actively listen, particularly to those voices in the minority - whether it be political, racial, ethnic, religious, or gender.

As always, we encourage our families to bring any questions about curriculum to their child's teacher or department head. Information and teaching materials are always available to families and our administrators and faculty are happy to discuss them. For more information on teaching controversial topics in the Newton Public Schools, please visit our [<https://www.newton.k12.ma.us/Page/3258>]Frequently Asked Questions on our website.

Sincerely,

David Fleishman

Carolyn Campo
Executive Assistant
The Office of the Superintendent
Newton Public Schools
100 Walnut Street, Newtonville, MA 02460
617-559-6100

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From: Carolyn Campo
"Larkin, James Maxwell" <larkin2@bu.edu>, internet
3/27/2019 12:06:27 PM
Subject: Fwd: FW: WBUR: this complaint?
To: julie_mcdonough@newton.k12.ma.us, internet View in Browser
Cc: David Fleishman

I just received the email below asking for an interview.

Carolyn Campo
Executive Assistant
The Office of the Superintendent
Newton Public Schools
100 Walnut Street, Newtonville, MA 02460
617-559-6100

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----- Original Message -----

Hi Carolyn,

I'm an education reporter at WBUR, sharing this request for five minutes of the superintendent's time today. We have met + discussed the anti-Israel controversy before.

Let me know, and thanks!
Max

From: Larkin, James Maxwell
Sent: Wednesday, March 27, 2019 10:27 AM
To: 'David Fleishman' <david_fleishman@newton.k12.ma.us>
Subject: WBUR: this complaint?

Hi David,

As you might imagine, I've been sent the 469-page complaint on the anti-Semitism issue. Any chance you could discuss today for WBUR? I know you probably don't want to spend your entire career on this issue, but I have to ask!

Let me know, and thanks as always,

Max.

617-358-0807

From: David Fleishman
Ruth Goldman <ruthgoldperson@gmail.com>, internet
5/14/2019 2:01:23 PM
Subject: Fwd: Please use this draft
To: Carolyn Campo View in Browser
Attachments: Middle East Day, May 9 2019 rg edits.docx 45K
Attach1.html 3K
smime.p7s 2K

----- Original Message -----

Hi Lital:

it's really important to recognize David Bedar for his work on this, so I have included his name in this draft. Also congrats to David on a day well done at OHMS yesterday!

Thanks again.

my best,

Ruth

Ruth Goldman
Ruth Goldman Consulting
ruthgoldperson@gmail.com
(617)719-5048

> On May 14, 2019, at 11:17 AM, Lital Carmel <litalc@israeliamerican.org> wrote:
>
> Hello all,
> Please find attached the draft letter to the community following the Middle East Day last Thursday.
> If you'll find time to go over it today, I'll be able to send it out to our mailing list tonight.
> Lital
>
> <Middle East Day, May 9 2019.docx>

May 13, 2019

Dear Community,

I am writing to update you on *Understanding and Appreciating the Middle East Day* which took place at Newton North High School on Thursday, May 9. This is the third year of this event.

For the past seven months, the IAC has been working collaboratively with NPS to ensure that Israeli American students and Israel supporters feel safe and welcome at both high schoolschool. We have hosted meetings with Principals and other faculty and continue to meet regularly with senior administration and School Committee. Our dialogue is open and frank. collaborated with NPS on many topics, one of which was to create a balanced and safe Middle East Day.

As you know, ~~many of us felt that last year's Middle East Day was viewed by some as unbalancedd and biased.~~ As a result of part of our positive relationships collaboration with NPS, Principal Turner welcomed me to two sessions during this year's event that were of particular interest to me and our community. I saw many of our teens and they greeted me warmly and expressed their appreciation for history teacher David Bedar and other NNHS faculty and this day devoted to the Middle East. I was invited this year to sit in on the two blocks which I felt had the potential of making our teens feel unsafe again in their own school. It was clear to me that students are so interested in learning more about this part of the world.

~~I was therefore so grateful to see that this year's program was both balanced and comprehensive. They reinforced the skills of critical thinking, asking questions and listening with an open mind that we all value~~ There was no bias throughout the content of the two blocks I attended. These two sessions I attended blocks were:

- 1) Block B- The Student Panel: This panel featured Newton North students who identify as being from the Middle East (Israel, Lebanon, Armenia, Iran and Egypt). Students shared how their Middle Eastern background shapes their personal experiences in the United States, the inter-generational issues they face, and their lives as immigrants.
- 2) Media Coverage of the Middle East: Stefano Kotsonis, producer of WBUR's OnPoint and previously CNN's Amman (Jordan) bureau chief and correspondent. He spoke about his experience as a field correspondent in the Middle East, giving the students tools to critically consume news.

I would like to thank Principal Turner for opening the doors of NNHS and allowing me to witness a day of wonderful educational work. The day was both moving and instructive; students learned how complex,

layered and wonderful the Middle East really is. Kudos to the student organizing committee and their wonderful faculty advisor, David Bedar whom I was able to thank in person!

With the hope that this collaboration will continue to flourish,

Lital Carmel
Regional Director
IAC Boston

From: Carolyn Campo
"David Shimoni" <david.shimoni@yahoo.com>,internet
4/24/2019 2:10:04 PM
Subject: Fwd: RE: Follow-up Meeting
To: David Fleishman Toby Romer ruthgoldperson@gmail.com,internet
Cc: Lisa Mazzola

The new date for the meeting with David Shamoni and Lital Carmel is now scheduled on Thursday, May 9 at 2:00 p.m. Toby, I told them it would be in your office. I hope that's okay, if not, I can book an alternate space. I asked David what they would like to discuss. Please see his response below and let me know if you need anything additional.

----- Original Message -----

Hi Carolyn,

Of the four optional dates you offered below, all except for Wed are convenient for us. Feel free to lock one of the other options and send Lital and I a calendar invite.

The two topics that right now are on our agenda are:

- What's the plan, if any, for having the Middle East Day in Newton North take place this year;
- What's the plan, if any, for a possible follow up seminar for the World History teachers at the Schusterman Center at Brandeis;

We may bring other topics at the meeting and we would also love to hear from David, Ruth and Toby if they need our help in anything related to the Israeli-American parent community in Newton.

Best, David
David Shimoni
Co-Chair, IAC Boston
[mailto:david.shimoni@yahoo.com]david.shimoni@yahoo.com
M: 781-929-4410
[https://www.linkedin.com/in/davidshimoni]www.linkedin.com/in/davidshimoni
[https://israeliamerican.org/boston]https://israeliamerican.org/boston

[Image]

Carolyn Campo
Executive Assistant

The Office of the Superintendent
Newton Public Schools
100 Walnut Street, Newtonville, MA 02460
617-559-6100

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From: David Fleishman
Julie McDonough <juliemcdonough@gmail.com>, internet
3/22/2019 12:56:07 PM
Subject: Fwd: Ed Week blog on lawsuit
To: daftwins@yahoo.com, internet View in Browser

----- Original Message -----

----- Original Message -----

I sent them the statement yesterday...

[
[https://blogs.edweek.org/edweek/curriculum/2019/03/mass_lawsuit_Palestine_Israel.htm](https://blogs.edweek.org/edweek/curriculum/2019/03/mass_lawsuit_Palestine_Israel.html)
1
]
[https://blogs.edweek.org/edweek/curriculum/2019/03/mass_lawsuit_Palestine_Israel.ht](https://blogs.edweek.org/edweek/curriculum/2019/03/mass_lawsuit_Palestine_Israel.html)
ml

From: David Bedar Tuesday, May 14, 2019 8:29:05 PM
Subject: FYI
To: Albert Cho Henry Turner Ruth Goldman David Fleishman
Toby Romer Jennifer Morrill

From IAC:

Update on Middle East Day at Newton North High School on May 9, 2019

[Image]

"The Middle East Day at Newton North was very educational, informative, and accepting. Students had an open platform to speak freely and comfortably." Yael Dekel, NNHS Israeli-American student. participated in the student panel.

Dear Community,

I am writing to update you on Understanding and Appreciating the Middle East Day which took place at Newton North High School on Thursday, May 9. This is the third year of this event.

For the past seven months, the IAC has been working collaboratively with NPS to ensure that Israeli American students feel safe and welcome at both high schools. We have hosted meetings with principals and other administrators and have also met with the senior administration and School Committee. Our dialogue is open and frank.

As you know, last year's Middle East Day was viewed by some as unbalanced. As a result of our positive relationship with NPS, Newton North Principal Henry Turner invited me to attend two sessions that were of particular interest to me and to our community. It was clear to me that the students are highly engaged in learning about the Middle East and are eager to learn more about this important part of the world.

I am grateful that this year's program was both balanced and comprehensive. The two sessions I attended were: Block B- The Student Panel: This panel featured Newton North students who identify as being from the Middle East (Israel, Lebanon, Armenia, Iran and Egypt). Students shared how their Middle Eastern background shapes their personal experiences in the United States, the inter-generational issues they face, and their lives as immigrants.

Block C- Media Coverage of the Middle East: Stefano Kotsonis, producer of WBUR's OnPoint and previously CNN's Amman (Jordan) bureau chief and correspondent. He spoke about his experience as a field correspondent in the Middle East, giving the students tools to critically consume news. I would like to thank Dr. Turner for opening the doors of NNHS and allowing me to witness a day of substantive educational work. The day was both moving and instructive; students learned how complex, fascinating and layered the Middle East really is. Kudos to the student organizing committee and the supporting faculty that organized the day.

Lital Carmel
Regional Director
IAC Boston

[Image:Screen Shot 2019-05-14 at 8.20.45 PM.png]

Best,
David Bedar
Newton North High School
Dept. of History and Social Sciences
321E

From: "David Shimoni" <david.shimoni@yahoo.com>,internet 3/11/2019
7:59:08 PM
Subject: Engagement with The Schusterman Center at Brandeis
To: "'Ruth Goldman'" <ruthgoldperson@gmail.com>,internet
toby_romer@newton.k12.ma.us,internet David Fleishman
View in Browser
Cc: "'Lital Carmel'" <litalc@israeliamerican.org>,internet

Hello Ruth, David and Toby,

In a meeting I had tonight with the ED of one of leading Jewish organizations in Boston he mentioned to me that the World History teachers from Newton South and North have recently attended a one day session at the Schusterman Center at Brandeis U. That's obviously an exciting news and I was wondering if you can shed more light on how it went and whether it was more of a pilot in consideration of the more elaborate course they offer on Israel?

If you'd rather not discuss this over email than it can wait for my lunch meeting with Ruth next Friday.

Best, David

David Shimoni

david.shimoni@yahoo.com

M: 781-929-4410

www.linkedin.com/in/davidshimoni

From: "David Shimoni" <david.shimoni@yahoo.com>,internet 5/12/2019
9:15:00 AM
Subject: FW: Israel Day at Oak Hill
To: David Fleishman toby_romer@newton.k12.ma.us,internet
"Ruth Goldman" <ruthgoldperson@gmail.com>,internet
View in Browser
Cc: "Lital Carmel" <litalc@israeliamerican.org>,internet
Attachments: Israel Day at Oak Hill May 12, 2019.pptx 56K

Hi David, Toby and Ruth,

As I mentioned to you, I'll be participating tomorrow in the Israel Day at Oak Hill Middle School together with Dan Trajman, who is the President of NEIBC (New England Israel Business Council). I thought I'd share with you the attached set of slides that I plan on using to guide my session.

Best, David

From: David Shimoni [mailto:david.shimoni@yahoo.com]
Sent: Sunday, May 12, 2019 9:07 AM
To: 'Sherri Cohen'; 'kerry_winer@newton.k12.ma.us'; 'john_harutunian@newton.k12.ma.us'
Cc: 'Dan Trajman'
Subject: RE: Israel Day at Oak Hill

Hello Sherri, Kerry and John,

I created the attached set of slides as guidance for my session tomorrow with the students. I do not plan on presenting these slides on the screen but rather use them as the basis for my talk after I show them the first three videos. These videos will take about 8 minutes altogether and I estimate that my interactive talk will take another 15 minutes, which will leave around 5 minutes for questions. Due to lack of time and relative complexity, I have decided to make the fourth video clip optional.

I will bring with me all four videos on a thumb drive. See you tomorrow at 7:45 AM.

Best, David

From: David Shimoni [mailto:david.shimoni@yahoo.com]
Sent: Saturday, April 27, 2019 12:17 PM
To: 'Sherri Cohen'; 'kerry_winer@newton.k12.ma.us'
Cc: 'john_harutunian@newton.k12.ma.us'; 'Dan Trajman'
Subject: RE: Israel Day at Oak Hill

Sherri and Kerry,

Dan and I spoke ahead of our Monday call and agreed on the following.

Since Dan is the expert on the topic of Israeli innovation, given his hi-tech background and current capacity as the head of NEIBC (NE Israel Business Council), he will deliver to the kids a presentation that is based on a formal lecture he gives on this topic with focus on the history and drivers behind the flourishing innovation in Israel as well as some examples.

As for me, I will rely on videos on this topic, which I was able to find online, with my own narration during the segments that talk about concepts that may be hard for the kids to grasp. The videos I was able to find and thought will be appropriate are as follows:

- This 3-minute trailer, of the film "Israel Inside: How a Small Nation Makes a Big Difference" - <https://youtu.be/UZl5TFyf2kA>.
- This 2 minutes humoristic video titled "Changing the World - 7 Israeli Inventions" (British accent) <https://youtu.be/fPrI8WyXuEQ>
- The first 3 minutes of this video titled "Top 5 inventions from Israel" (Indian accent) <https://youtu.be/0g-eyo6v5UE>

- This 9.5 minutes video titled "How Did ISRAEL Become The Country of START-UPS?" <https://youtu.be/Nn-8lniOVk>. It'll require pausing the video at the beginning or end of any of the topics to give the kids a dumb down explanation of each topic.

Dan will share his slides as soon as they are ready. Let's discuss on the call if this makes sense.

John, thank you for trying to get a conference bridge. I might be able to secure one myself and will let everyone know.

Enjoy the rest of your weekend, David

David Shimoni

david.shimoni@yahoo.com


M: 781-929-4410

www.linkedin.com/in/davidshimoni

From: Dan Trajman [mailto:Dan@dT-Studio.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 23, 2019 9:45 PM
To: 'David Shimoni'; 'Sherri Cohen'
Cc: kerry_winer@newton.k12.ma.us; john_harutunian@newton.k12.ma.us
Subject: RE: Israel Day at Oak Hill

11:00am on Monday 4/29 is good for me.

Dan Trajman, President & CEO @ NEIBC Inc.
Dan.Trajman@NEIBC.org +1.617.320.1862

 Signature - Generic

From: David Shimoni [mailto:david.shimoni@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 23, 2019 2:52 PM
To: 'Sherri Cohen'
Cc: Dan@dT-Studio.com; kerry_winer@newton.k12.ma.us; john_harutunian@newton.k12.ma.us
Subject: RE: Israel Day at Oak Hill

Hi Sherri,

Thanks for the additional clarifications. I'm available on Monday, 4/29, preferable between 11-12. I'll let Dan reply with his availability.

Best, David

From: Sherri Cohen [mailto:Sherri_Cohen@newton.k12.ma.us]
Sent: Tuesday, April 23, 2019 2:41 PM
To: david.shimoni@yahoo.com
Cc: Dan@dT-Studio.com; kerry_winer@newton.k12.ma.us; john_harutunian@newton.k12.ma.us
Subject: Re: Israel Day at Oak Hill

Hi David and Dan,

Thank you so much for your reply. I first want to clarify with you about the timing. The Israel Day celebration will be approximately a total of two hours, from 8:10 until 10:35. There will be 4 thirty-minute sessions where groups of approximately 50 students will rotate through.

The sessions are the following:

- 1 David's presentation
- 2 Dan's presentation
- 3 Israeli crafts and Hebrew language
- 4 Movie on Israeli culture and trivia

We agree that a phone conversation is a good idea. It would be wonderful if you and Dan could share your expertise in both areas. Each one of you would take on one particular aspect related to Israel as a start up nation and Israel innovation. When we are able to speak further on the phone, we can confirm what each of you will speak about. Please let us know what your availability is chat between the hours of 8:30 am and 2:00 pm. early next week, preferably Monday, 4/29.

Sincerely,
Sherri and Kerry

"David Shimoni" <david.shimoni@yahoo.com> writes:

Hello Sherri,

Dan and I are equally excited for this opportunity!

We have a few questions related to the logistics and content of the event. We propose that we schedule a call for the two of us with the teachers involved in organizing the event to ensure that we are all on the same page. As a heads up, are there two other speakers that will be at the other two stations and speak about Israeli innovation? Are you looking for us to teach the kids about the cultural, geographical and political reasons behind the success of Israel as a startup nation or to focus more on describing to them specific industries in which Israel is considered an innovation leader (e.g. Cybersecurity, Irrigation, et.)?

Again, please let us know when it is convenient for you to have a call.

Best, David

David Shimoni
david.shimoni@yahoo.com
M: 781-929-4410
www.linkedin.com/in/davidshimoni

From: Sherri Cohen [mailto:Sherri_Cohen@newton.k12.maus]
Sent: Monday, April 22, 2019 3:04 PM
To: david.shimoni@yahoo.com; Dan@dT-Studio.com
Cc: Kerry G. Winer; John C. Harutunian
Subject: Re: Israel Day at Oak Hill

Hi Dan and David,

Just checking in to make sure that you are both still available to come to Oak Hill Middle School and speak between 8:20 and 8:35 on May 13th at our Israel Day event.

We are planning to have four different stations with an audience of about 50 students that would rotate through each of the stations.

Each of you would present about Israeli innovation at a different station.

We are very excited to have both of you speak at Oak Hill! Please confirm that you will be able to present to the students, and could you both please give us more information about what you might include in your presentation, so that each presentation might teach the students a different aspect of Israeli innovation. Since the students are in middle school, it would also be great if your presentation could contain slides and/or be interactive.

Thank you so much,
Sherri

Sherri Cohen writes:

Hi David,

Thank you so much for your willingness to come in and supervise and potentially talk to the students! We would love to have you, especially since you are Tom's father! It would be great for the talk to have a slideshow component and/or be interactive. It should be about 30 minutes in length.

Looking forward to you joining us!

Sherri and Kerry

"David Shimoni" <david.shimoni@yahoo.com> writes:

Hi Sherri and Kerry,

Sorry for the delayed response. My name is David Shimoni and I'm Tom's dad. I'll be delighted to supervise one of the sessions and will also consider being your guest speaker. I held executive positions in a number of Israeli hi-tech companies who did business in the US and can share with the kids my perspective on Israeli innovation. I was a mentor in a number of teen leadership programs and got the experience to engage the kids with the topic. I just need to know what's the format (e.g. slide presentation, etc.) and how long will the talk be.

Best, David

David Shimoni

david.shimoni@yahoo.com

M: 781-929-4410

www.linkedin.com/in/davidshimoni

From: Sherri Cohen [mailto:Sherri_Cohen@newton.k12.ma.us]

Sent: Thursday, April 4, 2019 8:33 AM

Cc: Kerry G. Winer

Subject: Israel Day at Oak Hill

Dear Families,

We are excited to announce that our Israel Day celebration at Oak Hill Middle School will take place on Monday, May 13th in honor of Israel's 71st birthday. The event will take place from 8:20 to 10:35 and the Hebrew Club students will be running four sessions: Guest speaker, Hebrew and art, Israeli folk dancing, and a documentary on Israel. We are reaching out to enlist your help in several ways. We need parents to supervise the sessions on the day of the celebration, as well as help us to decorate the library, school entryway and cafeteria.

Additionally, we are looking for a guest speaker who has expertise in Israeli innovation and technology and has experience talking to young students. We will also need someone who can run the Israeli folk dancing. Lastly, we are asking for donations in the form of small items to give away as prizes during the trivia component of the movie session. Please email us by Wednesday, April 10th to let us know how you can help.

Thank you and looking forward to this exciting event.

Sherri Cohen and Kerry Winer

Sherri Cohen, M.Ed.
Oak Hill Middle School
Team 6-2
Newton, MA
(617)559-9200

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Sherri Cohen, M.Ed.
Oak Hill Middle School
Team 6-2

Newton, MA
(617)559-9200

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Sherri Cohen, M.Ed.
Oak Hill Middle School
Team 6-2
Newton, MA
(617)559-9200

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Sherri Cohen, M.Ed.
Oak Hill Middle School
Team 6-2
Newton, MA
(617)559-9200

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Israel Day at Oak Hill

David Shimoni

May 13, 2019

Start with three video clips

- **“Israel Inside: How a Small Nation Makes a Big Difference” (3-minute trailer)** - <https://youtu.be/UZI5TFyf2kA>
- **“Changing the World - 7 Israeli Inventions” (2-minute humorous video)** <https://youtu.be/fPrI8WvYXuE0>
- **“Top 5 inventions from Israel” (the first 3 minutes of this report from an Indian TV network STOP at 3:16)** <https://youtu.be/0g-evo6v5UE>
 - TV network in India did this report when the PM of India visited Israel
 - Q: Why did the leader of the second most populous country in the world with 1.3B people visit a small country like IL with about 8M people?
 - A: The importance of a country isn't just measured by its size but also by its technological innovation because innovation help advance societies by providing a better quality of life

Definitions

- Company – a group of people that come together and work on building a product that other people buy because they need it (e.g. Coke sells drinks that thirsty people buy, Ford sells cars that people buy to get them somewhere);
- Start Up (“baby company”) – this is how a company is born. A group of innovative people come up with an idea to build a product that provides benefit to society. The benefit can be by way of an improvement over an existing solution (e.g. Waze improves on paper maps in how quickly people get to their destination by choosing for them the fastest route) or solving a problem for which there was no solution before (ReWalk helps paralyzed people walk)

Israel is often referred to as “Strat Up Nation” because many companies are being started there

- **There are more startups in Israel relative to its population size than any other country around the world**
- **Israel is second only to the Silicon Valley (an area south of SF) when it comes to number of startups**
- **Startup in many different areas – computers, internet, health, food, energy, agriculture, water;**

I will now try to explain to you why so many companies with innovative products have been started in Israel

- Let's start with some basic information:
- Q: Anyone knows how old is the country of Israel?
- A: 71 years old. In comparison, the United States is 243 years old and Egypt, which is considered the oldest countries in the world is 6,200 years old
- So Israel itself is a startup because it is a relatively young country.
- Israel is also a small country both in terms of area (the size of NJ) and population (around 8M people, which the same as the population in the state of Virginia and about 1.5M more than the population of MA)

- **Israel also has very few natural resources (e.g. oil, forests, water), which historically was how a nation measured its wealth**
- **Israel is surrounded by bigger countries with ample natural resources (mainly oil). Most of these countries do not want it to exist and launched wars against it several times during its 71 year history**
- **So when a country is young, small, lacking natural resources and surrounded by enemies, it has to compensate for these disadvantages by developing technologies that compensate for these shortcomings (David vs. Goliath)**
- **For example, innovation in water desalination (removing salt from ocean water so it can be used for drinking and irrigation) allowed Israel to produce enough water for its population;**

What else is needed for innovation to take place?

- We talked about how innovation compensates for shortcomings
- But there are two more things required for innovation to take place:
- People who are:
 - Smart and who can come up with great ideas
 - Question everything and do not accept “that’s how it’s done” as an answer
 - Stubborn and are not going to easily give up when they face challenges in creating a product out of their idea
- Money (to pay these people so they work to create a product out of their idea)

QUESTIONS?

Optional Video

- **Will show it if time allows. Could be too complex for six graders.**
- **“How Did ISRAEL Become The Country of START-UPS?” (9.5-minute video clip)**
<https://youtu.be/Nn-8lniOVk>

Pause to explain complex concepts

- 1:04 explain Subsidiary = due to acquisition
- 1:24 NASDAQ = when a startup decides to let anyone become part owner by selling shares in a market called NASDAQ
- 2:06 – Kinect – the sensing technology used in Xbox
- 2:20 – R&D = Research & Development = making products out of ideas
- 2:24 – GDP = Gross Domestic Product = measurement of how much money a country makes from products that are made in that country; Export – the products that companies in one country are selling to another country
- Three Political Factors (meaning the government was involved – in addition to the other reasons I explained above):
 - 2:40 Yozma:
 - 3:08 tough economic times in 1980's
 - 3:38 large immigration requires job creation
 - 4:10 to create jobs you need money to invest in building companies; the money can come from the government or from private people;
 - 5:54 – Summary – Yozma was a program that provided the money needed by inventors to build companies based on their invention
 - 5:55 Immigration:
 - 7:15 the relationships between immigration and economic development
 - 7:24 Education:
 - 7:43 highest rate of people with college degree
 - 8:03 knowledge transfer – creating inventions in universities and transferring them to companies who develop products out of the inventions
 - 8:09 Other Factors:
 - Chutzpah – question everything;
 - Military – interaction of young people who need to work together often under pressure

From: "David Shimoni" <david.shimoni@yahoo.com>,internet 2/12/2019
5:09:52 PM
Subject: RE: Letter from IAC?
To: "'Ruth Goldman'" <ruthgoldperson@gmail.com>,internet
"'Lital Carmel'" <litalc@israeliamerican.org>,internet
View in Browser
Cc: toby_romer@newton.k12.ma.us,internet David Fleishman
Attachments: "Lital Carmel" <litalc@israeliamerican.org> Summary of
meetings at Newton High Schools 140K

Hi Ruth,

Yes, Lital sent the attached letter to the parents last Thursday. I don't think we received any meaningful response so far but I'll let Lital confirm that. It was also good (and timely) to see David's email from today announcing the new web page with information on the protocol related to incident of bias, discrimination, or hate. It feels like we are working well together as team!

Stay warm!

Best, David

From: RUth Goldman [mailto:ruthgoldperson@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 12, 2019 3:18 PM
To: Lital Carmel; David Shimoni
Cc: Toby Romer; David Fleishman
Subject: Letter from IAC?

Hi Lital:

I hope you are safe and warm today in the snow storm!

Someone asked about your letter yesterday and I realized that I hadn't heard from you whether it was sent. Did you all send it out?

If you did, clearly no news is good news! And, I'd love to see a final copy if you would like to forward when you get a minute!

Thanks so much,

Ruth

Ruth Goldman
Ruth Goldman Consulting
ruthgoldperson@gmail.com
(617)719-5048

From: "David Shimoni" <david.shimoni@yahoo.com>,internet 4/30/2019
4:31:09 PM
Subject: RE: Today's meeting at NNHS
To: Henry_Turner@newton.k12.ma.us,internet View in Browser
Cc: toby_romer@newton.k12.ma.us,internet David Fleishman
<ruthgoldperson@gmail.com>,internet
<litalc@israeliamerican.org>,internet

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david.shimoni@yahoo.com
M: 781-929-4410
www.linkedin.com/in/davidshimoni

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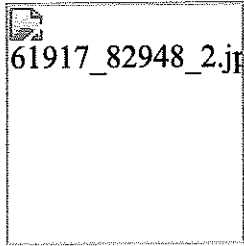
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Principal

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3. We can also help with reaching out to local Israeli restaurants (Landwer Café, Bonapita).

Please let me know if we can be of any assistance.

Lital

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Sent: Monday, April 29, 2019 9:05 PM

To: Lital Carmel <litalc@israeliamerican.org>

Cc: david.shimoni@yahoo.com; toby_romer@newton.k12.ma.us; david_fleishman@newton.k12.ma.us; ruthgoldperson@gmail.com

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I'm writing to extend our offer to help with content, speakers, resources, and whatever you need to ensure a balanced experience for all students.

I would appreciate it if you could share with me in advance as much information as possible about the day in terms of speakers and topics for us to better prepare and support our students if needed.

Thank you,

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Sent: Wednesday, January 16, 2019 3:00 PM

To: david.shimoni@yahoo.com

Cc: toby_romer@newton.k12.ma.us; Lital Carmel<litalc@israeliamericanorg>; david_fleishman@newton.k12.ma.us; ruthgoldperson@gmail.com

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Please don't hesitate to reach out to us anytime.

Best,

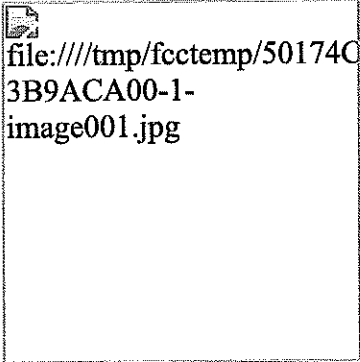
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We are looking forward to continuing on this positive path.

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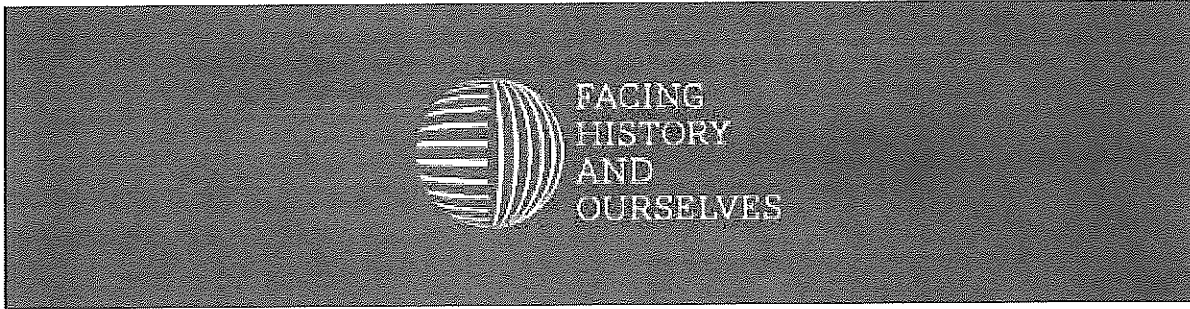
M: 781-929-4410



From: fcolletti@facinghistory.org,internet
"Fran Colletti, Facing History New England" <fcolletti@facinghistory.org>,internet
3/7/2019 2:09:21 PM
Subject: What the 2017 Unite the Right Rally Revealed about Contemporary
Antisemitism
To: David Fleishman View in Browser

Having trouble reading the email? [View it as a web page.](#)

[Manage your email preferences.](#)



Facing History & Ourselves: New England Digest

March 7, 2019



What the 2017 Unite the Right Rally Revealed about Contemporary Antisemitism

To navigate difficult conversations around stories of bigotry and antisemitism confronting your students in the headlines and in their communities, we've created a series of new lessons to help you discuss how the roots of hatred have lasting impact. These lessons explore the roles that racism and contested history played at the 2017 Unite the Right rally and uses the events in Charlottesville as a case study in contemporary antisemitism.

Enhance your understanding of this topic by attending a 1-hour webinar on **March 14** with Facing History, Share My Lesson, and Pulitzer Prize-winning author Eli Saslow.

Teach the Lesson

Register for the Webinar



Celebrating Women's History Month

We know you're strapped for time as an educator, but fear not. Facing History has you covered for thoughtful, actionable teaching resources that will bring women's history—and women's leadership today—to life in your classroom all month long.



Teaching Black History with Malcolm X

As Black History Month draws to a close, the controversy surrounding Malcolm X's life invites us to consider the impact of respectability politics on our understanding of black history.

Featured Events

Outstanding professional development for educators. Thought-provoking community events. Find an event in [New England](#) or [join us online](#)!

Beyond Borders:
Facing Identity,
Membership, and
Belonging Through
U.S. Immigration

Seminar

July 9-11, 2019

Literature that
Engages Students in
Identity, History and
Choices

Seminar

July 23-25, 2019

Dedham, MA

Democracy at Risk:
Holocaust and
Human Behavior

Seminar

July 30-August 1,
2019

Watertown, MA

Boston, MA



Thank You Andrew Aydin!

On February 11th, we were lucky enough to hear from Andrew Aydin, co-author of MARCH, at New England's Community Conversation. His talk was presented by Facing History and The Allstate Foundation, in partnership with The Boston Public Library, Central Library in Copley Square. Nearly 100 enthusiastic students from metro Boston schools spoke with Andrew about standing up for your beliefs and how creativity can be an unexpected tool to fight bigotry.



The Targeting of Uighur Muslims in China

Why, in recent years, has the Chinese government targeted a religious, ethnic minority, and what is the responsibility of the international community to respond?

Facing History & Ourselves has been equipping educators and youth with tools that empower them to wrestle with difficult issues through the lens of history for over 40 years.

Donate Today



Facing History and Ourselves

16 Hurd Road,

Brookline, MA 02445

800-856-9039

[Unsubscribe or manage your email preferences.](#)

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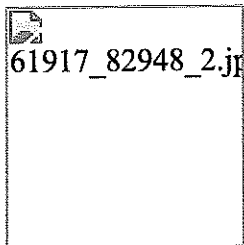
Thank you for this feedback and yes we are working very closely with our students to ensure that many perspectives are shared. We will certainly share your specific feedback with the students as well.

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Best,

Henry

Lital Carmel <litalc@israeliamerican.org> on Mon, Apr 29, 2019 at 06:43 PM wrote:

Hello Henry,

I hope this email finds you well.

I just learned that on May 9th in Newton North there will be held an "Understanding the Middle East Day".

I'm writing to extend our offer to help with content, speakers, resources, and whatever you need to ensure a balanced experience for all students.

I would appreciate it if you could share with me in advance as much information as possible about the day in terms of speakers and topics for us to better prepare and support our students if needed.

Thank you,

Lital

From: Henry Turner (North)<Henry_Turner@newton.k12.ma.us>

Sent: Wednesday, January 16, 2019 3:00 PM

To: david.shimoni@yahoo.com

Cc: tohy_romer@newton.k12.ma.us; Lital Carmel<litalc@israeliamericanorg>; david_fleishman@newton.k12.ma.us; ruthgoldperson@gmail.com

Subject: Re: Today's meeting at NNHS

Thanks David and Lital,

I really enjoyed the conversation and I look forward to our continued work together.

Please don't hesitate to reach out to us anytime.

Best,

Henry

Henry J. Turner, EdD

Principal

Newton North High School

>Recognizing that we are a small world within a much larger one, we create opportunities for open-minded, honest communication about the broad range of human experience to foster social awareness, generosity and compassion.--NNHS Mission

 file:///tmp/fcctemp/50174C7A-3B9ACA00-1-image001.jpg

Notice of Confidentiality: This transmission is intended for the addressee(s) listed above and may contain information that is confidential and private. If you are not the addressee(s), any use, disclosure, copying or communication of the contents of this transmission is prohibited. If this communication was received in error, contact me immediately at Thank you for your cooperation.

"David Shimoni" < > writes:

Dear Henry,

It was a real pleasure meeting you today!

The dialogue that you, Toby and your staff had with the NNHS parents this afternoon, however uncomfortable it may have been at times, proved to everyone who attended the meeting that you care about their concerns and are willing to appropriately respond to incidents that make their kids uncomfortable at school. We were all impressed with you and your intentions and will surely convey a strong, positive message to the rest of the community about this meeting and the constructive line of communications it established.


We are looking forward to continuing on this positive path.

Best, David

David Shimoni

Co-Chair, IAC Boston

M: 781-929-4410

 <file:///tmp/fcctemp/50174C7A-3B9ACA00-2-image002.png>

From: "Henry Turner" <Henry_Turner@newton.k12.ma.us>,internet 4/30/2019
5:50:21 PM
Subject: Re: Today's meeting at NNHS
To: david.shimoni@yahoo.com,internet View in Browser
Cc: Toby Romer David Fleishman ruthgoldperson@gmail.com,internet
litalc@israeliamerican.org,internet

From: James Epstein <jamesepstein5@aol.com>,internet 4/2/2019 8:15:09 PM
Subject: Jewish Newton Students Stand Up While (worthless) Jewish
Organizations Cower in Silence
To: rtrestan@adl.org,internet taliab@adl.org,internet
boston@adl.org,internet jburton@jcrcboston.org,internet
boston@israeliamerican.org,internet dshimoni@plumchoice.com,internet
rabbi@dorsheitzedek.org,internet rabbi@templebethabraham.org,internet
rabbi.adler@tbabeverly.org,internet rfish@tisharon.org,internet
msoffer@tisrael.org,internet rabbi@neharshalom.org,internet
dlerner@templeemunah.org,internet npsconcerns@gmail.com,internet
rfuller@newtonma.gov,internet mlaredo@newtonma.gov,internet
ruth_goldman@newton.k12.ma.us,internet David Fleishman
View in Browser

Jewish Newton High School Students Stand Up to Anti-Israel Curriculum at School Committee Meeting, March 25, 2019. Here's the video link, including written narrative background (scroll down from video) with links:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7GROOLfySAs>

At the same time, local Jewish Organizations steadfastly remain silent, as reported in the Florida Jewish Journal -- link below from Sun Sentinel edition (4/2/19) -- reporting on *Dechter v. Newton School Committee*. (Florida Jewish Journal is the nation's largest weekly Jewish newspaper -- reaching over 350,000 weekly readers -- published in seven local editions throughout Palm Beach, Broward and Miami-Dade Counties, as well as via free newsstand and vending boxes, and delivery to synagogues, Jewish community centers, restaurants, condominiums, shopping centers and other high-traffic, high visibility locations.)

See:

<https://www.sun-sentinel.com/florida-jewish-journal/fl-jj-boston-residents-lawsuit-school-district-anti-semitism-20190410-story.html>

From: James Epstein <jamesepstein5@aol.com>,internet 4/3/2019 12:27:01 AM
Subject: Jewish Newton Students Stand Up While (worthless) Jewish
Organizations Cower in Silence
To: rfuller@newtonma.gov,internet nrivkin@newtonma.gov,internet
ruth_goldman@newton.k12.ma.us,internet
bridget_raycanada@newton.k12.ma.us,internet
diana_gomberg@newton.k12.ma.us,internet
margaret_albright@newton.k12.ma.us,internet
anping_shen@newton.k12.ma.us,internet
steven_siegel@newton.k12.ma.us,internet
kathleen_shields@newton.k12.ma.us,internet
matt_millersc@newton.k12.ma.us,internet David Fleishman
Carolyn_Campo@newton.k12.ma.us,internet
acicconejr@newtonma.gov,internet salbright@newtonma.gov,internet
jcote@newtonma.gov,internet jkrintzman@newtonma.gov,internet
dcrossley@newtonma.gov,internet vdanberg@newtonma.gov,internet
mlaredo@newtonma.gov,internet rlipof@newtonma.gov,internet
aleary@newtonma.gov,internet jauchincloss@newtonma.gov,internet
akelley@newtonma.gov,internet lgentile@newtonma.gov,internet
adowns@newtonma.gov,internet gschwartz@newtonma.gov,internet
rwgrossman@newtonma.gov,internet dkalis@newtonma.gov,internet
msgreenberg@newtonma.gov,internet enorton@newtonma.gov,internet
bglaser@newtonma.gov,internet cmarkiewicz@newtonma.gov,internet
jrice@newtonma.gov,internet bnoel@newtonma.gov,internet
lbaker@newtonma.gov,internet clappin@newtonma.gov,internet
co-presidents@northptso.org,internet info@newtonsouthptso.org,internet
announcements@newtonsouthptso.org,internet
ntapresident@newteach.org,internet
cindy_colantonio@newton.k12.ma.us,internet
penny_lyman@newton.k12.ma.us,internet
rippa@newton.k12.ma.us,internet choa@newton.k12.ma.us,internet
rtrestan@adl.org,internet taliab@adl.org,internet
boston@adl.org,internet jburton@jcrcboston.org,internet
boston@israeliamerican.org,internet dshimoni@plumchoice.com,internet
rabbi@dorsheitzedek.org,internet rabbi@templebethabraham.org,internet
rabbi.adler@tbabeverly.org,internet rfish@tisharon.org,internet
msoffer@tisrael.org,internet rabbi@neharshalom.org,internet
dlerner@templeemunah.org,internet npsconcerns@gmail.com,internet
nwasserman@tisrael.org,internet
View in Browser
Cc: jenna@newtv.org,internet NewTV@NewTV.org,internet
newton@wickedlocal.com,internet jcohen@wickedlocal.com,internet
tandersen@globe.com,internet news@jns.org,internet
ssavage@jns.org,internet stacey@jewishledger.com,internet
judiej@jewishledger.com,internet pink@forward.com,internet
editor@jewishjournal.org,internet thenewtonite@gmail.com,internet
editorsinchief@nshsdenebola.com,internet

lonnie@bostonbroadside.com,internet mecommentary@npr.org,internet
atccommentary@npr.org,internet larkin2@bu.edu,internet
tips@boston.com,internet greibman@gmail.com,internet
tips@patch.com,internet comments@freebeacon.com,internet
ssawchuk@epe.org,internet pamelageller@gmail.com,internet
tips@thegellerreport.com,internet

E-Message:

Jewish Newton High School students stand up to anti-Israel curriculum at School Committee Meeting, March 25, 2019. Here's the video link, including written background (by scrolling down from video) --

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7GROOLfySAs>

At the same time, local Jewish organizations steadfastly remain silent, as reported in the *Florida Jewish Journal*, *Sun Sentinel* edition (4/2/19) on Dechter et al. v. Newton School Committee, Fleishman, et al. --

<https://www.sun-sentinel.com/florida-jewish-journal/fl-jj-boston-residents-lawsuit-school-district-anti-semitism-20190410-story.html>

(*Florida Jewish Journal* is the nation's largest weekly Jewish newspaper -- reaching over 350,000 weekly readers -- published in seven local editions throughout Palm Beach, Broward and Miami-Dade Counties, as well as via free newsstand and vending boxes, and delivery to synagogues, Jewish community centers, restaurants, condominiums, shopping centers and other high-traffic, high visibility locations.)

Jim Epstein
Newton, MA

From: James Epstein <jamesepstein5@aol.com>,internet 3/27/2019 1:17:36 PM
Subject: OPEN LETTER TO NEWTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE, MAYOR, AND SUPERINTENDENT
To: rtrestan@adl.org,internet taliab@adl.org,internet
boston@adl.org,internet jburton@jcrcboston.org,internet
boston@israeliamerican.org,internet dshimoni@plumchoice.com,internet
rabbi@dorsheitzedek.org,internet rabbi@templebethabraham.org,internet
rabbi.adler@tbabeverly.org,internet rfish@tisharon.org,internet
msoffer@tisrael.org,internet rabbi@neharshalom.org,internet
dlerner@templeemunah.org,internet npsconcerns@gmail.com,internet
RuthanneFuller@aol.com,internet mlaredo@newtonma.gov,internet
ruth_goldman@newton.k12.ma.us,internet David Fleishman
View in Browser

OPEN LETTER TO NEWTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE, MAYOR, AND SUPERINTENDENT

March 26, 2019

Newton School Committee
Ruthanne Fuller, Mayor, City of Newton
David Fleishman, Superintendent
City of Newton, Massachusetts

Dear Members of the School Committee, Mayor Fuller and Supt. Fleishman:

As you know, at yesterday evening's School Committee meeting I addressed the local and national news accounts of the lawsuit, *Dechter et al. v. Newton School Committee et al.*, which was filed last week against you folks over Newton's high school curriculum. Specifically, as it concerns antisemitism and bias against Israel. At that meeting, I understand that a number of Newton high school students also got up and spoke, relaying that they were aware of the lawsuit, which is what gave them the support to speak up, stating that there is antisemitism (at least in their view) in the curriculum, one reportedly a senior, saying they were taught that the Israelis are committing genocide.

Most of the news accounts link to the actual complaint -- [Download Document](#) -- which I read is comprised of 61 pages of 209 separate allegations, with a total of 469 pages including numerous supporting materials and documents, as exhibits. Obviously, I remain more than perplexed, as I think others are -- actually incredulous -- that within a mere day of your apparent receipt of the complaint, you folks, as named defendants in that complaint, are able to issue a public statement on the lawsuit that you "strongly disagree with the accusations and stand by the message [you] shared with the [Newton Public School] community last fall" that "[T]hese baseless claims, often reliant upon materials and documents taken out of context, are misleading... ."

I'll reiterate, these are 61 pages of 209 allegations, with a total of 469 pages including numerous supporting materials and documents. So I'm now asking, in view of the above, do you actually "stand by" your public statement -- issued under the names of Newton's School Committee, Mayor Fuller, and Superintendent Fleishman -- that you still "strongly disagree with the accusations" which you maintain are "baseless claims, often reliant upon materials taken out of context" and "are misleading" as they are fully set forth in all the 61 pages of the 209 allegations, with a total of 469 pages including numerous supporting materials and documents.

Sincerely,

Jim Epstein
110 Manchester Rd.
Newton Highlands, MA

cc:
Newton City Council Members
Media & Community Listees

From: David Fleishman
James Epstein <jamesepstein5@aol.com>,internet
4/24/2019 2:30:56 PM
Subject: Fwd: Proposal
To: jamesepstein5@aol.com,internet View in Browser
Cc: rfuller@newtonma.gov,internet ssypts33@aol.com,internet

Dear Mr. Epsein,

Thank you for your email. My responses are below.

Best,

David

----- Original Message -----

----- Original Message -----

April 10, 2019

The Honorable Ruthanne Fuller
Mayor of the City of Newton
City Hall
1000 Commonwealth Ave.
Newton, MA 02459

David Fleishman, Superintendent
Newton Public Schools
Newton Education Center
100 Walnut St.
Newton, MA 02460

Dear Mayor Fuller and Superintendent Fleishman:

On behalf of numerous Newton residents with whom I have spoken and me, I respectfully reiterate and renew the request made by Newton resident Sande Young in her public, on the record, speech before the Newton School Committee at the Committee's April 8, 2019 Public Meeting, as follows --

1) She states, "I have expert guest speakers ready, willing and able to appear at any Middle Eastern Studies, History or Current Events class".

Thank you for the offer. Our faculty have strong connections with guest speakers throughout the Boston area and have a wealth of knowledge about the subjects above.

2) She states, "I am willing to fund a large exhibit from the Simon Wiesenthal Center called 'The Birth of Israel'. The cost to rent this exhibit is \$500 which I am willing to pay for out of my own pocket".

Thank you for the offer on an important topic. We receive a lot of offers regarding exhibits and curriculum materials. I know Sande has been in touch with Toby and Margaret Albright and the kind offer has been shared with the high schools. Unfortunately, due to the attacks our teachers, they are quite hesitant to address topics related to Israel and the Middle East so I am not sure that the exhibit would relate to our curriculum.

3) She proposes an "Anti-Anti-Israel Bias Commission" on the basis that there would be numerous volunteers (which I confirm is the case).

We reject that there is bias in our curriculum and would not agree with such a proposal. Our teachers and our community members would fear censorship and we have never had such a review panel on any subject.

As Sande stated in her speech, she has brought items #1 and #2 (above) to Mayor Fuller, Assistant Superintendent Toby Romer, both Newton North and Newton South High School Principals and History Department Chairs, as well as North teacher, David Bedar." Albeit Sande was advised that she would at least receive a response on items #1 and #2, to date there has been no response, including no response at the April 8 School Committee meeting, hence this written request.

This approach would show good faith to begin to rectify, what is perceived by many Newton residents including two students who attested to this [<http://click.icptrack.com/icp/relay.php?r=58885606&msgid=93959&act=QXHD&c=1761974&destination=https%3A%2F%2Fyoutu.be%2F7GROOLfySAs>] <https://youtu.be/7GROOLfySAs> at the March 25 School Committee meeting, an anti-Israel bias in the Newton Public Schools curriculum, causing considerable discomfort. The beauty of the item #1 and #2 proposals beyond providing important teaching presentations and materials to students, further enabling critical thinking on both historical and current issues, there need be no admission by the City or Schools of the underlying problem. Moreover, there is absolutely no cost to the City, Schools and taxpayers.

I do look forward to your response to these proposals at your very earliest convenience, and if in the affirmative, I'll volunteer to assist in coordinating

this with Sande Young.

Sincerely,

Jim Epstein
110 Manchester Rd.
Newton, MA 02461

cc: Sande Young

April 10, 2019

The Honorable Ruthanne Fuller
Mayor of the City of Newton
City Hall
1000 Commonwealth Ave.
Newton, MA 02459

David Fleishman, Superintendent
Newton Public Schools
Newton Education Center
100 Walnut St.
Newton, MA 02460

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I do look forward to your response to these proposals at your very earliest convenience, and if in the affirmative, I'll volunteer to assist in coordinating this with Sande Young.

Sincerely,

Jim Epstein
110 Manchester Rd.
Newton, MA 02461

cc: Sande Young

From: John C. Harutunian
John Harutunian <john_harutunian@newton.k12.ma.us>,internet
John Harutunian <john_harutunian@newton.k12.ma.us>,internet
5/23/2019 11:54:33 AM
Subject: Fwd: Incident at Oak Hill
To: Toby Romer David Fleishman Julie McDonough Maricel Sheets View
in Browser

Dear Julie, Toby, David and Maricel,

Thanks to you all for taking the time out of your day to collaborate on this letter. Your support was instrumental in getting this out in a timely manner.

Sincerely,
John

----- Original Message -----

May 22, 2019

Good afternoon Oak Hill families,

I have some upsetting news to share. Yesterday and this morning, we conducted an investigation that involved a video with students saying a racial slur, which was shared with and viewed by a small group of students. The video with a hateful word being repeated has caused deep hurt and pain among students, faculty and community members of all races. We are closely following our district protocols for responding to acts of bias and discrimination, including notifying the Newton Police.

At Oak Hill, we take incidents such as these very seriously. It is a violation of our core values and will not be tolerated. We reject racism, anti-semitism, gender intolerance or any other form of discrimination. We work continuously to build an inclusive and caring community in which all students and adults feel safe and respected. In addition to taking the appropriate disciplinary and educational steps with the students involved, we also will lead a workshop with all 8th grade students to emphasize there is no place for hate speech, racial jokes or racial slurs in our school community.

Faculty and staff are aware of this incident. If your child expresses any concern to you, please let them know they can contact a teacher, guidance counselor, or other trusted adult in the building for support. Should you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to me. Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

John Harutunian

Newton Public Schools would like to continue connecting with you via email. If you prefer to be removed from our list, please contact Newton Public Schools directly. To stop receiving all email messages distributed through our SchoolMessenger service, follow this link and confirm: [
<http://track.spe.schoolmessenger.com/f/a/YHaqEL3UcR4P17WaeRMhuQ~~/AAAAAQA~/RgRexs3UP0RdaHR0cHM6Ly9nby5zY2hvb2xtZXNzZW5nZXIuY29tLyMvdW5zdWJzY3JpYmUvNDM5OC9hbTlvYmw5b1lYSjFkSFZ1YVdGdVFHNWxkM1J2Ymk1ck1USXViV0V1ZFhNVwdzY2hvb2xtQgoAAFSa5VzCpAdaUiBqb2huX2hhcnV0dW5pYW5AbmV3dG9uLmsxMi5tYS51c1gEAAAAAQ~~>]Unsubscribe
SchoolMessenger is a notification service used by the nation's leading school systems to connect with parents, students and staff through voice, SMS text, email, and social media.
[Image]

From: John Harutunian <harutunianj@newton.k12.ma.us>, internet
"John Harutunian (via Google Docs)" <drive-shares-noreply@google.com>, internet
"John Harutunian (via Google Docs)" <drive-shares-noreply@google.com>, internet
5/5/2019 6:17:24 PM
Subject: Israel Day Handout - 5/13/19 - Invitation to edit
To: David Fleishman View in Browser
Cc: romert@newton.k12.ma.us, internet

harutunianj@newton.k12.ma.us has invited you to **edit** the following document:

 **Israel Day Handout - 5/13/19**



Hi David & Toby,

Here is the document...thanks for your review.

Best,
John

[Open in Docs](#)

Google Docs: Create and edit documents online.

Google LLC, 1600 Amphitheatre Parkway, Mountain View, CA 94043, USA

You have received this email because someone shared a document with you from Google Docs.



From: Julie McDonough <juliemcdonough@gmail.com>,internet 5/21/2019
10:00:12 PM
Subject: Re: NY students protest, say Newton curriculum is anti-Semitic,
anti-Israel - News - Newton TAB - Newton, MA
To: Ruth Goldman <ruthgoldperson@gmail.com>,internet View in
Browser
Cc: Claire Sokoloff <clairesokoloff@gmail.com>,internet David
Fleishman
ERIC GURVIS <gurver56@verizon.net>,internet
Eileen Sandberg <sandberg.eileen@gmail.com>,internet

Really nice messages from Claire and Eric. Thank you.

On Tue, May 21, 2019 at 9:22 PM RUth Goldman <ruthgoldperson@gmail.com> wrote:
Julie Cohen..... so it goes.

<https://newton.wickedlocal.com/article/20190521/NEWS/190528889>

Ruth Goldman
Ruth Goldman Consulting
ruthgoldperson@gmail.com
(617)719-5048

From: David Fleishman
Newton Alert <newtonalert@yahoo.com>,internet
3/19/2019 1:16:35 PM
Subject: Fwd: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Newton, MA Public Schools Sued for
Using Antisemitic Curriculum
To: Julie McDonough Lisa Mazzola View in Browser

----- Original Message -----

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
MARCH 19, 2019

Contact: Ilya Feoktistov
Email: [<mailto:if@peaceandtolerance.org>]if@peaceandtolerance.org

NEWTON RESIDENTS SUE CITY'S SCHOOL COMMITTEE, SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS, PRINCIPALS
AND TEACHERS FOR DISCRIMINATION AGAINST JEWS AND ISRAELIS

Ideological/Political Curriculum Teaches Propaganda Instead of Facts

NEWTON, MASSACHUSETTS. On March 12, 2019, Newton taxpayers filed a lawsuit in Middlesex Superior Court against the Newton School Committee, Superintendent of Schools David Fleishman, the principals of the Newton high schools, and certain high school history teachers. Plaintiffs are asking for a court order that would compel Newton school officials to stop indoctrinating students with anti-Semitism, bigotry against Israel, and Islamist religious dogma as part of the high school history curriculum. This suit was made necessary because the embattled school administration is shielding its teachers from scrutiny and refusing to supervise what is being taught in its classrooms. The taxpayers claim that Newton Public Schools (NPS) has deliberately failed and refused to comply with the Equal Rights Amendment of the Massachusetts Constitution, with the Massachusetts Student Anti-Discrimination Act, and with civil rights regulations that require schools, through their curricula, to encourage respect for the human and civil rights of all individuals regardless of race, identity, religion, color, sex, and national origin.

The extensively documented 469 page legal complaint, available [<https://peaceandtolerance.us12.list-manage.com/track/click?u=47f17d17778fdf9b4e07c91ad&id=6505bc5b69&e=3da3393c39>]here, details the lengthy history of Newton residents' efforts to have NPS address and correct the factually flawed teaching. Plaintiffs and their attorney were provided with an enormous volume of factual documentation by Americans for Peace and Tolerance (APT) Executive Director Ilya Feoktistov, whose investigations over the past several months formed the basis of this action.

"In looking for the sources of the anti-Semitic and anti-Israel bigotry in the Newton curriculum, we discovered a few bad apple teachers who view their teaching positions as giving them license to promote their personal political agendas," said Mr. Feoktistov. "We are also looking closely at a common pattern with these politicized teachers – most, if not all, have taken professional development courses developed with foreign funding by the governments of Qatar and Saudi Arabia."

"Newton history teachers and school administrators must think either that anti-discrimination laws do not apply to them, or that these laws do not protect their Jewish and Israeli students," said the President of APT, Charles Jacobs. "There is no academic freedom to brainwash students with fake history and pro-Arab or anti-Semitic propaganda that is, these days, alarmingly too common on the left in America."

Evidence described in the complaint shows how Newton teachers teach that Jews and Christians deliberately forged their holy texts to contradict the Muslim Qur'an; that Zionism has "little connection" to Jewish history in "Palestine;" that the Jews took advantage of the Holocaust to gain sympathy for Zionism at the expense of "Arab plight;" and that the Israelis treat the Palestinians like the Nazis treated the Jews. After being taught all this, students are asked to debate whether there should be a one- or two-state solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Karen Hurvitz, attorney for the taxpayers, stated that her clients are not asking for money damages, even though defendants have certainly caused years of incalculable damage by their insistence on teaching impressionable students materials that slander Israel and Jews. "This is the type of teaching that leads to anti-Semitism – and it has. The taxpayers here are merely asking NPS to perform their duties and obey the law, which requires that their curriculum encourage respect for all people. Education should be based on fact, not on stereotypes and propaganda."

###

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
MARCH 19, 2019

Contact: Ilya Feoktistov
Email: if@peaceandtolerance.org

NEWTON RESIDENTS SUE CITY'S SCHOOL COMMITTEE, SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS,
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"In looking for the sources of the anti-Semitic and anti-Israel bigotry in the Newton curriculum, we discovered a few bad apple teachers who view their teaching positions as giving them license to promote their personal political agendas," said Mr. Feoktistov. "We are also looking closely at a common pattern with these politicized teachers — most, if not all, have taken professional development courses developed with foreign funding by the governments of Qatar and Saudi Arabia."

"Newton history teachers and school administrators must think either that anti-discrimination laws do not apply to them, or that these laws do not protect their Jewish and Israeli students," said the President of APT, Charles Jacobs. "There is no academic freedom to brainwash students with fake history and pro-Arab or anti-Semitic propaganda that is, these days, alarmingly too common on the left in America."

Evidence described in the complaint shows how Newton teachers teach that Jews and Christians deliberately forged their holy texts to contradict the Muslim Qur'an; that Zionism has "little connection" to Jewish history in "Palestine;" that the Jews took advantage of the Holocaust to gain sympathy for Zionism at the expense of "Arab plight;" and that the Israelis treat the Palestinians like the Nazis treated the Jews. After being taught all this, students are asked to debate whether there should be a one- or two-state solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Karen Hurvitz, attorney for the taxpayers, stated that her clients are not asking for money damages, even though defendants have certainly caused years of incalculable damage by their insistence on teaching impressionable students materials that slander Israel and Jews. "This is the type of teaching

that leads to anti-Semitism — and it has. The taxpayers here are merely asking NPS to perform their duties and obey the law, which requires that their curriculum encourage respect for all people. Education should be based on fact, not on stereotypes and propaganda.”

###

From: Julie McDonough
"Cohen, Julie" <jcohen@wickedlocal.com>, internet
5/14/2019 11:07:00 AM
Subject: Fwd: Please feel free to share
To: David Fleishman Toby Romer View in Browser

FYI

Julie McDonough
Communications Specialist
Newton Public Schools
100 Walnut St.
Newtonville, MA 02460
617-559-6114

[<http://www.facebook.com/newtonps>][Image:facebook email.jpeg] [
http://twitter.com/newton_ps][Image:twitter-32x32.png] [
www.instagram.com/newton_ps][Image:rsz_1instagram.jpg] [
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCO_cwRTg-C0ANpjLb2QleWA][Image:youtube.png] [
http://www.linkedin.com/company/newton-public-schools?trk=nav_account_sub_nav_compan
[y_admin](http://www.linkedin.com/company/newton-public-schools?trk=nav_account_sub_nav_compan)][Image:LinkedIn-icon-32x32.jpg]

----- Original Message -----

[
<https://newton.wickedlocal.com/news/20190513/newton-students-learn-about-israel-on-countrys-71st-birthday>
]
[<https://newton.wickedlocal.com/news/20190513/newton-students-learn-about-israel-on-countrys-71st-birthday>
]

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[newton@wickedlocal.com]. If you would like to share a story idea or have another inquiry for the Newton Tab, please contact me at my direct email address, [<mailto:jcohen@wickedlocal.com>]
jcohen@wickedlocal.com.

If you are sending an email about Roslindale or West Roxbury, from now on please send it to [<mailto:Transcript@wickedlocal.com>]
Transcript@wickedlocal.com. If you are sending an email about Allston or Brighton, from now on please send it to [<mailto:allston-brighton@wickedlocal.com>]
allston-brighton@wickedlocal.com.
[<mailto:jcohen@wickedlocal.com>]

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<https://newton.wickedlocal.com/news/20190513/newton-students-learn-about-israel-on-countrys-71st-birthday>

--

To ensure prompt handling of your email, please be sure to address all correspondence about Newton to newton@wickedlocal.com. If you would like to share a story idea or have another inquiry for the Newton Tab, please contact me at my direct email address, jcohen@wickedlocal.com.

If you are sending an email about Roslindale or West Roxbury, from now on please send it to Transcript@wickedlocal.com. If you are sending an email about Allston or Brighton, from now on please send it to allston-brighton@wickedlocal.com.

This message may contain confidential and/or privileged information. If you are not the intended recipient or authorized to receive this for the intended recipient, you must not use, copy, disclose or take any action based on this message or any information herein. If you have received this message in error, please advise the sender immediately by sending a reply e-mail and delete this message. Thank you for your cooperation.

From: Julie McDonough Tuesday, May 21, 2019 2:07:51 PM
Subject: Re: Fwd: Channel 7 Question
To: David Fleishman

Alan,

Below please find the statement from the Newton Public Schools related to the rally at South today. Please let me know if you have any further questions.

Thank you,
Julie

STATEMENT FROM NEWTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

The Newton Public Schools reject bias and discrimination in all forms. Anti-Semitism, and any hateful act of intolerance, is a direct violation of our district values - values that include accepting our differences, celebrating our diversity, and respecting each other. All of our schools, including Newton South, work hard to build communities of inclusion - communities where all students feel safe, supported, and respected.

We also support and respect the right of all students to assemble and voice their opinion. Student voice is a powerful force, as we've witnessed recently across the country. We encourage students in the Newton Public Schools to do the same - formulate their own opinions, speak up for positive change, and engage in civic life. The freedom to express opinion is one our country holds dear and we respect the rights of all to do so.

Teaching history in classrooms today is complex and challenging. It requires the skill to take on controversial issues in responsible, intellectual, and balanced ways. Our teachers in the Newton Public Schools are skilled educators who work every day to bring history to life in a way that engages students and challenges them to think critically. Students are encouraged to understand, respect, and appreciate diverse perspectives and to reach their own conclusions based upon facts and information.

Through diverse and varied educational opportunities, students learn about social justice issues, confront bias, and create inclusive environments in their schools and communities. We look forward to continuing this work now and into the future.

Julie McDonough
Communications Specialist
Newton Public Schools
100 Walnut St.
Newtonville, MA 02460
617-559-6114

[<http://www.facebook.com/newtonps>][Image:facebook_email.jpeg] [
http://twitter.com/newton_ps][Image:twitter-32x32.png] [
www.instagram.com/newton_ps][Image:rsz_1instagram.jpg] [
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCO_cwRTg-C0ANpjLb2QleWA][Image:youtube.png] [
http://www.linkedin.com/company/newton-public-schools?trk=nav_account_sub_nav_compan
[y_admin](#)][Image:LinkedIn-icon-32x32.jpg]

David Fleishman writes:

----- Original Message -----

----- Original Message -----

Good Afternoon,
We are looking to see if the Newton schools have a statement on today's
demonstration by students from New York. Thanks for your help in this matter

Alan Miller
Assignment Desk Manager
7News
617-725-0853

[Image]

From: Julie McDonough Thursday, March 28, 2019 9:33:02 AM
Subject: WBUR piece
To: David Fleishman Carolyn Campo

[<https://www.wbur.org/edify/2019/03/27/newton-anti-israel-bias-lawsuit>
] <https://www.wbur.org/edify/2019/03/27/newton-anti-israel-bias-lawsuit>

They used a small piece of our statement.

Julie McDonough
Communications Specialist
Newton Public Schools
100 Walnut St.
Newtonville, MA 02460
617-559-6114

[<http://www.facebook.com/newtonps>] [Image:facebook email.jpeg] [http://twitter.com/newton_ps] [Image:twitter-32x32.png] [www.instagram.com/newton_ps] [Image:rsz_1instagram.jpg] [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCO_cwRTg-C0ANpjLb2QleWA] [Image:youtube.png] [http://www.linkedin.com/company/newton-public-schools?trk=nav_account_sub_nav_compan
y_admin] [Image:LinkedIn-icon-32x32.jpg]

From: David Fleishman Monday, May 13, 2019 2:43:19 PM
Subject: Great job!
To: Kerry G. Winer Sherri Cohen

Dear Kerry and Sherri,

Thanks so much for coordinating such a wonderful morning for the 6th graders at Oak Hill. The sessions were highly engaging and the themes about innovation in Israel are truly significant. I noted that the students thoroughly appreciated learning about the similarities between Boston and Tel Aviv when Dan shared his presentation. I know I learned a bunch myself as well. Many thanks!

Best,

David

From: LAURIE BELL <bell_laurie@hotmail.com>,internet 2/16/2019 10:58:26
AM
Subject: Re: Israel Curriculum in Newton Public Schools
To: Ruthanne Fuller <rfuller@newtonma.gov>,internet View in Browser
Cc: David Fleishman

We should lead in getting this right!
Thank you,
Laurie Bell

From: Ruthanne Fuller <rfuller@newtonma.gov>
Sent: Saturday, February 16, 2019 10:55 AM
To: 'LAURIE BELL'
Cc: David Fleishman
Subject: RE: Israel Curriculum in Newton Public Schools

Laurie,

I am forwarding your idea to our Superintendent, David Fleishman.

Thanks!

Warmly,

Ruthanne Fuller

From: LAURIE BELL <bell_laurie@hotmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 16, 2019 10:46 AM
To: Ruthanne Fuller <rfuller@newtonma.gov>
Subject: Israel Curriculum in Newton Public Schools

Mayor Fuller,

Would it make sense to have a leadership board of three to evaluate and advise the creating of an Israel Curriculum?

I would suggest Vernon Domingo as one of the three "board members." I took many courses with Vernon and consider him an inspirational teacher.

He makes Geography interesting and relevant. According to Vernon, every time there is a crisis in the world the UN Secretary General would say "get me the maps!"

Thank you,
Laurie Bell

From: LAURIE BELL <bell_laurie@hotmail.com>
Sent: Friday, April 27, 2018 2:29 PM
To: bohnenn@comcast.net
Subject: FW: ENORMOUS NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC MAP

Here is another idea I support!

Subject: Re: FW: ENORMOUS NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC MAP

Michael,

When I was a School Librarian in Brockton Vernon brought the giant map to the school.

Vernon is a remarkable teacher but one-sided in his view of Israel and the Palestinians based on his being a second class citizen in South Africa,

Laurie Bell

From: LAURIE BELL <bell_laurie@hotmail.com>
Sent: Friday, December 9, 2016 6:09 PM
To: LAURIE BELL
Subject: Fw: FW: ENORMOUS NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC MAP

From: bell_laurie@hotmail.com
To: lisahills@hirschhills.com; mrobinson@templemanuel.com
Subject: FW: ENORMOUS NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC MAP
Date: Sun, 10 Jul 2016 20:29:36 -0400

In addition to teacher training I think the Jewish Community should make a giant map of the Middle East and get a mini van and send it out with a diverse group of Israeli kids/soldiers who just finished the army to visit schools. For thirteen years my mother was a Hebrew school principal. She said kids hear in the news all the time Israel did this and Israel did that. When they look at a map of the middle east and see how small Israel is compared to the other countries surrounding it, they are amazed.

Years ago I was a special education classroom aide in an Elementary school in Waltham.

The fifth grade teacher was teaching the Revolutionary War curriculum. She told the class that what took place in 1776 was not that different from the battle being waged today between Israel and the Palestinians. I assume it was her opinion and not curriculum. Curriculum is a piece of the puzzle but the more important piece is how the teacher interprets it, their perspective and how they present it. One time Vernon Domingo (who I respect and admire) had a Palestinian Professor from U of Mass Boston come talk to the class. She kept saying it was Zionist problem and the one state solution was the only solution. She was so anti-Israel and nobody challenged her. She got applause at the end of her lecture.

When I brought this map to Brockton the music teacher told me that she overheard the kids saying "I never knew there were so many countries in Asia that end with the word "stan."

You can go to National Geographic traveling map to learn more about the program.

I assume they still make and send out the maps.

Laurie Bell

From: bell_laurie@hotmail.com
To: bell_laurie@hotmail.com
Subject: RE: . Small Gym at Davis School to become "Asia" on
Date: Sun, 10 Jul 2016 19:42:44 -0400

 Close

Davis Students Explore Asia With Their Feet, Thanks To Enormous National Geographic Map
 Posted 12/11/2007 03:29PM

DAVIS STUDENTS EXPLORE ASIA WITH THEIR FEET, THANKS TO ENORMOUS NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC MAP

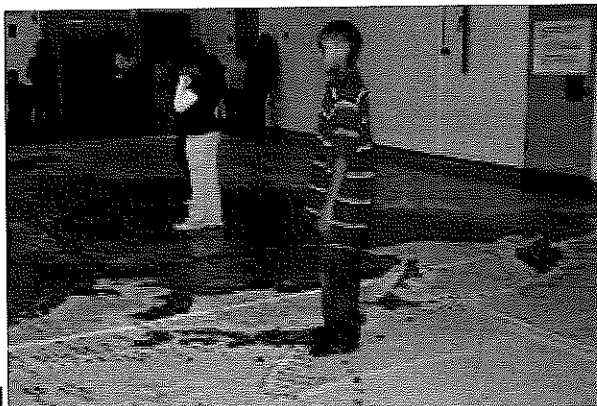
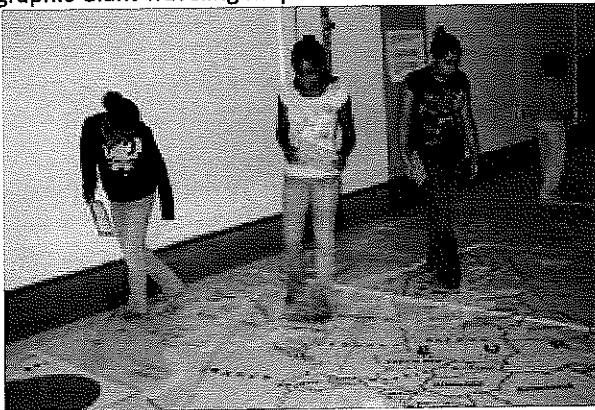
Students at the Davis K-8 School got a chance to see Asia in a new way this fall: they learned about the continent by walking it on an enormous map. Professors from Bridgewater State College helped to bring the "National Geographic Giant Traveling Map" to the Davis, and they instructed students in Grades 2-8 about the continent and its geography, topography and history.

"It's a wonderful experience, it gives kids an opportunity to see for themselves how large Asia is, to put the

countries in context relative to one another," said Principal Darlene Campbell. "This is another tool that helps teachers give students a new way to look at geography and the world they live in."

On November 29, BSC Geography Professor Dr. Vernon Domingo and retired Professor Rosalie Sokol arrived at the Davis School with a 41'x31' scale map of Asia and a plan to help bring geography to life for hundreds of students. The map nearly carpeted the school's small gym, and classes came in for 30-minute sessions with the National Geographic Giant Traveling Map.

As
a



class of fifth graders clustered around the enormous atlas, Sokol asked them to name the highest point in the world. A few hands went up, and one student answered that Mount Everest (at 29,035 feet) is the highest point on earth. The student was correct, and Sokol asked her to walk over to Nepal and stand atop Everest. The next question was what is the lowest point on Earth? Again, that place is in Asia, in the Dead Sea. The country with the world's largest population is also in Asia (China, with 1.3 billion residents), and the world's first known civilization in Mesopotamia is located in modern-day Iraq, another part of Asia.

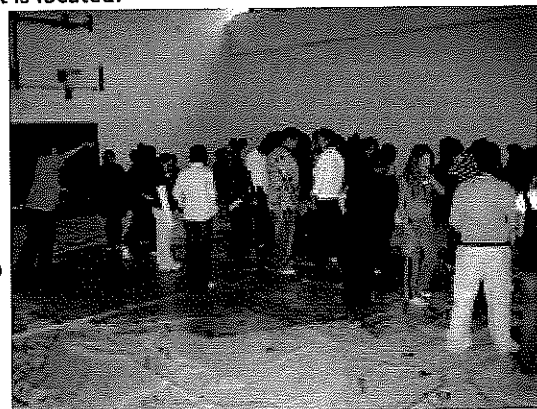
After an initial discussion of the region, Sokol and Dr. Domingo passed out cards to all the students. On each card was the name of a country, its population (in millions) and its area in square miles. The students then had to locate the country by walking around the map and seeing where in Asia it is located.

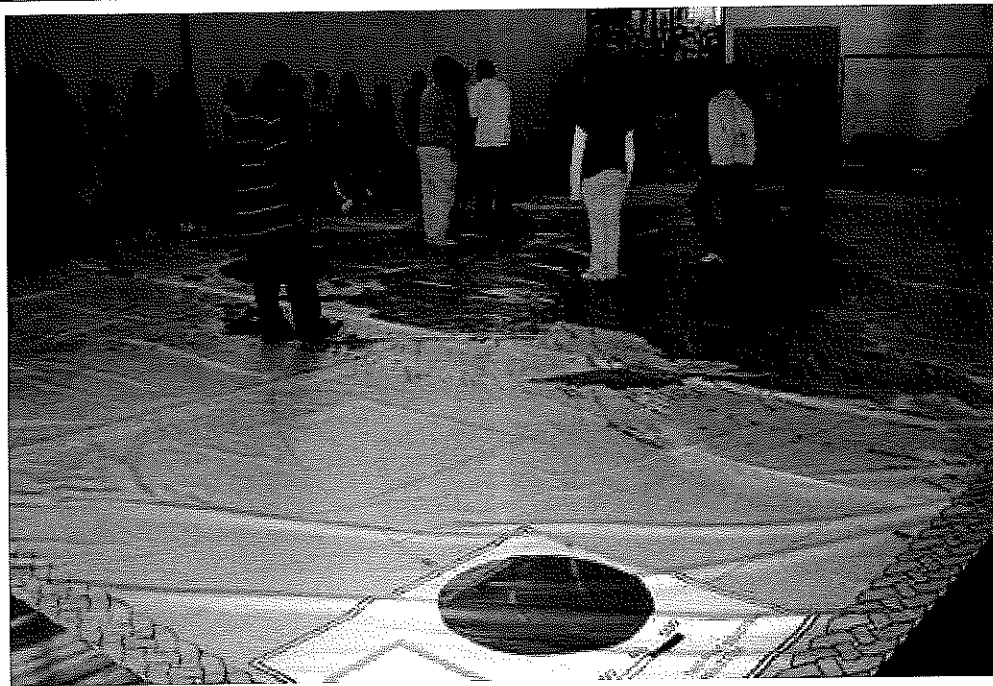
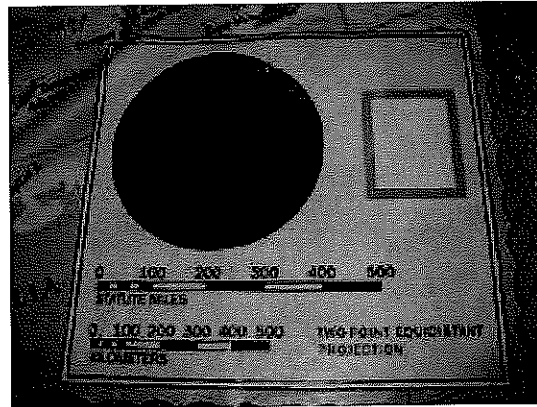
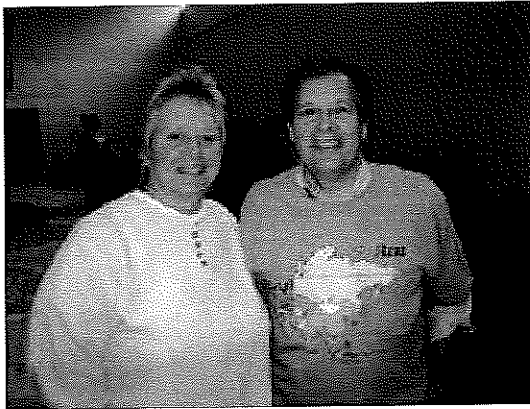
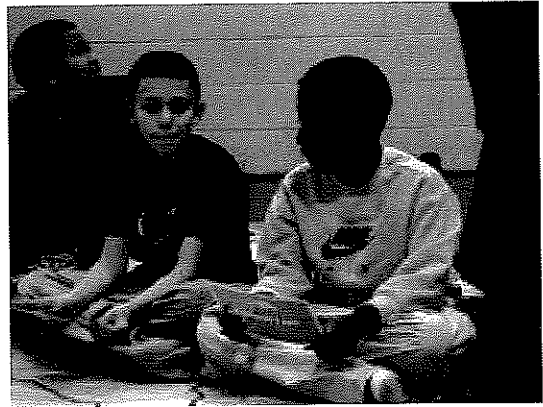
"The key is to teach students about how geography influences the world around them, and how it influences history," said Grade 6 Social Studies Teacher Steven Alves, whose students happened to be working on a unit on Asia at the time of the map's arrival. "This puts a perspective on world events, so that when something pops up on the news, you know about where that country is located, which countries it abuts and what kind of a belief and governmental structure are there. It helps to give some context so that you can understand what's going on in the world."

The Asia map is the second in National Geographic's Giant Traveling Map series - Africa, the first in the series, began touring schools and organizations around the country in 2006. The enlarged map has a brightly colored, smooth vinyl surface that accurately illustrates the continent's oceans, seas, rivers, mountains, countries and capitals. Giant maps are planned for the other continents and a North America map is slated to travel in 2008.

This year, the Asia map came to the Davis thanks to a partnership between Dr. Domingo and his former student, Davis School Librarian Laurie Bell. A well-respected geographer, Dr. Domingo worked to bring the traveling map to the area. The college and the school also collaborate on the Professional Development School, which pairs 15 student teachers with experienced Davis professionals for a 16-week teaching experience. Bell said she was pleased to further the connection between BSC and the Davis School, and is looking forward to the North America map traveling to the school next year.

"I think this is a fabulous way to teach geography," said Bell, who often helps students to research areas of the world. "Geography is so important in this global age, and to have an opportunity to see it so clearly in perspective is wonderful."





From: bell_laurie@hotmail.com

To: bell_laurie@hotmail.com

Subject: . Small Gym at Davis School to become "Asia" on

Date: Sun, 10 Jul 2016 19:24:00 -0400

Small Gym at Davis School to become "Asia" on

November 29th

Walking from one side of Asia to the other may seem like an impossible feat, but it's all in a day's lesson for elementary and middle school students with the world's largest map of the continent. The massive map, measuring 41 feet by 31 feet, is designed by National Geographic as a geo-game board inviting students to explore and discover the diverse geography of Asia. The enlarged map has a brightly colored, smooth vinyl surface that accurately illustrates the continent's oceans, seas, rivers, mountains, countries and capitals.

The giant map, designed for grades K-8, come with a trunk full of accessories, that teach students about the physical characteristics of the continents as well as the rich history and varied cultures. Safaris, scavenger hunts and competitive games help make learning about country locations, capital cities, population centers and wildlife information fun and exciting. we will have the opportunity to have this map and the incredible experience right at the Davis...on November 29 the small gym will become Asia! Thank-you to Laurie Bell our School Librarian for arranging this special opportunity for our students.

For more information, visit
<http://press.nationalgeographic.com/pressroom/index.jsp?pageID=press>

When responding, please be aware that the Massachusetts Secretary of State has determined that most email is public record and therefore cannot be kept confidential.

From: LAURIE BELL <bell_laurie@hotmail.com>,internet 3/4/2019 5:02:32 PM
Subject: Re: Israel Curriculum in Newton Public Schools
To: David Fleishman View in Browser
Cc: "rfuller@newtonma.gov" <rfuller@newtonma.gov>,internet

Thank you,
Laurie Bell

From: David Fleishman <david_fleishman@newton.k12.ma.us>
Sent: Monday, March 4, 2019 3:46 PM
To: bell_laurie@hotmail.com
Cc: rf Fuller@newtonma.gov
Subject: Re: Israel Curriculum in Newton Public Schools

Hi Laurie,

Thanks so much for your suggestion. I know we have many wonderful scholars in our area. Please note that our curriculum is guided by the MA State Frameworks. Our teachers use the frameworks as a guide and then use a variety of historical sources. They consult with other teachers and organizations when developing their classes. They actually don't spend a lot of time on the Middle East, although they are planning to update the unit in the coming months. I know they will plan on consulting with a number of excellent sources to ensure that the curriculum is thoughtful and balanced.

I have not heard of any public school district using a board to evaluate curriculum. While our educators are also open to learning, they would likely be concerned that a board would impact their autonomy and perhaps politicize the selection of materials. I know that is not the intent of what you are proposing but worry it might feel that way to our educators.

Thanks for writing.

Best,

David

From: Lital Carmel <litalc@israeliamerican.org>,internet 5/9/2019
3:29:16 PM
Subject: Join us May 15 for special lunch at the JFK Library
To: David Fleishman
"ruthgoldperson@gmail.com" <ruthgoldperson@gmail.com>,internet
toby_romer@newton.k12.ma.us,internet
View in Browser
Cc: David Shimoni <david.shimoni@yahoo.com>,internet
Paula Sinclair <paula@israeliamerican.org>,internet

Dear David, Ruth and Toby,

Thank you for your time today.

As promised- please see below the invitation to the lunch on May 15th. Please let me know as soon as you can if you will be joining us.

Lital

As some of you know, IAC Boston has been named as one of the beneficiary organizations of the Final Whistle on Hate Charity Match, which will take place on Wednesday night May 15 at Gillette Stadium. All proceeds from the soccer game (between Chelsea FC and the New England Revolution) benefit organizations that combat antisemitism and discrimination. The Kraft Family has invited us to a special luncheon at the JFK Library on that same day. The luncheon conversation is dedicated to the topic of antisemitism (see schedule below). We hope that you can join us there.

Regards,

Lital and Paula

- 11:30 AM** Guests Arrive
- 11:45 AM** Welcome Remarks
- 11:50 AM** Panel one: State of anti-Semitism around the world (45 min)
 - Moderator: David Brinn, Managing Editor, Jerusalem Post
 - Panelists:
 - Ambassador Danny Danon, Israel's Permanent Representative to the United Nations –
 - Isaac Herzog, Chairman of the Jewish Agency for Israel
 - Malcolm Hoenlein, Executive Vice Chairman, Conference of Presidents Major American Jewish Organizations
 - Sara Bloomfield, Holocaust Memorial Museum
- 12:35 PM** Lunch served
- 12:50 PM** Panel two: How sports can join the fight against anti-Semitism around the world (30 min)
 - Moderator: David Brinn, Managing Editor, Jerusalem Post
 - Panelists:
 - Bruce Buck, Chelsea Football Club
 - Vince Gennaro, Dean NYU Tisch Institute
 - Don Garber, MLS
 - Brian Bilello, NER
- 1:20 PM** Key Note* (5-10 min) Elan Carr, U.S. Envoy to combat anti-Semitism

*Elan is arriving from a meeting outside the country and so he will conduct the Key Note on the backend of the Luncheon.
- 1:30 PM** Speaking Program concludes
- Dessert and Networking

From: Lital Carmel <litalc@israeliamerican.org>,internet 5/14/2019
11:17:20 AM
Subject: Middle East Day, May 9 2019
To: David Fleishman
"ruthgoldperson@gmail.com" <ruthgoldperson@gmail.com>,internet
toby_romer@newton.k12.ma.us,internet
View in Browser
Cc: David Shimoni <david.shimoni@yahoo.com>,internet
Attachments: Middle East Day, May 9 2019.docx 44K



May 13, 2019

Dear Community,

I am writing to update you on *Understanding and Appreciating the Middle East Day* which took place at Newton North High School on Thursday, May 9.

For the past seven months, the IAC has been working closely with NPS to ensure that Israeli American students and Israel supporters feel safe at school. We have collaborated with NPS on many topics, one of which was to create a balanced and safe Middle East Day.

As you know, many of us felt that last year's Middle East Day was unbalanced and biased. As part of our positive collaboration with NPS, I was invited this year to sit in on the two blocks which I felt had the potential of making our teens feel unsafe again in their own school.

I was therefore so grateful to see that this year's program was both balanced and comprehensive. There was no bias throughout the content of the two blocks I attended. Those two blocks were:

- 1) Block B- The Student Panel: This panel featured Newton North students who identify as being from the Middle East (Israel, Lebanon, Armenia, Iran and Egypt). Students shared how their Middle Eastern background shapes their personal experiences in the United States, the inter-generational issues they face, and their lives as immigrants.
- 2) Media Coverage of the Middle East: Stefano Kotsonis, producer of WBUR's OnPoint and previously CNN's Amman (Jordan) bureau chief and correspondent. He spoke about his experience as a field correspondent in the Middle East, giving the students tools to critically consume news.

I would like to thank Principal Turner for opening the doors of NNHS and allowing me to witness a day of wonderful educational work. The day was both moving and instructive; students learned how complex, layered and wonderful the Middle East really is. Kudos to the organizing committee!

With the hope that this collaboration will continue to flourish,

Lital Carmel
Regional Director
IAC Boston

Hello all,

Please find attached the draft letter to the community following the Middle East Day last Thursday.

If you'll find time to go over it today, I'll be able to send it out to our mailing list tonight.

Lital

From: Lital Carmel <litalc@israeliamerican.org>,internet 2/12/2019
9:10:39 PM
Subject: RE: Letter from IAC?
To: David Shimoni <david.shimoni@yahoo.com>,internet
'Ruth Goldman' <ruthgoldperson@gmail.com>,internet
View in Browser
Cc: toby_romer@newton.k12.ma.us,internet David Fleishman

Hello all,

Please find attached the draft letter to the community following the Middle East Day last Thursday.

If you'll find time to go over it today, I'll be able to send it out to our mailing list tonight.

Lital

From: David Fleishman Tuesday, May 14, 2019 4:31:42 PM
Subject: Re: Middle East Day, May 9 2019
To: Lital Carmel <litalc@israeliamerican.org>,internet
Cc: "ruthgoldperson@gmail.com" <ruthgoldperson@gmail.com>,internet
toby_romer@newton.k12.ma.us,internet
David Shimoni <david.shimoni@yahoo.com>,internet

Hi Lital,

I appreciate your perspective and think the draft is in good shape. There is one minor change that would be very helpful for our educators and community. In the first sentence of the second paragraph, it is important that the word continue be included. Otherwise, we worry that the community will think students have not felt welcomed and safe and we do not believe that to be the case. Many thanks for your understanding.

David

Hello all,

We didn't change anything from the last version we all approved.

We sent it both directly to the Israeli-American parents of both high schools and as part of our weekly newsletter.

The only response I'm getting is different 'thank you' and appreciation for this joint effort.

I will update if something interesting will come up.

I hope all is well,

Lital


Lital Carmel

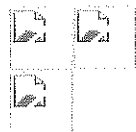
Regional Director, Boston

Israeli-American Council (IAC)

Phone: 617-795-3400

Cell: 617-899-8973

 cid:7369FED0-A58B-47A7-BA42-EECF2D99AA5D



From: David Shimoni <david.shimoni@yahoo.com>

Sent: Tuesday, February 12, 2019 5:10 PM

To: 'RUth Goldman' <ruthgoldperson@gmail.com>; Lital Carmel <litalc@israeliamerican.org>

Cc: 'Toby Romer' <toby_romer@newton.k12.ma.us>; 'David Fleishman' <david_fleishman@newton.k12.ma.us>

Subject: RE: Letter from IAC?

Hi Ruth,

Yes, Lital sent the attached letter to the parents last Thursday. I don't think we received any meaningful response so far but I'll let Lital confirm that. It was also good (and timely) to see David's email from today announcing the new web page with information on the protocol related to incident of bias, discrimination, or hate. It feels like we are working well together as team!

Stay warm!

Best, David

From: RUth Goldman [<mailto:ruthgoldperson@gmail.com>]

Sent: Tuesday, February 12, 2019 3:18 PM

To: Lital Carmel; David Shimoni

Cc: Toby Romer; David Fleishman

Subject: Letter from IAC?

Hi Lital:

I hope you are safe and warm today in the snow storm!

From: Lital Carmel <litalc@israeliamerican.org>,internet 5/14/2019
8:31:45 PM
Subject: Re: Middle East Day, May 9 2019
To: David Fleishman View in Browser
Cc: "ruthgoldperson@gmail.com" <ruthgoldperson@gmail.com>,internet
toby_romer@newton.k12.ma.us,internet
"david.shimoni@yahoo.com" <david.shimoni@yahoo.com>,internet

I do apologize I'm only now seeing this email after the letter has been sent out. Let me see what can be done.
Lital

Sent from my iPhone

On May 14, 2019, at 4:31 PM, David Fleishman <david_fleishman@newton.k12.ma.us> wrote:

Hi Lital,

I appreciate your perspective and think the draft is in good shape. There is one minor change that would be very helpful for our educators and community. In the first sentence of the second paragraph, it is important that the word continue be included. Otherwise, we worry that the community will think students have not felt welcomed and safe and we do not believe that to be the case. Many thanks for your understanding.

David

From: Lital Carmel <litalc@israeliamerican.org>,internet 4/29/2019
6:43:41 PM
Subject: RE: Today's meeting at NNHS
To: Henry_Turner@newton.k12.ma.us,internet
"david.shimoni@yahoo.com" <david.shimoni@yahoo.com>,internet
View in Browser
Cc: toby_romer@newton.k12.ma.us,internet David Fleishman
"ruthgoldperson@gmail.com" <ruthgoldperson@gmail.com>,internet

Hello Henry,

I hope this email finds you well.

I just learned that on May 9th in Newton North there will be held an "Understanding the Middle East Day".

I'm writing to extend our offer to help with content, speakers, resources, and whatever you need to ensure a balanced experience for all students.

I would appreciate it if you could share with me in advance as much information as possible about the day in terms of speakers and topics for us to better prepare and support our students if needed.

Thank you,

Lital

From: Henry Turner (North) <Henry_Turner@newton.k12.ma.us>

Sent: Wednesday, January 16, 2019 3:00 PM

To: david.shimoni@yahoo.com

Cc: toby_romer@newton.k12.ma.us; Lital Carmel <litalc@israeliamerican.org>; david_fleishman@newton.k12.ma.us; ruthgoldperson@gmail.com

Subject: Re: Today's meeting at NNHS

Thanks David and Lital,

I really enjoyed the conversation and I look forward to our continued work together.

Please don't hesitate to reach out to us anytime.

Best,


Henry

Henry J. Turner, EdD

Principal

Newton North High School

Recognizing that we are a small world within a much larger one, we create opportunities for open-minded, honest communication about the broad range of human experience to foster social awareness, generosity and compassion.--NNHS Mission

 61917_82948_2.jpg

Notice of Confidentiality: This transmission is intended for the addressee(s) listed above and may contain information that is confidential and private. If you are not the addressee(s), any use, disclosure, copying or communication of the contents of this transmission is prohibited. If

From: Lital Carmel <litalc@israeliamerican.org>,internet 4/30/2019
8:51:56 AM
Subject: RE: Today's meeting at NNHS
To: Henry_Turner@newton.k12.ma.us,internet View in Browser
Cc: "david.shimoni@yahoo.com" <david.shimoni@yahoo.com>,internet
toby_romer@newton.k12.ma.us,internet David Fleishman
"ruthgoldperson@gmail.com" <ruthgoldperson@gmail.com>,internet

Thank you for sharing. Sounds like it is going to be a fascinating day!

A few thoughts I had:

1. A member of our community that currently lives in Brookline is the first woman combat navigator in the Israeli army, as a direct result of the Alice Miller case. If that would be of interest, we can ask her if she would like to be a speaker (she is a great speaker).
2. In regards to Syrian refugees, temple Emanuel of Newton was very involved in helping a few families so we can also help with speakers if there is a need. If I'm not mistaken, Eyal Dror, who established and was until recently the head of the Israeli army's program "Good Neighbors" that helps Syrian refugees in the Syrian south border, opened a field hospital and helped hundreds of Syrian kids get the medical treatment they need in Israeli hospitals in New York on May 9th. If the students will be interested in hearing those stories, we will be happy to pay for his trip here.
3. We can also help with reaching out to local Israeli restaurants (Landwer Café, Bonapita).

Please let me know if we can be of any assistance.

Lital

From: Henry Turner <Henry_Turner@newton.k12.ma.us>
Sent: Monday, April 29, 2019 9:05 PM
To: Lital Carmel <litalc@israeliamerican.org>
Cc: david.shimoni@yahoo.com; toby_romer@newton.k12.ma.us; david_fleishman@newton.k12.ma.us; ruthgoldperson@gmail.com
Subject: Re: Today's meeting at NNHS

Lital and David,

It is so nice to hear from you. The event on May 9th is called Understanding and Appreciating the Middle East. A group of students approached me in the early Spring wishing to have an event that helped spread awareness of topics impacting the Middle East. Interim History Department Chair, Albert Cho, and I have worked with the group of students to make sure that the event is successful and well rounded. We discussed many speaker options with the students and they chose which groups to reach out to. Here is the list of events for May 9th.

A Block: Women's Equality and the Israeli Military: The Case of Alice Miller, Dr. Shayna Weiss (Auditorium)

Dr. Weiss taught at the U.S. Naval Academy and is now the associate director of the Schusterman Center for Israel Studies at Brandeis University. She is currently writing a book about gender segregation in Israel. In this block, Weiss will speak about the case of Alice Miller, who in 1993 tried to apply to a pilot training course.

I'm writing to extend our offer to help with content, speakers, resources, and whatever you need to ensure a balanced experience for all students.

I would appreciate it if you could share with me in advance as much information as possible about the day in terms of speakers and topics for us to better prepare and support our students if needed.

Thank you,

Lital

From: Henry Turner (North) <Henry_Turner@newton.k12.ma.us>
Sent: Wednesday, January 16, 2019 3:00 PM
To: david.shimoni@yahoo.com
Cc: tohy_romer@newton.k12.ma.us; Lital Carmel <litalc@israeliamerican.org>;
david_fleishman@newton.k12.ma.us; ruthgoldperson@gmail.com
Subject: Re: Today's meeting at NNHS

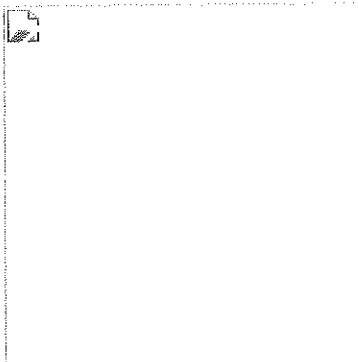
Thanks David and Lital,

Henry J. Turner, EdD

Principal

Newton North High School

>Recognizing that we are a small world within a much larger one, we create opportunities for open-minded, honest communication about the broad range of human experience to foster social awareness, generosity and compassion.--NNHS Mission



strong, positive message to the rest of the community about this meeting and the constructive line of communications it established.

We are looking forward to continuing on this positive path.

Best, David

David Shimoni

Co-Chair, IAC Boston

M: 781-929-4410

From: David Fleishman Tuesday, May 14, 2019 2:19:40 PM
Subject: Edits
To: litalc@israeliamerican.org,internet
Cc: ruthgoldperson@gmail.com,internet
david_shimoni@yahoo.com,internet
Attachments: Middle East Day, May 9 2019 rg edits.docx 46K

Hi Lital,

I made a few additional edits to the most recent draft that Ruth forwarded to you.
Thanks so much and please let me know if you have any questions.

Best,
David



May 13, 2019

Dear Community,

I am writing to update you on *Understanding and Appreciating the Middle East Day* which took place at Newton North High School on Thursday, May 9. – This is the third year of this event.

For the past seven months, the IAC has been working collaboratively with the Newton Public Schools NPS to ensure that Israeli American students continue to ~~and Israel supporters~~ feel safe and welcome at both high schools school. We have hosted meetings with pPrincipals and other faculty-administrators and have also met with the and continue to meet regularly with senior administration and School ~~Committee~~ Committee. -Our dialogue is open and frank. ~~collaborated with NPS on many topics, one of which was to create a balanced and safe Middle East Day.~~

As you know, ~~many of us felt that last year's Middle East Day was viewed by some as unbalancedd and biased.~~ As a result of part of our positive relationships collaboration with NPS, Newton North Principal Henry Turner welcomed me to two sessions during this year's event that were of particular interest to me and our community. -I saw many of our teens and they greeted me warmly and expressed how much they valued and appreciated their participation their appreciation for in history teacher David Bedar's class, and other NNHS faculty and this day devoted to the Middle East. I was invited this year to sit in on the two blocks which I felt had the potential of making our teens feel unsafe again in their own school. It was clear to me that that the -students are highly engaged in learning about the Middle East and eager to learn more about this important part of the world. ~~so interested in learning more about this part of the world.~~

~~I was therefore~~ so grateful to see that this year's program was both balanced and comprehensive. – They reinforced the skills of critical thinking, asking questions and listening with an open mind that we all value ~~re was no bias throughout the content of the two blocks I attended.~~ These two sessions I attended blocks were:

- 1) Block B- The Student Panel: This panel featured Newton North students who identify as being from the Middle East (Israel, Lebanon, Armenia, Iran and Egypt). Students shared how their Middle Eastern background shapes their personal experiences in the United States, the inter-generational issues they face, and their lives as immigrants.
- 2) Media Coverage of the Middle East: Stefano Kotsonis, producer of WBUR's OnPoint and previously CNN's Amman (Jordan) bureau chief and correspondent. He spoke about his experience as a field correspondent in the Middle East, giving the students tools to critically consume news.

I would like to thank ~~Principal~~ Dr. Turner for opening the doors of NNHS and allowing me to witness a day of wonderful educational work. The day was both moving and instructive; students learned how complex, layered and wonderful the Middle East really is. Kudos to the student organizing committee and their wonderful faculty advisor, David Bedar whom I was able to thank in person!

With the hope that this collaboration will continue to flourish,

Lital Carmel
Regional Director
IAC Boston

From: Newton Alert <newtonalert@yahoo.com>,internet 3/22/2019 2:41:33 PM
Subject: ADL/BOSTON, IAC/BOSTON, JCRC/BOSTON. MBR/BOSTON REMAIN SILENT ON
GROWING ANTISEMITISM (Local Schools & Democrats Nationally)
To: "rtrestan@adl.org" <rtrestan@adl.org>,internet
"taliab@adl.org" <taliab@adl.org>,internet
"boston@adl.org" <boston@adl.org>,internet
"jburton@jcrCBoston.org" <jburton@jcrCBoston.org>,internet
"boston@israeliamerican.org" <boston@israeliamerican.org>,internet
"dshimoni@plumchoice.com" <dshimoni@plumchoice.com>,internet
"rabbi@dorsheitzedek.org" <rabbi@dorsheitzedek.org>,internet
"rabbi@templebethabraham.org" <rabbi@templebethabraham.org>,internet
"rabbi.adler@tbabeverly.org" <rabbi.adler@tbabeverly.org>,internet
"rfish@tisharon.org" <rfish@tisharon.org>,internet
"msoffer@tisrael.org" <msoffer@tisrael.org>,internet
"rabbi@neharshalom.org" <rabbi@neharshalom.org>,internet
"dlerner@templeemunah.org" <dlerner@templeemunah.org>,internet
"npsconcerns@gmail.com" <npsconcerns@gmail.com>,internet
Ruthanne Fuller <rfuller@newtonma.gov>,internet
"mlaredo@newtonma.gov" <mlaredo@newtonma.gov>,internet
ruth_goldman@newton.k12.ma.us,internet David Fleishman
View in Browser

CC: COMMUNITY & NEWS LISTEES

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
MARCH 19, 2019

Contact: Ilya Feoktistov
Email: if@peaceandtolerance.org

**NEWTON RESIDENTS SUE CITY'S SCHOOL COMMITTEE, SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS,
PRINCIPALS AND TEACHERS FOR DISCRIMINATION AGAINST JEWS AND ISRAELIS**

Ideological/Political Curriculum Teaches Propaganda Instead of Facts

NEWTON, MASSACHUSETTS. On March 12, 2019, Newton taxpayers filed a lawsuit in Middlesex Superior Court against the Newton School Committee, Superintendent of Schools David Fleishman, the principals of the Newton high schools, and certain high school history teachers. Plaintiffs are asking for a court order that would compel Newton school officials to stop indoctrinating students with anti-Semitism, bigotry against Israel, and Islamist religious dogma as part of the high school history curriculum. This suit was made necessary because the embattled school administration is shielding its teachers from scrutiny and refusing to supervise what is being taught in its classrooms. The taxpayers claim that Newton Public Schools (NPS) has deliberately failed and refused to comply with the Equal Rights Amendment of the Massachusetts Constitution, with the Massachusetts Student Anti-Discrimination Act, and with civil rights regulations that require schools, through their curricula, to encourage respect for the human and civil rights of all individuals regardless of race, identity, religion, color, sex, and national origin.

The extensively documented 469 page legal complaint, available [here](#), details the lengthy history of Newton residents' efforts to have NPS address and correct the factually flawed teaching. Plaintiffs and their attorney were provided with an enormous volume of factual documentation by Americans for Peace and Tolerance (APT) Executive Director Ilya Feoktistov, whose investigations over the past several months formed the basis of this action.

"In looking for the sources of the anti-Semitic and anti-Israel bigotry in the Newton curriculum, we discovered a few bad apple teachers who view their teaching positions as giving them license to promote their personal political agendas," said Mr. Feoktistov. "We are also looking closely at a common pattern with these politicized teachers — most, if not all, have taken professional development courses developed with foreign funding by the governments of Qatar and Saudi Arabia."

"Newton history teachers and school administrators must think either that anti-discrimination laws do not apply to them, or that these laws do not protect their Jewish and Israeli students," said the President of APT, Charles Jacobs. "There is no academic freedom to brainwash students with fake history and pro-Arab or anti-Semitic propaganda that is, these days, alarmingly too common on the left in America."

Evidence described in the complaint shows how Newton teachers teach that Jews and Christians deliberately forged their holy texts to contradict the Muslim Qur'an; that Zionism has "little connection" to Jewish history in "Palestine;" that the Jews took advantage of the Holocaust to gain sympathy for Zionism at the expense of "Arab plight;" and that the Israelis treat the Palestinians like the Nazis treated the Jews. After being taught all this, students are asked to debate whether there should be a one- or two-state solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Karen Hurvitz, attorney for the taxpayers, stated that her clients are not asking for money damages, even though defendants have certainly caused years of incalculable damage by their insistence on

From: David Fleishman
Ruth Goldman <ruthgoldperson@gmail.com>, internet
4/21/2019 9:14:43 PM
Subject: Fwd: A Little Piece of Ground: Elizabeth Laird, Sonia Nimr:
9781931859387: Amazon.com: Gateway
To: romert@newton.k12.ma.us, internet View in Browser
Attachments: smime.p7s 2K

FYi

----- Original Message -----

----- Original Message -----

A friend of mine heard this was being taught in 7th grade english at Bigelow and has expressed some concern about it being balanced with the Israeli perspective. I read a few reviews that are old (2003) when it wasn't even available in the US.

maybe we can check in tomorrow when I see you.

sigh.

PS hope you had a great vacation!!!

[
https://www.amazon.com/Little-Piece-Ground-Elizabeth-Laird/dp/1931859388/ref=sr_1_1?hvadid=241890250521&hvdev=c&hvlocphy=9002065&hvnetw=g&hvpos=1t1&hvqmt=e&hvrnd=7606100252325006575&hvtargid=kwd-769975652&keywords=a+little+piece+of+ground&qid=1555893915&s=gateway&sr=8-1
]
https://www.amazon.com/Little-Piece-Ground-Elizabeth-Laird/dp/1931859388/ref=sr_1_1?hvadid=241890250521&hvdev=c&hvlocphy=9002065&hvnetw=g&hvpos=1t1&hvqmt=e&hvrnd=7606100252325006575&hvtargid=kwd-769975652&keywords=a+little+piece+of+ground&qid=1555893915&s=gateway&sr=8-1
Ruth Goldman
Ruth Goldman Consulting
[<mailto:ruthgoldperson@gmail.com>] ruthgoldperson@gmail.com
(617)719-5048

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maybe we can check in tomorrow when I see you.

sigh.

PS hope you had a great vacation!!!

https://www.amazon.com/Little-Piece-Ground-Elizabeth-Laird/dp/1931859388/ref=sr_1_1?hvadid=241890250521&hvdev=c&hvlocphy=9002065&hvnetw=g&hvpos=1t1&hvqmt=e&hvrnd=7606100252325006575&hvtargid=kwd-769975652&keywords=a+little+piece+of+ground&qid=1555893915&s=gateway&sr=8-1

Ruth Goldman
Ruth Goldman Consulting
ruthgoldperson@gmail.com
(617)719-5048

From: Ruth Goldman <ruthgoldperson@gmail.com>, internet 3/4/2019
4:25:39 PM
Subject: Follow-up from IAC meetings
To: Anping Shen <shen07@gmail.com>, internet
Bridget Ray Canada <bridget4ward1sc@gmail.com>, internet
Margaret Albright <mlalbright@comcast.net>, internet
Steve Siegel <steve@siegelassociates.com>, internet
Diana Fisher Gomberg <dfgomberg@gmail.com>, internet
Kathy Shields <kburdetteshields@yahoo.com>, internet
Matt Miller <mmiller942@gmail.com>, internet
Ruthanne Fuller <rfuller@newtonma.gov>, internet
Cc: David Fleishman toby_romer@newton.k12.ma.us, internet
Noah Rivkin <nrivkin@newtonma.gov>, internet
Ellen Ishkanian <eishkanian@newtonma.gov>, internet
julie_mcdonough@newton.k12.ma.us, internet
Attachments: IAC letter.docx 35K smime.p7s 2K

Hi All:

This is long overdue, but many of you were aware that following the public hearing and some initial conversations with the IAC (Israeli American Committee), both high schools hosted meetings with groups of Israeli parents to help them feel more connected to the school and allay any concerns they may or might have had in the wake of all the publicity this fall. The meetings were extremely well attended and carefully curated by IAC to ensure ONLY NN or NS parents were in attendance. Both Lital Carmel IAC Director and David Shimoni (Chair) are long standing NPS parents and are highly supportive of NPS.

Here is the letter they sent out to their membership after these meetings. They received only positive comments in reply.

If you want me to fill you in with more details, give a shout.

Ruth

Ruth Goldman
Ruth Goldman Consulting
ruthgoldperson@gmail.com
(617)719-5048

Summary of Conversations with Newton South and Newton North High Schools

On January 10 and January 15, IAC leaders, who are also Newton parents, convened meetings with the Newton South and Newton North High Schools administration and Israeli American parents. The meetings were the continuation of a productive dialogue begun by the leaders of the IAC and NPS this fall, and focused on the following goals:

- How and to whom parents should report anti-Israel and anti-Semitic student incidents that take place in the school – or outside the school but that concern high schoolers.
- How to continue to promote a climate of trust and a productive partnership among parents, students and the respective schools during a time when anti-Semitic incidents across the country are on the rise.
- How to proactively care for the social and emotional well-being of Israeli students as well as students of all backgrounds in our schools.

In summary, both school conversations were very productive. The administrations of both schools were very receptive to the points raised by the parents and offered concrete answers to their concerns. Parents in both meetings shared their overall positive experiences in the Newton schools, and also their appreciation of the hard work and dedication of their teachers.

During the discussion, parents in each meeting shared occasional challenges their students had experienced, including possible incidents of bias or micro-aggressions. In each case, the school principals and staff members expressed their support for the families and students, and their lack of tolerance for any such behavior. Principals Turner and Stembridge encouraged parents and/or students to come forward to report any concerns, no matter how big or small, so that they could investigate and ensure that such incidents were addressed immediately.

Principal Stembridge of Newton South said,

"We are eager to hear from parents...Never assume the teachers or staff know of incidents that happen inside or outside of school. We want to be a better school and improve our communications practice."

After two parents shared personal stories involving their children, Principal Turner said,

"To learn that there are students who are not coming to the Administration to report incidents is very concerning. We ask parents/students to raise issues directly with us as soon as they arise."

Both principals also outlined the process for reporting incidents. At each school students and parents have a choice of communication channels. They can go to any combination of the:

- Teacher
- Dean
- Guidance Counselor
- Principal

Toby Romer, the Assistant Superintendent for Secondary Education, attended both meetings. He emphasized that the NPS administration will be sharing a new information document based on the Newton Public Schools' comprehensive anti-discrimination policy, which will be circulated to all parents in the next few months. The document will clearly outline NPS' stand against bias and anti-Semitism as well as how NPS responds to any incident of bias in the schools.

Both principals also emphasized that the communication needs to be part of a general partnership among parents, students and faculty/staff at each school. IAC Boston is committed to helping you have a productive dialogue with your children's schools and teachers. We are grateful for the commitment and concern demonstrated by our high school administrators and look forward to our children continuing to be successful in the Newton Public Schools.

The participants in the meetings were:

School Participants	Newton South	Newton North
	Principal Joel Stenbridge	Principal Henry Turner
	Dean Josepha Blocker Dean Charles Myette Guidance Head Dan Rubin	Vice Principal Amy Winston Dean David Turcotte Dean Aaron Sanders Jr. Dean Scott Heslin Dean Michelle Stauss Guidance Head Beth Swederskas
	Assistant Superintendent Toby Romer	Assistant Superintendent Toby Romer
IAC Staff	Lital Carmel Lihi Shoshani Paula Sinclair	Lital Carmel Lihi Shoshani Paula Sinclair Livnat Remi
IAC Council	David Shimoni Avi Almozlino Sharon Shacham	David Shimoni Avi Almozlino Robert Mayer

From: RUTH Goldman <ruthgoldperson@gmail.com>,internet 2/12/2019
3:18:29 PM
Subject: Letter from IAC?
To: Lital Carmel <litalc@israeliamerican.org>,internet
David Shimoni <david.shimoni@yahoo.com>,internet
View in Browser
Cc: toby_romer@newton.k12.ma.us,internet David Fleishman
Attachments: smime.p7s 2K

Hi Lital:

I hope you are safe and warm today in the snow storm!

Someone asked about your letter yesterday and I realized that I hadn't heard from you whether it was sent. Did you all send it out?

If you did, clearly no news is good news! And, I'd love to see a final copy if you would like to forward when you get a minute!

Thanks so much,

Ruth

Ruth Goldman
Ruth Goldman Consulting
ruthgoldperson@gmail.com
(617)719-5048

From: Ruth Goldman <ruthgoldperson@gmail.com>,internet 5/21/2019
9:22:06 PM
Subject: NY students protest, say Newton curriculum is anti-Semitic,
anti-Israel - News - Newton TAB - Newton, MA
To: ERIC GURVIS <gurver56@verizon.net>,internet
Claire Sokoloff <clairesokoloff@gmail.com>,internet
Eileen Sandberg <sandberg.eileen@gmail.com>,internet
Julie McDonough <juliemcdonough@gmail.com>,internet David Fleishman
View in Browser
Attachments: smime.p7s 2K

Julie Cohen..... so it goes.

<https://newton.wickedlocal.com/article/20190521/NEWS/190528889>

Ruth Goldman
Ruth Goldman Consulting
ruthgoldperson@gmail.com
(617)719-5048

From: Ruth Goldman <ruthgoldperson@gmail.com>,internet 5/14/2019
11:58:17 AM
Subject: Please use this draft
To: Lital Carmel <litalc@israeliamerican.org>,internet View in
Browser
Cc: David Fleishman toby_romer@newton.k12.ma.us,internet
David Shimoni <david.shimoni@yahoo.com>,internet
Attachments: Middle East Day, May 9 2019 rg edits.docx 45K
Attach1.html 3K
smime.p7s 2K

Hi Lital:

it's really important to recognize David Bedar for his work on this, so I have included his name in this draft. Also congrats to David on a day well done at OHMS yesterday!

Thanks again.

my best,

Ruth

Ruth Goldman
Ruth Goldman Consulting
ruthgoldperson@gmail.com
(617)719-5048

> On May 14, 2019, at 11:17 AM, Lital Carmel <litalc@israeliamerican.org> wrote:
>
> Hello all,
> Please find attached the draft letter to the community following the Middle East
Day last Thursday.
> If you'll find time to go over it today, I'll be able to send it out to our
mailing list tonight.
> Lital
>
> <Middle East Day, May 9 2019.docx>

Thanks again.

my best,

Ruth

Ruth Goldman
Ruth Goldman Consulting
ruthgoldperson@gmail.com
(617)719-5048

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Hello all,

Please find attached the draft letter to the community following the Middle East Day last Thursday.

If you'll find time to go over it today, I'll be able to send it out to our mailing list tonight.

Lital

<Middle East Day, May 9 2019.docx>

May 13, 2019

Dear Community,

I am writing to update you on *Understanding and Appreciating the Middle East Day* which took place at Newton North High School on Thursday, May 9. This is the third year of this event.

For the past seven months, the IAC has been working collaboratively with NPS to ensure that Israeli American students ~~and Israel supporters~~ feel safe and welcome at both high schools~~school~~. We have hosted meetings with Principals and other faculty and continue to meet regularly with senior administration and School Committee. Our dialogue is open and frank. ~~collaborated with NPS on many topics, one of which was to create a balanced and safe Middle East Day.~~

As you know, ~~many of us felt that~~ last year's Middle East Day was viewed by some as unbalanced and biased. As a result of part of our positive relationships~~collaboration~~ with NPS, Principal Turner welcomed me to two sessions during this year's event that were of particular interest to me and our community. I saw many of our teens and they greeted me warmly and expressed their appreciation for history teacher David Bedar and other NNHS faculty and this day devoted to the Middle East. ~~I was invited this year to sit in on the two blocks which I felt had the potential of making our teens feel unsafe again in their own school.~~ It was clear to me that students are so interested in learning more about this part of the world.

~~I was therefore~~ so grateful to see that this year's program was both balanced and comprehensive. They reinforced the skills of critical thinking, asking questions and listening with an open mind that we all value~~there was no bias throughout the content of the two blocks I attended. These two sessions I attended~~blocks were:

- 1) Block B- The Student Panel: This panel featured Newton North students who identify as being from the Middle East (Israel, Lebanon, Armenia, Iran and Egypt). Students shared how their Middle Eastern background shapes their personal experiences in the United States, the inter-generational issues they face, and their lives as immigrants.
- 2) Media Coverage of the Middle East: Stefano Kotsonis, producer of WBUR's OnPoint and previously CNN's Amman (Jordan) bureau chief and correspondent. He spoke about his experience as a field correspondent in the Middle East, giving the students tools to critically consume news.

I would like to thank Principal Turner for opening the doors of NNHS and allowing me to witness a day of wonderful educational work. The day was both moving and instructive; students learned how complex,

layered and wonderful the Middle East really is. Kudos to the student organizing committee and their wonderful faculty advisor, David Bedar whom I was able to thank in person!

With the hope that this collaboration will continue to flourish,

Lital Carmel
Regional Director
IAC Boston

From: Ruth Goldman <ruthgoldperson@gmail.com>,internet 3/11/2019
8:22:31 PM
Subject: Re: Engagement with The Schusterman Center at Brandeis
To: David Shimoni <david.shimoni@yahoo.com>,internet View in
Browser
Cc: toby_romer@newton.k12.ma.us,internet David Fleishman
Lital Carmel <litalc@israeliamerican.org>,internet
Attachments: smime.p7s 2K

Let's discuss at our lunch next friday - March 22nd. Noon at Johnny's?

thanks David.

Ruth

Ruth Goldman
Ruth Goldman Consulting
ruthgoldperson@gmail.com
(617)719-5048

On Mar 11, 2019, at 8:59 PM, David Shimoni <david.shimoni@yahoo.com> wrote:

Hello Ruth, David and Toby,

In a meeting I had tonight with the ED of one of leading Jewish organizations in Boston he mentioned to me that the World History teachers from Newton South and North have recently attended a one day session at the Schusterman Center at Brandeis U. That's obviously an exciting news and I was wondering if you can shed more light on how it went and whether it was more of a pilot in consideration of the more elaborate course they offer on Israel?

If you'd rather not discuss this over email than it can wait for my lunch meeting with Ruth next Friday.

Best, David

David Shimoni
david.shimoni@yahoo.com
M: 781-929-4410
www.linkedin.com/in/davidshimoni

From: Ruth Goldman <ruthgoldperson@gmail.com>,internet 5/12/2019
11:26:23 AM
Subject: Re: Israel Day at Oak Hill
To: David Shimoni <david.shimoni@yahoo.com>,internet View in
Browser
Cc: David Fleishman toby_romer@newton.k12.ma.us,internet
Lital Carmel <litalc@israeliamerican.org>,internet
Attachments: smime.p7s 2K

Thanks for sharing David.

Should be good fun!

RUth

Ruth Goldman
Ruth Goldman Consulting
ruthgoldperson@gmail.com
(617)719-5048

On May 12, 2019, at 9:15 AM, David Shimoni <david.shimoni@yahoo.com> wrote:

Hi David, Toby and Ruth,

As I mentioned to you, I'll be participating tomorrow in the Israel Day at Oak Hill Middle School together with Dan Trajman, who is the President of NEIBC (New England Israel Business Council). I thought I'd share with you the attached set of slides that I plan on using to guide my session.

Best, David

From: David Shimoni [<mailto:david.shimoni@yahoo.com>]
Sent: Sunday, May 12, 2019 9:07 AM
To: 'Sherri Cohen'; 'kerry_winer@newton.k12.ma.us'; 'john_harutunian@newton.k12.ma.us'
Cc: 'Dan Trajman'
Subject: RE: Israel Day at Oak Hill

Hello Sherri, Kerry and John,

I created the attached set of slides as guidance for my session tomorrow with the students. I do not plan on presenting these slides on the careen but rather use them as the basis for my talk after I show them the first three videos. These videos will take about 8 minutes altogether and I estimate that my interactive talk will take another 15 minutes, which will leave around 5 minutes for questions. Due to lack of time and relative complexity, I have decided to make the fourth video clip optional.

I will bring with me all four videos on a thumb drive. See you tomorrow at 7:45 AM.

Best, David

From: David Shimoni [<mailto:david.shimoni@yahoo.com>]
Sent: Saturday, April 27, 2019 12:17 PM
To: 'Sherri Cohen'; 'kerry_winer@newton.k12.ma.us'
Cc: 'john_harutunian@newton.k12.ma.us'; 'Dan Trajman'
Subject: RE: Israel Day at Oak Hill

Sherri and Kerry,

Dan and I spoke ahead of our Monday call and agreed on the following.

Cc: Dan@dT-Studio.com; kerry_winer@newton.k12.ma.us; john_harutunian@newton.k12.ma.us
Subject: RE: Israel Day at Oak Hill

Hi Sherri,

Thanks for the additional clarifications. I'm available on Monday, 4/29, preferable between 11-12. I'll let Dan reply with his availability.

Best, David

From: Sherri Cohen [mailto:Sherri_Cohen@newton.k12.ma.us]
Sent: Tuesday, April 23, 2019 2:41 PM
To: david.shimoni@yahoo.com
Cc: Dan@dT-Studio.com; kerry_winer@newton.k12.ma.us; john_harutunian@newton.k12.ma.us
Subject: Re: Israel Day at Oak Hill

Hi David and Dan,

Thank you so much for your reply. I first want to clarify with you about the timing. The Israel Day celebration will be approximately a total of two hours, from 8:10 until 10:35. There will be 4 thirty-minute sessions where groups of approximately 50 students will rotate through.

The sessions are the following:

- 1 David's presentation
- 2 Dan's presentation
- 3 Israeli crafts and Hebrew language
- 4 Movie on Israeli culture and trivia

We agree that a phone conversation is a good idea. It would be wonderful if you and Dan could share your expertise in both areas. Each one of you would take on one particular aspect related to Israel as a start up nation and Israel innovation. When we are able to speak further on the phone, we can confirm what each of you will speak about. Please let us know what your availability is chat between the hours of 8:30 am and 2:00 pm. early next week, preferably Monday, 4/29.

Sincerely,
Sherri and Kerry

"David Shimoni" <david.shimoni@yahoo.com> writes:
Hello Sherri,

Dan and I are equally excited for this opportunity!

Hi David,

Thank you so much for your willingness to come in and supervise and potentially talk to the students! We would love to have you, especially since you are Tom's father! It would be great for the talk to have a slideshow component and/or be interactive. It should be about 30 minutes in length.

Looking forward to you joining us!

Sherri and Kerry

"David Shimoni" <david.shimoni@yahoo.com> writes:

Hi Sherri and Kerry,

Sorry for the delayed response. My name is David Shimoni and I'm Tom's dad. I'll be delighted to supervise one of the sessions and will also consider being your guest speaker. I held executive positions in a number of Israeli hi-tech companies who did business in the US and can share with the kids my perspective on Israeli innovation. I was a mentor in a number of teen leadership programs and got the experience to engage the kids with the topic. I just need to know what's the format (e.g. slide presentation, etc.) and how long will the talk be.

Best, David

David Shimoni

david.shimoni@yahoo.com

M: 781-929-4410

www.linkedin.com/in/davidshimoni

From: Sherri Cohen [mailto:Sherri_Cohen@newton.k12.maus]

Sent: Thursday, April 4, 2019 8:33 AM

Cc: Kerry G. Winer

Subject: Israel Day at Oak Hill

Dear Families,

We are excited to announce that our Israel Day celebration at Oak Hill Middle School will take place on Monday, May 13th in honor of Israel's 71st birthday. The event will take place from 8:20 to 10:35 and the Hebrew Club students will be running four sessions: Guest speaker, Hebrew and art, Israeli folk dancing, and a documentary on Israel. We are reaching out to enlist your help in several ways. We need parents to supervise the sessions on the day of the celebration, as well as help us to decorate the library, school entryway and cafeteria.

Additionally, we are looking for a guest speaker who has expertise in Israeli innovation and technology and has experience talking to young students. We will also need someone who can run the Israeli folk dancing. Lastly, we are asking for donations in the form of small items to give away as prizes during the trivia component of the movie session. Please email us by Wednesday, April 10th to let us know how you can help.

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Virus-free. www.avg.com

<Israel Day at Oak Hill May 12, 2019.pptx>

From: RUTH Goldman <ruthgoldperson@gmail.com>,internet 2/12/2019
5:28:38 PM
Subject: Re: Letter from IAC?
To: David Shimoni <david.shimoni@yahoo.com>,internet View in
Browser
Cc: Lital Carmel <litalc@israeliamerican.org>,internet
toby_romer@newton.k12.ma.us,internet David Fleishman
Attachments: smime.p7s 2K

wonderful - that is great that there was no "meaningful" response. Yes, David and team have worked hard on the protocol and webpage (many different folks were asking for this) so it was perfect timing and should be helpful!

Thanks so much David!

Ruth

Ruth Goldman
Ruth Goldman Consulting
ruthgoldperson@gmail.com
(617)719-5048

On Feb 12, 2019, at 5:09 PM, David Shimoni <david.shimoni@yahoo.com> wrote:

Hi Ruth,

Yes, Lital sent the attached letter to the parents last Thursday. I don't think we received any meaningful response so far but I'll let Lital confirm that. It was also good (and timely) to see David's email from today announcing the new web page with information on the protocol related to incident of bias, discrimination, or hate. It feels like we are working well together as team!

Stay warm!

Best, David

From: RUth Goldman [<mailto:ruthgoldperson@gmail.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, February 12, 2019 3:18 PM
To: Lital Carmel; David Shimoni
Cc: Toby Romer; David Fleishman
Subject: Letter from IAC?

Hi Lital:

I hope you are safe and warm today in the snow storm!

Someone asked about your letter yesterday and I realized that I hadn't heard from you whether it was sent. Did you all send it out?

If you did, clearly no news is good news! And, I'd love to see a final copy if you would like to forward when you get a minute!

Thanks so much,

Ruth

Ruth Goldman
Ruth Goldman Consulting
ruthgoldperson@gmail.com
(617)719-5048

From: Ruth Goldman <ruthgoldperson@gmail.com>,internet 2/12/2019
9:28:26 PM
Subject: Re: Letter from IAC?
To: Lital Carmel <litalc@israeliamerican.org>,internet View in
Browser
Cc: David Shimoni <david.shimoni@yahoo.com>,internet
toby_romer@newton.k12.ma.us,internet David Fleishman
Attachments: smime.p7s 2K

wonderful, great news and thanks for letting us know.

Stay warm!

Ruth

Ruth Goldman
Ruth Goldman Consulting
ruthgoldperson@gmail.com
(617)719-5048

On Feb 12, 2019, at 9:10 PM, Lital Carmel <litalc@israeliamerican.org> wrote:

Hello all,
We didn't change anything from the last version we all approved.
We sent it both directly to the Israeli-American parents of both high schools and as part of our weekly newsletter.
The only response I'm getting is different 'thank you' and appreciation for this joint effort.
I will update if something interesting will come up.
I hope all is well,
Lital

Lital Carmel
Regional Director, Boston
Israeli-American Council (IAC)
Phone: [617-795-3400](tel:617-795-3400)
Cell: [617-899-8973](tel:617-899-8973)

<image003.jpg>

<image004.png><image004.png>
<image004.png>

From: David Shimoni <david.shimoni@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 12, 2019 5:10 PM
To: 'Ruth Goldman' <ruthgoldperson@gmail.com>; Lital Carmel <litalc@israeliamerican.org>
Cc: 'Toby Romer' <toby_romer@newton.k12.ma.us>; 'David Fleishman' <david_fleishman@newton.k12.ma.us>
Subject: RE: Letter from IAC?

Hi Ruth,

Yes, Lital sent the attached letter to the parents last Thursday. I don't think we received any meaningful response so far but I'll let Lital confirm that. It was also good (and timely) to see David's email from today announcing the new web page with information on the protocol related to incident of bias, discrimination, or hate. It feels like we are working well together as team!

Stay warm!

Best, David

From: Ruth Goldman <ruthgoldperson@gmail.com>,internet 5/14/2019
11:52:35 AM
Subject: Re: Middle East Day, May 9 2019
To: Lital Carmel <litalc@israeliamerican.org>,internet View in
Browser
Cc: David Fleishman toby_romer@newton.k12.ma.us,internet
David Shimoni <david.shimoni@yahoo.com>,internet
Attachments: Middle East Day, May 9 2019 rg edits.docx 45K
Attach1.html 3K
smime.p7s 2K

Hi Lital:

I know it looks like a lot of "red ink" but as we have discussed, focusing forward on our collaboration and speaking positively about this year, rather than reflecting on last year, is really important for our "constituents". I tried to pick up on some of what you said to us during our meeting last week and putting that into the letter as well. I loved how the students embraced you and shared their enthusiasms, so I put that in the letter.

I am also happy to speak by phone (my cell is below). Thanks so much for sharing this with us and we are very grateful that you took the time to visit NNHS last Thursday!

my best,

Ruth

Ruth Goldman
Ruth Goldman Consulting
ruthgoldperson@gmail.com
(617)719-5048

> On May 14, 2019, at 11:17 AM, Lital Carmel <litalc@israeliamerican.org> wrote:
>
> Hello all,
> Please find attached the draft letter to the community following the Middle East Day last Thursday.
> If you'll find time to go over it today, I'll be able to send it out to our mailing list tonight.
> Lital
>
> <Middle East Day, May 9 2019.docx>

Ruth Goldman
Ruth Goldman Consulting
ruthgoldperson@gmail.com
(617)719-5048

On May 14, 2019, at 11:17 AM, Lital Carmel <litalc@israeliamerican.org> wrote:

Hello all,

Please find attached the draft letter to the community following the Middle East Day last Thursday.

If you'll find time to go over it today, I'll be able to send it out to our mailing list tonight.

Lital

<Middle East Day, May 9 2019.docx>



May 13, 2019

Dear Community,

I am writing to update you on *Understanding and Appreciating the Middle East Day* which took place at Newton North High School on Thursday, May 9. This is the third year of this event.

For the past seven months, the IAC has been working collaboratively with NPS to ensure that Israeli American students and Israel supporters feel safe and welcome at both high schools. We have hosted meetings with Principals and other faculty and continue to meet regularly with senior administration and School Committee. Our dialogue is open and frank. ~~collaborated with NPS on many topics, one of which was to create a balanced and safe Middle East Day.~~

As you know, ~~many of us felt that~~ last year's Middle East Day was viewed by some as unbalanced and biased. As a result of part of our positive relationship ~~collaboration~~ with NPS, Principal Turner welcomed me to two sessions during this year's event that were of particular interest to me and our community. I saw many of our teens and they greeted me warmly and expressed their appreciation for the NNHS faculty and this day devoted to the Middle East. ~~I was invited this year to sit in on the two blocks which I felt had the potential of making our teens feel unsafe again in their own school. It was clear to me that students are so interested in learning more about this part of the world.~~

~~I was therefore~~ so grateful to see that this year's program was both balanced and comprehensive. They reinforced the skills of critical thinking, asking questions and listening with an open mind that we all value ~~there was no bias throughout the content of the two blocks I attended. These two sessions I attended~~ blocks were:

- 1) Block B- The Student Panel: This panel featured Newton North students who identify as being from the Middle East (Israel, Lebanon, Armenia, Iran and Egypt). Students shared how their Middle Eastern background shapes their personal experiences in the United States, the inter-generational issues they face, and their lives as immigrants.
- 2) Media Coverage of the Middle East: Stefano Kotsonis, producer of WBUR's OnPoint and previously CNN's Amman (Jordan) bureau chief and correspondent. He spoke about his experience as a field correspondent in the Middle East, giving the students tools to critically consume news.

I would like to thank Principal Turner for opening the doors of NNHS and allowing me to witness a day of wonderful educational work. The day was both moving and instructive; students learned how complex, layered and wonderful the Middle East really is. Kudos to the student organizing committee and their wonderful faculty advisors!

With the hope that this collaboration will continue to flourish,

Lital Carmel
Regional Director
IAC Boston

From: RUTH Goldman <ruthgoldperson@gmail.com>,internet 5/14/2019
11:24:00 AM
Subject: Re: Middle East Day, May 9 2019
To: Lital Carmel <litalc@israeliamerican.org>,internet View in
Browser
Cc: David Fleishman toby_romer@newton.k12.ma.us,internet
David Shimoni <david.shimoni@yahoo.com>,internet
Attachments: smime.p7s 2K

I have a few thoughts Lital and will work on this in a few minutes during my "lunch hour". thanks so much for doing this. you may want to view the public comment section of our SC meeting from last night (you can find the tape on the NEWTV website). your letter coming at this time could be very helpful.

Ruth

Ruth Goldman
Ruth Goldman Consulting
ruthgoldperson@gmail.com
(617)719-5048

On May 14, 2019, at 11:17 AM, Lital Carmel <litalc@israeliamerican.org> wrote:

<Middle East Day, May 9 2019.docx>

From: RUth Goldman <ruthgoldperson@gmail.com>,internet 5/14/2019
4:07:44 PM
Subject: Re: Middle East Day, May 9 2019
To: Lital Carmel <litalc@israeliamerican.org>,internet View in
Browser
Cc: David Fleishman toby_romer@newton.k12.ma.us,internet
David Shimoni <david.shimoni@yahoo.com>,internet
Attachments: smime.p7s 2K

Thanks, Lital, I appreciate that you need to be authentic - we are threading needles here.

Thanks for all your support.

Ruth

Ruth Goldman
Ruth Goldman Consulting
ruthgoldperson@gmail.com
(617)719-5048

On May 14, 2019, at 3:58 PM, Lital Carmel <litalc@israeliamerican.org> wrote:

<Middle East Day, May 9 2019.docx>

From: Ruth Goldman <ruthgoldperson@gmail.com>,internet 2/3/2019
10:32:32 AM
Subject: Re: Summary of Conversations with Newton South and Newton Nort
revised Feb. 1 2019 - DS
To: Lital Carmel <litalc@israeliamerican.org>,internet View in
Browser
Cc: David Fleishman toby_romer@newton.k12.ma.us,internet
David Shimoni <david.shimoni@yahoo.com>,internet
Attachments: smime.p7s 2K

It looks great from my end and David as well - thanks for circulating, Lital. Toby?

Enjoy the rest of the week-end!

Ruth

Ruth Goldman
Ruth Goldman Consulting
ruthgoldperson@gmail.com
(617)719-5048

On Feb 2, 2019, at 11:23 PM, Lital Carmel <litalc@israeliamerican.org> wrote:

Hello all,
I sent the attached to Toby this morning.
Sharing with you all as per David's email.
Lital

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Lital Carmel <litalc@israeliamerican.org>
Date: February 2, 2019 at 10:23:06 AM EST
To: Toby Romer <toby_romer@newton.k12.ma.us>
Cc: David Shimoni <david.shimoni@yahoo.com>
Subject: Summary of Conversations with Newton South and Newton Nort revised Feb. 1 2019 - DS

Dear Toby,
Please see attached the revised summary with a few edits.
thank you,
Lital

<Summary of Conversations with Newton South and Newton Nort revised Feb. 1 2019 - DS.docx>

From: Ruthanne Fuller <rfuller@newtonma.gov>,internet 2/16/2019 10:55:01 AM
Subject: RE: Israel Curriculum in Newton Public Schools
To: 'LAURIE BELL' <bell_laurie@hotmail.com>,internet View in
Browser
Cc: David Fleishman

Laurie,

I am forwarding your idea to our Superintendent, David Fleishman.

Thanks!

Warmly,

Ruthanne Fuller

From: LAURIE BELL <bell_laurie@hotmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 16, 2019 10:46 AM
To: Ruthanne Fuller <rfuller@newtonma.gov>
Subject: Israel Curriculum in Newton Public Schools

Mayor Fuller,

Would it make sense to have a leadership board of three to evaluate and advise the creating of an Israel Curriculum?

I would suggest Vernon Domingo as one of the three "board members." I took many courses with Vernon and consider him an inspirational teacher.

He makes Geography interesting and relevant. According to Vernon, every time there is a crisis in the world the UN Secretary General would say "get me the maps!"

Thank you,
Laurie Bell

From: LAURIE BELL <bell_laurie@hotmail.com>
Sent: Friday, April 27, 2018 2:29 PM
To: bohnenn@comcast.net
Subject: FW: ENORMOUS NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC MAP

Here is another idea I support!

Subject: Re: FW: ENORMOUS NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC MAP

Michael,

When I was a School Librarian in Brockton Vernon brought the giant map to the school.

Vernon is a remarkable teacher but one-sided in his view of Israel and the Palestinians based on his being a second class citizen in South Africa,

Laurie Bell

From: LAURIE BELL <bell_laurie@hotmail.com>
Sent: Friday, December 9, 2016 6:09 PM
To: LAURIE BELL
Subject: Fw: FW: ENORMOUS NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC MAP

From: bell_laurie@hotmail.com
 To: lisahills@hirschhills.com; mrobinson@templemanuel.com
 Subject: FW: ENORMOUS NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC MAP
 Date: Sun, 10 Jul 2016 20:29:36 -0400

In addition to teacher training I think the Jewish Community should make a giant map of the Middle East and get a mini van and send it out with a diverse group of Israeli kids/soldiers who just finished the army to visit schools. For thirteen years my mother was a Hebrew school principal. She said kids hear in the news all the time Israel did this and Israel did that. When they look at a map of the middle east and see how small Israel is compared to the other countries surrounding it, they are amazed.

Years ago I was a special education classroom aide in an Elementary school in Waltham.

The fifth grade teacher was teaching the Revolutionary War curriculum. She told the class that what took place in 1776 was not that different from the battle being waged today between Israel and the Palestinians. I assume it was her opinion and not curriculum. Curriculum is a piece of the puzzle but the more important piece is how the teacher interprets it, their perspective and how they present it. One time Vernon Domingo (who I respect and admire) had a Palestinian Professor from U of Mass Boston come talk to the class. She kept saying it was Zionist problem and the one state solution was the only solution. She was so anti-Israel and nobody challenged her. She got applause at the end of her lecture.

When I brought this map to Brockton the music teacher told me that she overheard the kids saying "I never knew there were so many countries in Asia that end with the word "stan."

You can go to National Geographic traveling map to learn more about the program.

I assume they still make and send out the maps.

Laurie Bell

From: bell_laurie@hotmail.com
 To: bell_laurie@hotmail.com
 Subject: RE: . Small Gym at Davis School to become "Asia" on
 Date: Sun, 10 Jul 2016 19:42:44 -0400

 Close

Davis Students Explore Asia With Their Feet, Thanks To Enormous National Geographic Map
 Posted 12/11/2007 03:29PM

DAVIS STUDENTS EXPLORE ASIA WITH THEIR FEET, THANKS TO ENORMOUS NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC MAP

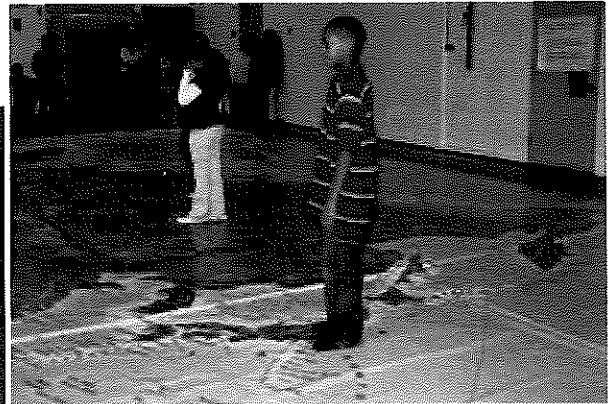
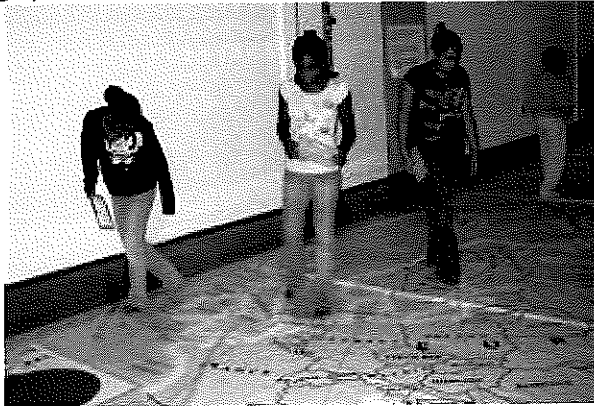
Students at the Davis K-8 School got a chance to see Asia in a new way this fall: they learned about the continent by walking it on an enormous map. Professors from Bridgewater State College helped to bring the "National Geographic Giant Traveling Map" to the Davis, and they instructed students in Grades 2-8 about the continent and its geography, topography and history.

"It's a wonderful experience, it gives kids an opportunity to see for themselves how large Asia is, to put the countries in context relative to one another," said Principal Darlene Campbell. "This is another tool that helps teachers give students a new way to look at geography and the world they live in."

On November 29, BSC Geography Professor Dr. Vernon Domingo and retired Professor Rosalie Sokol arrived at the Davis School with a 41'x31' scale map of Asia and a plan to help bring geography to life for hundreds of students.

The map nearly carpeted the school's small gym, and classes came in for 30-minute sessions with the National Geographic Giant Traveling Map.

As
a



class of fifth graders clustered around the enormous atlas, Sokol asked them to name the highest point in the world. A few hands went up, and one student answered that Mount Everest (at 29,035 feet) is the highest point on earth. The student was correct, and Sokol asked her to walk over to Nepal and stand atop Everest. The next question was what is the lowest point on Earth? Again, that place is in Asia, in the Dead Sea. The country with the world's largest population is also in Asia (China, with 1.3 billion residents), and the world's first known civilization in Mesopotamia is located in modern-day Iraq, another part of Asia.

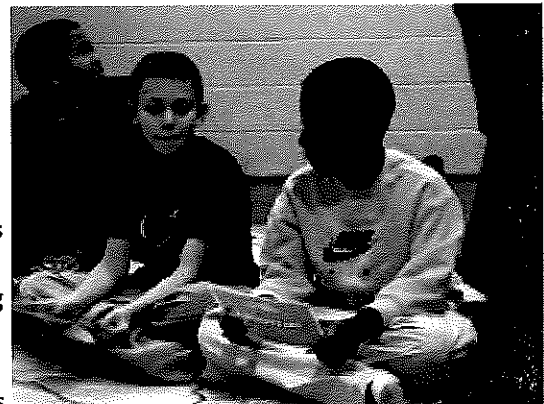
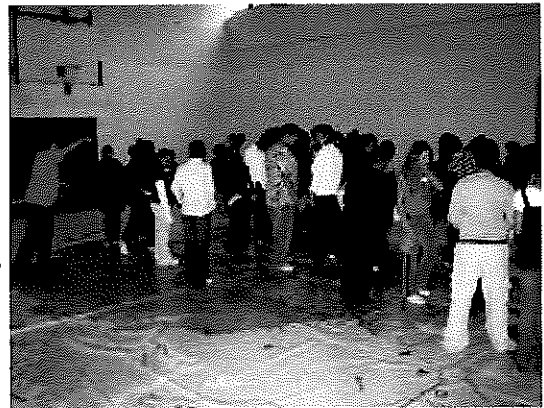
After an initial discussion of the region, Sokol and Dr. Domingo passed out cards to all the students. On each card was the name of a country, its population (in millions) and its area in square miles. The students then had to locate the country by walking around the map and seeing where in Asia it is located.

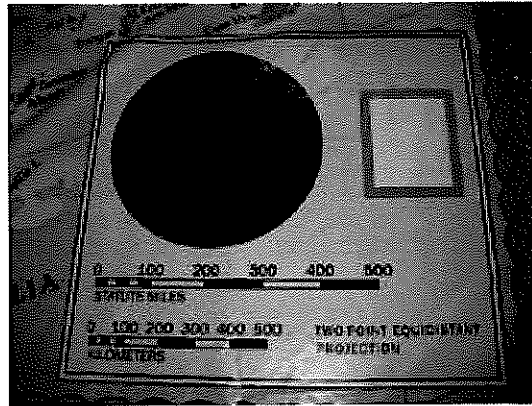
"The key is to teach students about how geography influences the world around them, and how it influences history," said Grade 6 Social Studies Teacher Steven Alves, whose students happened to be working on a unit on Asia at the time of the map's arrival. "This puts a perspective on world events, so that when something pops up on the news, you know about where that country is located, which countries it abuts and what kind of a belief and governmental structure are there. It helps to give some context so that you can understand what's going on in the world."

The Asia map is the second in National Geographic's Giant Traveling Map series - Africa, the first in the series, began touring schools and organizations around the country in 2006. The enlarged map has a brightly colored, smooth vinyl surface that accurately illustrates the continent's oceans, seas, rivers, mountains, countries and capitals. Giant maps are planned for the other continents and a North America map is slated to travel in 2008.

This year, the Asia map came to the Davis thanks to a partnership between Dr. Domingo and his former student, Davis School Librarian Laurie Bell. A well-respected geographer, Dr. Domingo worked to bring the traveling map to the area. The college and the school also collaborate on the Professional Development School, which pairs 15 student teachers with experienced Davis professionals for a 16-week teaching experience. Bell said she was pleased to further the connection between BSC and the Davis School, and is looking forward to the North America map traveling to the school next year.

"I think this is a fabulous way to teach geography," said Bell, who often helps students to research areas of the world. "Geography is so important in this global age, and to have an opportunity to see it so clearly in perspective is wonderful."





From: bell_laurie@hotmail.com

To: bell_laurie@hotmail.com

Subject: . Small Gym at Davis School to become "Asia" on

Date: Sun, 10 Jul 2016 19:24:00 -0400

Small Gym at Davis School to become "Asia" on November 29th

Walking from one side of Asia to the other may seem like an impossible feat, but it's all in a day's lesson for elementary and middle school students with the world's largest map of the continent. The massive map, measuring 41 feet by 31 feet, is designed by National Geographic as a geo-game board inviting students to explore and discover the diverse geography of Asia. The enlarged map has a brightly colored, smooth vinyl surface that accurately illustrates the continent's oceans, seas, rivers, mountains, countries and

capitals.

The giant map, designed for grades K-8, come with a trunk full of accessories, that teach students about the physical characteristics of the continents as well as the rich history and varied cultures. Safaris, scavenger hunts and competitive games help make learning about country locations, capital cities, population centers and wildlife information fun and exciting. we will have the opportunity to have this map and the incredible experience right at the Davis...on November 29 the small gym will become Asia! Thank-you to Laurie Bell our School Librarian for arranging this special opportunity for our students.

For more information, visit
<http://press.nationalgeographic.com/pressroom/index.jsp?pageID=press>

When responding, please be aware that the Massachusetts Secretary of State has determined that most email is public record and therefore cannot be kept confidential.

From: Samuel Nighman <snighman@newtonma.gov>,internet 5/2/2019 2:43:12 PM
Subject: RE: Make classroom materials open to public
To: Jason Goldstein <jrgoldie@me.com>,internet
Cc: David Fleishman carolyn_campo@newton.k12.ma.us,internet

Hi Jason,

Thank you sending this thoughtful note to the Mayor.

Superintendent David Fleishman is the right person to provide an answer.

I am copying him on this email.

Respectfully,
Sam Nighman
Executive Aide to the Mayor
(781)605-5809

-----Original Message-----

From: Jason Goldstein <jrgoldie@me.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2019 9:33 PM
To: Ruthanne Fuller <rfuller@newtonma.gov>
Subject: Make classroom materials open to public

Until the bias is removed make the classroom material open to the public Stop the anti Israel and anti Semitic bias In good taste,

Jason G

When responding, please be aware that the Massachusetts Secretary of State has determined that most email is public record and therefore cannot be kept confidential.

From: David Fleishman
Anping Shen
Wednesday, May 22, 2019 6:27:03 PM
Subject: Fwd: Supporting our Teachers
To: shen07@gmail.com,internet Anping Shen Bridget Ray-Canada
bridget4ward1sc@gmail.com,internet dfgomberg@gmail.com,internet
Diana Fisher Gomberg Kathleen Shields
kburdetteshields@yahoo.com,internet Margaret Albright
Matt Miller (Sch Comm) mlalbright@comcast.net,internet
mmiller942@Gmail.com,internet rfuller@newtonma.gov,internet
Ruth Goldman ruthgoldperson@gmail.com,internet
shen07@gmail.com,internet steve@stevesiegel.org,internet
Steven Siegel

Dear SC members,

Below is an email I sent to the faculty and staff today.

DF

----- Original Message -----

Dear Colleagues:

I wanted to send a short note to recognize a challenging event that took place at Newton South yesterday. A Rabbi and a group of students from his school in New York held a rally outside the school related to the history curriculum. Thanks to Newton Police and South staff, the rally was conducted without incident. Unfortunately, this event, and the ongoing criticism of our curriculum and teachers, is creating a tense and unhealthy environment, as well as taking time and energy away from the classroom.

When there is real anti-Semitism happening around the globe and in our country and region, it's really discouraging that this group chose South for their rally. We know our curriculum is not anti-Semitic and we know our teachers are not biased in their instruction. Our skilled educators work every day to bring history to life in ways that engage students and support the development of critical thinking skills so important to life beyond high school.

I know how discouraging it is that this unfounded criticism continues. But, I also know that we have the support of families here in Newton. When Newton South Principal Joel Stembridge notified South families of the event, many emailed him to say that the South teachers had their support. Our community has always been wonderfully supportive of your commitment to our students and it's clear that you continue to have their full trust and confidence.

I know firsthand it is a very stressful time for some of our faculty right now and they deserve our full support. I hope you have a good finish to the year.

Best,
David

From: David Fleishman Wednesday, March 20, 2019 10:07:29 AM
Subject: History Curriculum Lawsuit
To: Special Announcements

Dear Colleagues,

While I was originally going to send this just to our high school faculty, I thought I would share it with everyone given that this topic continues to receive news coverage. A lawsuit has been filed against the Newton Public Schools related to our history curriculum. This civil action seeks a ruling that the curriculum is biased, discriminatory, anti-Semitic and anti-Israel. The plaintiffs, who are not parents of NPS students, are asking the court to order NPS teachers and administrators to change the curriculum.

While it is not atypical for me and the School Committee chair to be the subject of lawsuits, I'm especially sorry that several of our faculty members and the high school principals are named in the lawsuit. We strongly disagree with the accusations and stand by the message we shared with the NPS community last fall.

You continue to have my unwavering support for the work you do with our students every day.

Best,
David

From: David Fleishman Wednesday, May 22, 2019 12:24:00 PM
Subject: Supporting our Teachers
To: Special Announcements

Dear Colleagues:

I wanted to send a short note to recognize a challenging event that took place at Newton South yesterday. A Rabbi and a group of students from his school in New York held a rally outside the school related to the history curriculum. Thanks to Newton Police and South staff, the rally was conducted without incident. Unfortunately, this event, and the ongoing criticism of our curriculum and teachers, is creating a tense and unhealthy environment, as well as taking time and energy away from the classroom.

When there is real anti-Semitism happening around the globe and in our country and region, it's really discouraging that this group chose South for their rally. We know our curriculum is not anti-Semitic and we know our teachers are not biased in their instruction. Our skilled educators work every day to bring history to life in ways that engage students and support the development of critical thinking skills so important to life beyond high school.

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I know firsthand it is a very stressful time for some of our faculty right now and they deserve our full support. I hope you have a good finish to the year.

Best,
David

From: David Fleishman
James Epstein <jamesepstein5@aol.com>, internet
4/24/2019 2:33:37 PM
Subject: Fwd(2): Proposal
To: ssyspts@aol.com, internet View in Browser

----- Original Message -----

Dear Mr. Epsein,

Thank you for your email. My responses are below.

Best,

David

----- Original Message -----

----- Original Message -----

April 10, 2019

The Honorable Ruthanne Fuller
Mayor of the City of Newton
City Hall
1000 Commonwealth Ave.
Newton, MA 02459

David Fleishman, Superintendent
Newton Public Schools
Newton Education Center
100 Walnut St.
Newton, MA 02460

Dear Mayor Fuller and Superintendent Fleishman:

On behalf of numerous Newton residents with whom I have spoken and me, I respectfully reiterate and renew the request made by Newton resident Sande Young in her public, on the record, speech before the Newton School Committee at the Committee's April 8, 2019 Public Meeting, as follows --

1) She states, "I have expert guest speakers ready, willing and able to appear at any Middle Eastern Studies, History or Current Events class".

Thank you for the offer. Our faculty have strong connections with guest speakers throughout the Boston area and have a wealth of knowledge about the subjects above.

2) She states, "I am willing to fund a large exhibit from the Simon Wiesenthal Center called 'The Birth of Israel'. The cost to rent this exhibit is \$500 which I am willing to pay for out of my own pocket".

Thank you for the offer on an important topic. We receive a lot of offers regarding exhibits and curriculum materials. I know Sande has been in touch with Toby and Margaret Albright and the kind offer has been shared with the high schools. Unfortunately, due to the attacks our teachers, they are quite hesitant to address topics related to Israel and the Middle East so I am not sure that the exhibit would relate to our curriculum.

3) She proposes an "Anti-Anti-Israel Bias Commission" on the basis that there would be numerous volunteers (which I confirm is the case).

We reject that there is bias in our curriculum and would not agree with such a proposal. Our teachers and our community members would fear censorship and we have never had such a review panel on any subject.

As Sande stated in her speech, she has brought items #1 and #2 (above) to Mayor Fuller, Assistant Superintendent Toby Romer, both Newton North and Newton South High School Principals and History Department Chairs, as well as North teacher, David Bedar." Albeit Sande was advised that she would at least receive a response on items #1 and #2, to date there has been no response, including no response at the April 8 School Committee meeting, hence this written request.

This approach would show good faith to begin to rectify, what is perceived by many Newton residents including two students who attested to this [
<http://click.icptrack.com/icp/relay.php?r=58885606&msgid=93959&act=QXHD&c=1761974&destination=https%3A%2F%2Fyoutu.be%2F7GROOLfySAs>] <https://youtu.be/7GROOLfySAs> at the March 25 School Committee meeting, an anti-Israel bias in the Newton Public Schools curriculum, causing considerable discomfort. The beauty of the item #1 and #2 proposals beyond providing important teaching presentations and materials to students, further enabling critical thinking on both historical and current issues, there need be no admission by the City or Schools of the underlying problem. Moreover, there is absolutely no cost to the City, Schools and taxpayers.

I do look forward to your response to these proposals at your very earliest convenience, and if in the affirmative, I'll volunteer to assist in coordinating this with Sande Young.

Sincerely,

Jim Epstein
110 Manchester Rd.
Newton, MA 02461

cc: Sande Young

April 10, 2019

The Honorable Ruthanne Fuller
Mayor of the City of Newton
City Hall
1000 Commonwealth Ave.
Newton, MA 02459

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Newton Public Schools
Newton Education Center
100 Walnut St.
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I do look forward to your response to these proposals at your very earliest convenience, and if in the affirmative, I'll volunteer to assist in coordinating this with Sande Young.

Sincerely,

Jim Epstein
110 Manchester Rd.
Newton, MA 02461

cc: Sande Young

From: Steven Feinberg Wednesday, May 22, 2019 2:39:41 PM
Subject: Supporting you!
To: David Fleishman

Hello David,

I wanted to let you know I appreciate your note of support for teachers and staff at South. I agree with you about how strange it is this group from NY is focusing on NSHS when, sadly, there are so many locations where real hatred and bias exist...plenty of places where they could have placed their focus. Nevertheless, I am relieved (as both an educator here at South as well as a member of the Tribe) that there were no major incidents in yesterday's rally. Hopefully, this NY group will move on and stay away, and not be as much of a distraction to our school community going forward.

Thanks again for all your support throughout the year.

Looking forward to seeing you next week at our little event...(I am sure you are aware of it by now...)

Hope you are well.

Dr. Steve

David Fleishman writes:

Dear Colleagues:

I wanted to send a short note to recognize a challenging event that took place at Newton South yesterday. A Rabbi and a group of students from his school in New York held a rally outside the school related to the history curriculum. Thanks to Newton Police and South staff, the rally was conducted without incident. Unfortunately, this event, and the ongoing criticism of our curriculum and teachers, is creating a tense and unhealthy environment, as well as taking time and energy away from the classroom.

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I know how discouraging it is that this unfounded criticism continues. But, I also know that we have the support of families here in Newton. When Newton South Principal Joel Stembbridge notified South families of the event, many emailed him to say that the South teachers had their support. Our community has always been wonderfully supportive of your commitment to our students and it's clear that you continue to have their full trust and confidence.

I know firsthand it is a very stressful time for some of our faculty right now and they deserve our full support. I hope you have a good finish to the year.

Best,
David

B. Steven Feinberg, Psy.D./School Psychologist
Program Manager, The Southside Program
Newton South High School
(617) 559-6611
Email: Steven_Feinberg@newton.k12.ma.us
Choose Kindness, Listen First, Show Respect, Take Responsibility

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From: "Toby Romer" <toby_romer@newton.k12.ma.us>,internet 5/6/2019
12:26:08 PM
Subject: Re: Israel Day Handout - 5/13/19 - Invitation to edit
To: John C. Harutunian [View in Browser](#)
Cc: David Fleishman

I have some thoughts I can share tomorrow AM when we meet or this afternoon.

Toby N. Romer
Assistant Superintendent for Secondary Education and Special Programs
Newton Public Schools
100 Walnut Street
Newton, MA 02460
www.newton.k12.ma.us
617 559-6115

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Thank you for your cooperation.

John Harutunian <harutunianj@newton.k12.ma.us> writes:
harutunianj@newton.k12.ma.us has invited you to **edit** the following document:

Israel Day Handout - 5/13/19

Unknown profile photo

Hi David & Toby,

Here is the document...thanks for your review.

Best,

John

[Open in Docs](#)

Google Docs: Create and edit documents online.
Google LLC, 1600 Amphitheatre Parkway, Mountain View, CA 94043, USA
You have received this email because someone shared a document with you from Google Docs.

Logo
for
Google
Docs

From: "Toby Romer" <toby_romer@newton.k12.ma.us>,internet 2/3/2019
9:07:37 PM
Subject: Re: Summary of Conversations with Newton South and Newton Nort
revised Feb. 1 2019 - DS
To: ruthgoldperson@gmail.com,internet View in Browser
Cc: litalc@israeliamerican.org,internet David Fleishman
david.shimoni@yahoo.com,internet

I agree as well. Thanks so much.

Toby

Sent from FirstClass with my iPhone

Ruth Goldman <ruthgoldperson@gmail.com> writes:

It looks great from my end and David as well - thanks for circulating, Lital. Toby? Enjoy the rest of the weekend! Ruth Goldman Consulting ruthgoldperson@gmail.com (617) 719-5048 On Feb 2, 2019, at 11:23 PM, Lital Carmel <litalc@israeliamerican.org> wrote: Hello all, I sent the attached to Toby this morning. Sharing with you all as per David's email. Lital Sent from my iPhone Begin forwarded message: From: Lital Carmel <litalc@israeliamerican.org> Date: February 2, 2019 at 10:23:06 AM EST To: Toby Romer <toby_romer@newton.k12.ma.us> Cc: David Shimoni <david.shimoni@yahoo.com> Subject: Summary of Conversations with Newton South and Newton North revised Feb. 1 2019 - DS Dear Toby, Please see attached the revised summary with a few edits. thank you, Lital <Summary of Conversations with Newton South and Newton North revised Feb. 1 2019 - DS.docx>

From: David Fleishman
"Trestan, Robert" <RTrestan@adl.org>,internet
4/8/2019 2:15:56 PM
Subject: Fwd: Equality Workshops
To: Toby Romer View in Browser
Attachments: ADL Equality Workshops.pdf 1M

Toby,

Please see below and the attached. Don't know if anyone would be interested and no pressure.

DF

----- Original Message -----

----- Original Message -----

Hi David,

Attached are some slides on the program from Chelsea that I was referring to when we spoke on Friday. They can work with up to 120 students in a middle school and typically split the kids in two groups, one in a classroom and one on the field and they switch after an hour. Availability is Monday May 13 in the AM or PM or Tuesday, May 14th in the morning.

It is likely that the students will also get tickets to the match against the Revolution on May 15th. It is an exhibition game at Gillette to raise awareness around anti-Semitism.

Let me know if there is interest in Newton. I have copied Mary Beth Long and Camille Rivero from the Middlesex DA's office with whom we are partnering with on this initiative. Officials from the team will be here this week to visit the schools that are interested.

Robert

Robert Trestan
Regional Director
40 Court Street, 12th Floor
Boston MA 02108
[tel:617-46-6360]t: 617-406-6360

[tel:%20617-515-4023]c:617-515-4023
[mailto:rtrestan@adl.org]rtrestan@adl.org
[http://adl.org/]adl.org
[https://www.linkedin.com/company/anti-defamation-league/][[Image]]
https://www.youtube.com/user/ADLNational][[Image]]
https://twitter.com/ADL_NewEngland][[Image]] [https://www.facebook.com/adl.newengland
][Image]

CHILDREN'S FAMILY COUNCIL



OVERVIEW



Building Bridges is Chelsea FC's campaign to promote equality, celebrate diversity and make everyone feel valued throughout our club, stadium and wider community.

Through Building Bridges, we work with everyone from children and young people in schools and grassroots football clubs through to community groups and our senior men's and women's teams, to create a club where everyone feels welcome, regardless of who they are and where they come from.

As part of the programme the Say No To Antisemitism campaign is a wide-ranging initiative to tackle antisemitism and to educate fans, football and the wider community on the dangers of antisemitism.

Its central pillars focus on education, support and awareness in order to reiterate our commitment to equality and demonstrate that antisemitism has no place in our game or in the wider community.

EQUALITY WORKSHOPS



Our Equality and Diversity workshops have been designed with the Football Association and national equality campaigning groups. The sessions are aimed toward pupils aged 8-12 years old.

This programme consists of school-based workshops where children explore what 'equality' and 'diversity' means.

Using Chelsea as an example of diversity, students will be encouraged to develop ideas of how differences can be celebrated and how sport can be used to bring communities together. We would encourage students to think about how issues such as antisemitism and discrimination can affect fellow students and their wider communities.

As part of the lesson, participants are asked to create pledges to demonstrate their understanding and awareness of equality and diversity. The winning group will receive unique Chelsea prizes.

FOOTBALL SESSIONS



As part of the programme, participants can then be asked to take part in football based activities, using examples they have learnt from the lessons.

Our specially trained International Development, staff alongside colleagues from the New England Revolution, can create bespoke programmes to emphasise key themes of the day.

These would include team-work, respect, communication and problem solving.

We would encourage teams to be diverse and of mixed ability, encouraging cooperation, fair play and inclusion.

This would include a range of challenges, drills and skills sessions in a fun and positive environment.

LOGISTICS OF THE DAY



Ideally we would start with an interactive school assembly to set the tone of the day and pass on key messages of the Final Whistle for Hate.

Depending on class sizes we would encourage one coach per 15 students and for delivery sessions 30 students per educator with school staff supporting the sessions.

We would look for one complete session (coaching and education) to last two hours, however we would work around the schedule of the school. We would look to bring two educators and potentially four coaches.

In two hours we could therefore work with up to 120 students.

We would liaise with the school ahead of the event to ensure appropriate facilities and classrooms spaces are available, to both understand their requirements and structure the day accordingly.



Hi David,

Attached are some slides on the program from Chelsea that I was referring to when we spoke on Friday. They can work with up to 120 students in a middle school and typically split the kids in two groups, one in a classroom and one on the field and they switch after an hour. Availability is Monday May 13 in the AM or PM or Tuesday, May 14th in the morning.

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Let me know if there is interest in Newton. I have copied Mary Beth Long and Camille Rivero from the Middlesex DA's office with whom we are partnering with on this initiative. Officials from the team will be here this week to visit the schools that are interested.

Robert

Robert Trestan

Regional Director

40 Court Street, 12th Floor

Boston MA 02108

t: 617-406-6360

c: 617-515-4023

rtrestan@adl.org

adl.org

ADL-

linkedin

Descrip

Descrip

Descrip

Descrip

Descrip

Descrip

From: Toby Romer
Lital Carmel <litalc@israeliamerican.org>, internet
5/10/2019 10:34:47 AM
Subject: Fwd: RE: Join us May 15 for special lunch at the JFK Library
To: David Fleishman View in Browser

I almost could do it if you want, but need to move one thing...

Toby N. Romer
Assistant Superintendent for Secondary Education and Special Programs
Newton Public Schools
100 Walnut Street
Newton, MA 02460
www.newton.k12.ma.us
617 559-6115

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----- Original Message -----

Dear all,
I'm sorry for pushing, but I need to know by the end of the morning if you will be able to join us.
Thanks,
Lital

From: Lital Carmel
Sent: Thursday, May 9, 2019 3:29 PM
To: david_fleishman@newton.k12.ma.us; ruthgoldperson@gmail.com;
toby_romer@newton.k12.ma.us
Cc: David Shimoni <david.shimoni@yahoo.com>; Paula Sinclair
<paula@israeliamerican.org>
Subject: Join us May 15 for special lunch at the JFK Library

Dear David, Ruth and Toby,

Thank you for your time today.

As promised- please see below the invitation to the lunch on May 15th. Please let me know as soon as you can if you will be joining us.

Lital

As some of you know, IAC Boston has been named as one of the beneficiary organizations of the Final Whistle on Hate Charity Match, which will take place on Wednesday night May 15 at Gillette Stadium. All proceeds from the soccer game (between Chelsea FC and the New England Revolution) benefit organizations that combat antisemitism and discrimination. The Kraft Family has invited us to a special luncheon at the JFK Library on that same day. The luncheon conversation is dedicated to the topic of antisemitism (see schedule below). We hope that you can join us there.

Regards,

Lital and Paula

11:30 AM Guests Arrive
11:45 AM Welcome Remarks
11:50 AM Panel one: State of anti-Semitism around the world (45 min)
Moderator: David Brinn, Managing Editor, Jerusalem Post
Panelists:
Ambassador Danny Danon, Israel's Permanent Representative to the United Nations -
Isaac Herzog, Chairman of the Jewish Agency for Israel
Malcolm Hoenlein, Executive Vice Chairman, Conference of Presidents Major American
Jewish Organizations
Sara Bloomfield, Holocaust Memorial Museum

12:35 PM Lunch served

12:50 PM Panel two: How sports can join the fight against anti-Semitism
around the world (30 min)

§ Moderator: David Brinn, Managing Editor, Jerusalem Post

§ Panelists:

- Bruce Buck, Chelsea Football Club
- Vince Gennaro, Dean NYU Tisch Institute
- Don Garber, MLS
- Brian Bilello, NER

1:20 PM Key Note* (5-10 min) Elan Carr, U.S. Envoy to combat anti-Semitism

*Elan is arriving from a meeting outside the country and so he will conduct the Key Note on the backend of the Luncheon.

1:30 PM Speaking Program concludes

Dessert and Networking

Dear all,
I'm sorry for pushing, but I need to know by the end of the morning if you will be able to join us.
Thanks,
Lital

From: Lital Carmel

Sent: Thursday, May 9, 2019 3:29 PM

To: david_fleishman@newton.k12.ma.us; ruthgoldperson@gmail.com; toby_romer@newton.k12.ma.us

Cc: David Shimoni <david.shimoni@yahoo.com>; Paula Sinclair <paula@israeliamerican.org>

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*Elan is arriving from a meeting outside the country and so he will conduct the Key Note on the backend of the Luncheon.

1:30 PM Speaking Program concludes

Dessert and Networking

From: Toby Romer
Kerry Hurwitz <dragonboatboston@gmail.com>, internet
2/10/2019 10:55:05 PM
Subject: Fwd(2): Concerns about class material
To: David Fleishman View in Browser

FYI

Toby N. Romer
Assistant Superintendent for Secondary Education and Special Programs
Newton Public Schools
100 Walnut Street
Newton, MA 02460
www.newton.k12.ma.us
617 559-6115

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----- Original Message -----

Dear Mr. Turner,

Below is an email I sent to Mr. Bedar earlier today. I am sending it to you because at the meeting with the Israeli American Council last month, you asked parents to keep you informed about our concerns. I am also sending copies to Mr. Romer, who as you recall was also at the meeting, and to Mr. Cho, History Department Chair.

Very truly yours,
/s/Kerry Hurwitz
Kerry Hurwitz

Kerry Hurwitz

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Kerry Hurwitz <[mailto:dragonboatboston@gmail.com]
]dragonboatboston@gmail.com>
Date: Fri, Feb 8, 2019 at 12:08 PM
Subject: Concerns about class material
To: <[mailto:david_bedar@newton.k12.ma.us]david_bedar@newton.k12.ma.us>

FERPA - student
names redacted

Dear Mr. Bedar,

This is Kerry Hurwitz; I'm the mother of [REDACTED] in the Honors "Middle East, Asia, and Latin America after 1945" course. [REDACTED] likes your class very much and feels she is learning a lot. Although I am happy that she enjoys school, I have concerns about some of the curricula materials

I do not belong to Americans for Peace and Tolerance, nor do I support their tactics. However, I do believe that some class material contains inaccuracies and/or biases.

I'm free to meet with during the week of February 18th and afterward. I suggest that we set aside a minimum of one-half hour to talk.

I would also like to confirm that no material, including films or videos were distributed, assigned to, or viewed by students other than those contained in the online Schoology folder. If there are any other materials, please let me know.

In a meeting with parents organized by the Israeli American Council, Mr. Turner asked that he be notified of parental concerns, so I will send him a copy of this email.

I look forward to speaking with you.

Very truly yours,
Kerry Hurwitz
Kerry Hurwitz

Dear Mr. Turner,

Below is an email I sent to Mr. Bedar earlier today. I am sending it to you because at the meeting with the Israeli American Council last month, you asked parents to keep you informed about our concerns. I am also sending copies to Mr. Romer, who as you recall was also at the meeting, and to Mr. Cho, History Department Chair.

Very truly yours,

/s/ *Kerry Hurwitz*

Kerry Hurwitz

Kerry Hurwitz

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Kerry Hurwitz** <dragonboatboston@gmail.com>

Date: Fri, Feb 8, 2019 at 12:08 PM

Subject: Concerns about class material

To: <david_bedar@newton.k12.ma.us>

FERPA - student
names redacted

Dear Mr. Bedar,

This is Kerry Hurwitz; I'm the mother of [REDACTED] in the Honors "Middle East, Asia, and Latin America after 1945" course. [REDACTED] likes your class very much and feels she is learning a lot. Although I am happy that she enjoys school, I have concerns about some of the curricula materials

I do **not** belong to Americans for Peace and Tolerance, nor do I support their tactics. However, I do believe that some class material contains inaccuracies and/or biases.

I'm free to meet with during the week of February 18th and afterward. I suggest that we set aside a minimum of one-half hour to talk.

I would also like to confirm that no material, including films or videos were distributed, assigned to, or viewed by students other than those contained in the online Schoology folder. If there are any other materials, please let me know.

In a meeting with parents organized by the Israeli American Council, Mr. Turner asked that he be notified of parental concerns, so I will send him a copy of this email.

I look forward to speaking with you.

Very truly yours,

Kerry Hurwitz

Kerry Hurwitz

From: Toby Romer Wednesday, May 22, 2019 5:00:19 PM
Subject: OH Letter
To: Lisa Mazzola David Fleishman Carolyn Campo

FYI

May 22, 2019

Good afternoon Oak Hill families,

I have some upsetting news to share. Yesterday and this morning, we conducted an investigation that involved a video with students saying a racial slur, which was shared with and viewed by a small group of students. The video with a hateful word being repeated has caused deep hurt and pain among students, faculty and community members of all races. We are closely following our district protocols for responding to acts of bias and discrimination, including notifying the Newton Police.

At Oak Hill, we take incidents such as these very seriously. It is a violation of our core values and will not be tolerated. We reject racism, anti-semitism, gender intolerance or any other form of discrimination. We work continuously to build an inclusive and caring community in which all students and adults feel safe and respected.

In addition to taking the appropriate disciplinary and educational steps with the students involved, we also will lead a workshop with all 8th grade students to emphasize there is no place for hate speech, racial jokes or racial slurs in our school community.

Faculty and staff are aware of this incident. If your child expresses any concern to you, please let them know they can contact a teacher, guidance counselor, or other trusted adult in the building for support.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to me. Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

John Harutunian

Toby N. Romer
Assistant Superintendent for Secondary Education and Special Programs

Newton Public Schools
100 Walnut Street
Newton, MA 02460
www.newton.k12.ma.us
617 559-6115

Notice of Confidentiality: This transmission is intended for the addressee or addressees listed above and may contain information that is confidential and private. If you are not an addressee, any use, disclosure, copying or communication of the contents of this transmission is prohibited. If this communication was received in error, please contact me immediately at the number listed above. Thank you for your cooperation.

From: Toby Romer
Albert Cho
Wednesday, May 8, 2019 5:15:50 PM
Subject: Fwd: Understand and Appreciating the Middle East
To: David Fleishman Henry Turner

Hello,

There is still room available for some blocks - act quickly.

On May 9th, students of the Middle East, Asia, Latin America class will host Understanding and Appreciating the Middle East Day, which strives to share aspects of Middle Eastern culture and current events. By representing the Middle East's complex narratives, the day aims to expose the Newton North community to this region of the world, dispel stereotypes, and foster well-informed discussion.

Link to sign up:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScidIgn3IN2GoLoDCT8f1fIUy6BeMlZMeL3RJqQX_z-hNvAng/viewform

Block Schedule: (Sign up for A/B/C/E blocks; no signup necessary for D block)

A Block: Women's Equality and the IDF: The Case of Alice Miller, Dr. Shayna Weiss

B Block (long): Student panel

C Block: Media Coverage of the Middle East, Stefano Kotsonis

D Block: During 3rd lunch, students can enjoy food on Main Street, donated by a variety of local Middle Eastern restaurants

E Block (long): Syrian refugee crisis panel

A Block: Women's Equality and the Israeli Military: The Case of Alice Miller, Dr. Shayna Weiss (Auditorium)

Dr. Weiss taught at the U.S. Naval Academy and is now the associate director of the Schusterman Center for Israel Studies at Brandeis University. She is currently writing a book about gender segregation in Israel. In this block, Weiss will speak about the case of Alice Miller, who in 1993 tried to apply to a pilot training course. The Israel Defense Forces refused her request, but the Israeli Supreme Court later overruled the army's decision. Weiss will discuss both what the Alice Miller case tells us about gender and equality in Israel and if the military is the best way to fight for women's rights.

B Block (long): Student Panel (Auditorium)

This panel will feature current Newton North students who identify as being from the Middle East. Students will share how their Middle Eastern background influences their daily lives, including family, school, social, cultural, and/or religious life. Audience Q&A will follow the facilitated panel discussion.

C Block: Media Coverage of the Middle East, Stefano Kotsonis (Auditorium)

Stefano Kotsonis is the producer of WBUR's OnPoint and was previously CNN's Amman (Jordan) bureau chief and correspondent. He will speak and answer questions about his experiences covering different parts of the Middle East, including the Gulf War, the Kurdish refugee crisis, and the Middle East peace process.

D Block: During 3rd lunch, students can enjoy food on Main Street, donated by a variety of local Middle Eastern restaurants (no signup necessary)

E Block (long): Syrian Refugee Crisis Panel (Auditorium)

The following speakers will be part of a facilitated panel discussion about the Syrian refugee crisis and actions that Newton community members have taken, followed by Q&A.

██████████ (a teenage refugee from Syria who moved with her family to the US)

██████████ (who hosted Avshin's family)

FERPA - student
names redacted

Leslie Meral Schick (who frequently travels to Greece to help refugees)

██████████ (NNHS senior who volunteers for NuDay Syria, an organization which provides humanitarian relief)

Albert Cho
Interim History Department Chair
Office: 359
Newton North High School
albert_cho@newton.k12.ma.us
617.559.6280

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- Hi
-
- Thanks so much for your email and I appreciate your question. I know last week was Holocaust Remembrance Week and it is critical that we remember an unspeakable tragedy.
-
- I understand that the various days of recognition at NNHS are important. Please note that they are all student generated and students are free to initiate programs that they deem to be meaningful. For example, on Thursday, there will be a Middle East Day, which will allow students to celebrate the various cultures and countries in the Middle East. Israel will obviously be featured.
-
- In my experience, current tragedies in school are more widely recognized than atrocities from the past. For example, Mr. Turner recently announced a moment of silence for the woman who was tragically killed in the synagogue shooting in California. I do think it is important that students learn about the Holocaust in school and I am aware that a group of teachers will soon be updating the unit.
-
- We do certainly want our Jewish students to feel welcomed at school. Please feel free to consult with an administrator or counselor if you want to talk further about this subject.
-
- Sincerely,
-

FERPA - student
names redacted

- David Fleishman
-