

B”H
April 11, 2008
6 Nisan 5768

Dear Parents,

Ten months ago, Hillel’s Board of Directors proposed a new set of By-Laws for the school that were intended to give Hillel’s leadership the tools it needs to effectively manage the school. As you know, those By-Laws were not approved by the Membership. Last year’s experience demonstrated the level of passion and commitment that the parents have for Hillel, and challenged the leadership to do better.

The management challenges that Hillel faces have not gone away, and the Board of Directors still wants to amend the By-Laws to help meet those challenges. At the same time, the Board clearly heard the message from parents that the By-Laws process be more inclusive, and that the By-Laws continue to respect Hillel’s tradition of parental involvement. To that end, Rabbi Sufrin convened last year a committee of parents to work on a second set of By-Laws. We, the members of that committee, are writing to you to update you on our progress.

We were approached as Hillel parents with diverse backgrounds who voted *against* last year’s proposed By-Laws and who are not current Board members. We were asked to bring to the committee’s deliberations an independent vision of what the By-Laws should be. We met many times over the last ten months to draft a set of By-Laws that we feel will work best for the Hillel community. In the process, we reviewed the current By-Laws, last year’s proposed By-Laws, and best practices from other private schools, including ones recommended by Partners in Excellence for Jewish Education (PEJE). Our work involved many hours of frank debate and careful consideration of the impact of our decisions.

Recently, we presented our finished product to the Board of Directors. The board has created a By-Laws committee that will review the details of our proposal in consultation with us. The By-Laws have not been formally accepted by the Board, but the expectation is that the By-Laws we drafted will be ratified and recommended to the Membership for approval at the September 2008 Annual Meeting. Our attention now turns to engaging the Membership and explaining the results of our work. As Hillel parents, we understand the need to have clear explanation of how the new By-Laws will affect us, our children, and the school as a whole. Here’s what you can expect to happen over the next few months.

We, the committee members, will host a Town Hall meeting on **Wed., May 28 at 7:30 PM**, at which we will discuss the proposed changes to the By-Laws. The Membership will have ample opportunity to review and understand the proposed By-Laws. Hillel will also set up a web site where can read a set of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) about the By-Laws. An e-mail account – bylaws@hillelhebrew.org – has been set up for parents to e-mail questions. We will respond to those questions in a timely fashion and post the answers on the web site as appropriate.

We take great pride in the proposal we have made and the work we have done to get here. We look forward to sharing our work with you at the Town Hall Meeting.

Wishing you a Chag Kasher v’Sameach,

Fred Gluckman, Alex Fax, Judy Friedman, Elisa Keller, Avrumie Schnitzer, Alec Schramm