

Prominent NYC Public School ‘Abandoned Its Educational Mission,’ Says Rabbinic Group

Claiming the school had “abandoned its educational mission,” a 1000-strong rabbinic organization, the Coalition for Jewish Values (CJV), demanded an immediate public apology from the Beacon School, a selective, college-preparatory public school in Manhattan, whose students include the children of numerous public officials. Two weeks ago, the school called for a mandatory, school-wide moment of silence as a tribute to “Palestinian victims of violence” in Gaza, causing discomfort to many Jewish students and outrage among their parents.

“There are no two ways about it; claiming that Hamas operatives are ‘victims’ is

to say that killing Jews is a peaceful activity,” said Rabbi Pesach Lerner, President of the CJV. “Hamas members approached the border with guns, knives, and maps of Israeli civilian communities on the other side, responding to calls by their leaders to ‘tear down the border and...tear out [Jews]’ hearts from their bodies.”

The CJV cited three ways that the school’s moment of silence failed its educational mission:

Education provides facts, not propaganda. Salah Bardawil, a senior Hamas leader, told Palestinian TV on May 16 that 50 of the 62 killed in Gaza were Hamas members, and Islamic Jihad claimed credit for another three. Over 80 percent of



those killed were terrorists who incite violence, not its victims.

Education teaches students to withdraw from lies. Hamas co-founder Mahmoud Al-Zahar proudly announced to Al Jazeera on May 13 that “when we talk about ‘peaceful resistance,’ we are deceiving the public.” By claiming that those killed in Gaza were peaceful victims of violence, the school propagated this lie.

And finally, education leads people towards civilization and away from barbarism. By claiming that Hamas terrorists attempting to murder innocents were “victims,” the school advocated for per-

mitting the terrorists to reach their objective and commit further atrocities.

“At a time when the world is gripped by the scourge of terrorism,” concluded CJV Vice-President Rabbi Yoel Schonfeld, “a school should sympathize with intended victims and not with terrorists. The school strengthened terrorism, in this very city that has suffered so profoundly from its deadly effects.”

The Coalition for Jewish Values (CJV), the largest rabbinic public policy organization in America, articulates and advocates for public policy positions based upon traditional Jewish thought.

What’s New In School

HANC’s Eighth Grade Washington Trip

This year’s eighth grade trip to Washington was fantastic. The weather was gorgeous both days, not too hot or rainy. The first stop was the Delaware rest stop. Students ate their lunch and had a chance to buy some things in the different stores. Once in DC, the students went to the Air and Space Museum and enjoyed buying space suits and seeing all the different exhibits. The next stop was a tour of the Capitol. The scenes in the Rotunda were breathtaking. The students were very respectful and listened intently to the fabulous tour guide. Arlington National Cemetery and the Changing of the Guard were so impressive. The discipline that these soldiers have is incredible. The next stop was the Lincoln Memorial, so many students made it all the way to the top, as did many of the chaperones. After *mincha* and dinner at the hotel, it was onto FLIGHT, a trampoline park. Students were bouncing around, playing dodgeball and having a fantastic time. After a “good night’s sleep,” we went to Souvenir City to buy gifts for family members. Highlights of day two included: the WWII Memorial, the Jefferson Memorial, and FDR Memorial. The students also went to the United States Holocaust



Memorial Museum. Holocaust studies are very important at HANC Middle School. We spend months participating in the Names, Not Numbers© program and seeing eve-

rything in this museum was very special to all of us. This trip was one of the best and most memorable trips ever. A special thank you to the chaperones: Rabbi Hecht,

Dr. Levey, Mr. Potok, Morah Aronowitz, and Mrs. Wasser. Special thank you to Sheila Shwebel of Tourrific Travel for arranging the trip for us.

