



# Israel Engagement CoP

*Tuesday, October 30, 2007*

*יח חשון סחתיש*

## A Case Study: Tiferet Israel Fellowship

**Facilitator:** *Marion Gribetz*

**Guest:** *Rabbi Eddie Harwitz,*

Milken Community High School  
of the Stephen S Wise Temple  
Los Angeles, CA



# Conference Call Etiquette

- Please press \* 1 to mute your phone, press \*1 to unmute to participate
- Please do not put your phone on hold during the call

## Goals of the Call

- Sharing/Learning from each other
- Generate ideas for the coming year including opportunities at PEJE Assembly

# Agenda

- Welcome and Introductions
- Case Study
- Next Steps for our CoP
  - Including PEJE Assembly April 2008

## Meet Our Guest

- **Rabbi Eddie Harwitz , Director of Israel Programs**



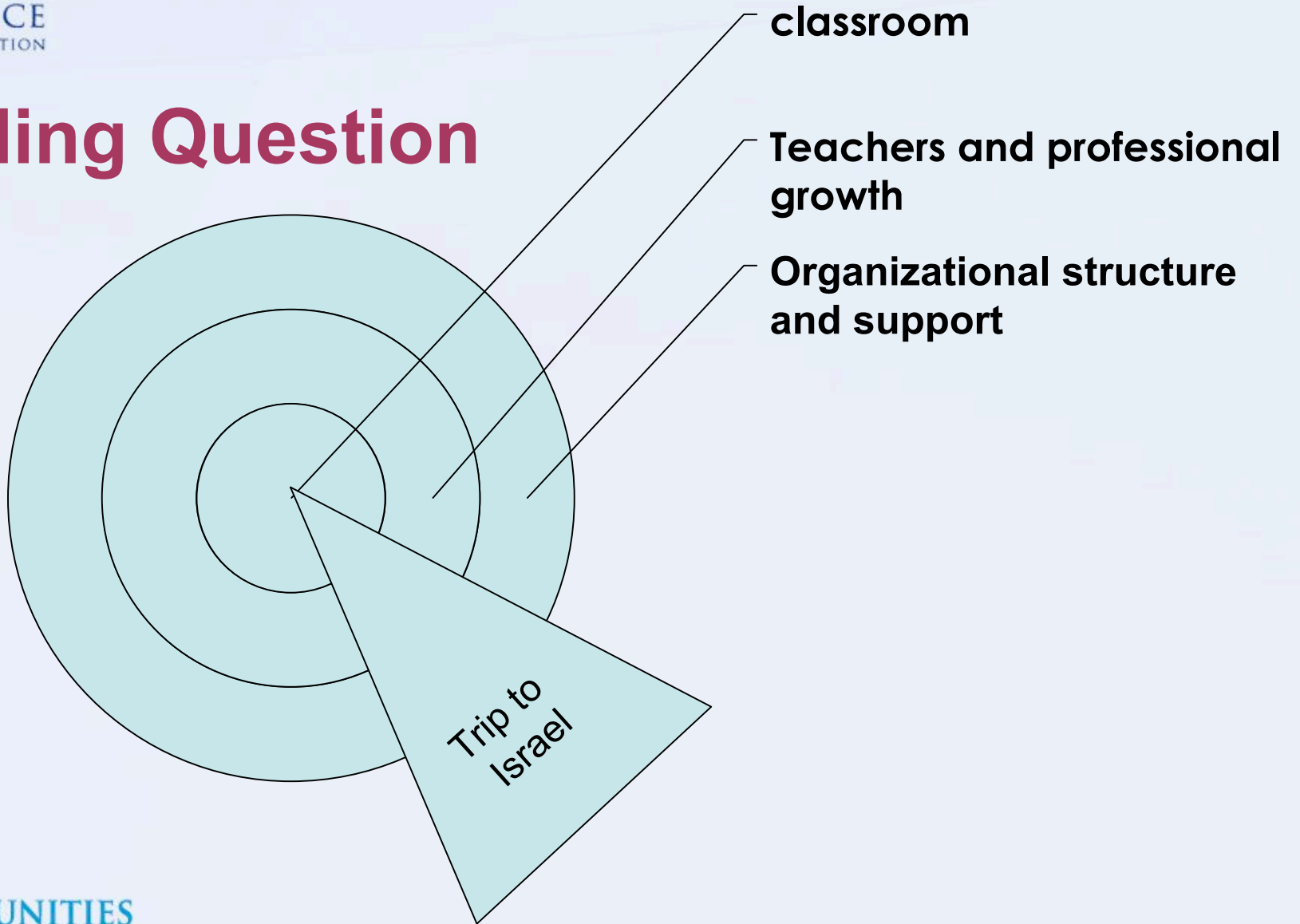
# Case Study Protocol

- **Context Setting**
- **Case**
- **Group Discussion**
- **Next Steps**

# Context Setting

- **Relevant background about the Milken School**
  - **Leadership devoted to Israel and Israel Education**
  - **Milken committed to students living and learning in Israel**
  - **Build on Israel Exchange**
  - **Challenge: academic component**

# Guiding Question



## CASE: Tiferet Israel Fellowship

### Year 1: 9th Grade 2005

- Cultivating a group of “Fellows” through:  
Jewish studies class (*Non traditional faculty role*)

Personal meetings with students and parents (*Meetings at homes instead of school*)

Creating a high profile in community (*strong support from school leadership - lay and professional*)

## **CASE: Tiferet Israel Fellowship**

### **Year 2: 10th Grade 2006**

- Preparing for the Israel Experience (Fall semester)
  - Using Jewish studies class sections
  - Holding meetings for parent and family preparation
- Learning and living in Israel (Spring semester)

## **CASE: Tiferet Israel Fellowship**

### **Year 3: 11<sup>th</sup> Grade**

- Defining and cultivating Israel “ambassadors”
- Creating student-driven project: a program in public speaking and communications
- Sending the Fellows “on the road”

## **CASE: Tiferet Israel Fellowship**

### **Year 4: 12<sup>th</sup> Grade 2007**

- Preparing the “Fellows” to apply their Israel experience and skills as an “ambassador” to their years in college and beyond.
- Continued program development

## Three Key Results

### 1. Increase in participation:

Former program - 16-18 students in a 2-month exchange vs.

TIF program with 40 students in 2007 and 2008 (1/3 of entire class)

### 2. Concrete mission in action - no substitute for study in Israel

### 3. 98% continued participation in Ambassadors Program

# Group Discussion

- **Ask clarifying questions**
- **Address the guiding question**
- **Discuss success factors**

# Clarifying Questions

- How many of the students were previously in partnership programs in LA?
- How other things /activities at Milken support the mission- what are the other elements of the Israel environment at the school?

## Address the Guiding Question

- Other teachers were protective of the classroom time
- Now some colleagues are open to integrating, others are still resistant
- How do you get buy in?
  - Still a significant challenge
  - Will take direction from leadership
  - Faculty will need to work on this
- Deb ( at Pressman Academy) started teacher committee to help with the program : choose a new teacher, and a teacher with her own child in the program

# Key Success Factors

- **Mission Driven Program**
  - The TIF is based on a 4 year process of lay and educational leadership at Stephen S. Wise that has defined Israel as the primary priority and defining characteristic of its Jewish mission.
  - **Clarity** of mission and vision
- **Leadership** raises and prioritizes resources for the Tiferet Israel Fellowship
- **Credibility** - Community donors trust the institution on matters pertaining to Israel
- **Collaboration of stakeholders** - engaging teachers and administrators through their academic and programming interests

## Next Steps

- **What are you taking away from today's call?**
  - Had more funds available – hard to relate to all schools
  - Strategy for fundraising could be explored

## Future CoP Activities

- Next CoP Call: Thursday, November 29, 4 pm Eastern time
- PEJE Assembly, April 6-8, 2008, Boston
- (a chance to meet in person)
- Online discussion:
  - [http:// community.peje.org](http://community.peje.org)

# **PEJE wishes to thank the sponsors of the Israel Engagement COP:**

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