

May 7th, 2015 • 18 Iyar 5775

Dear Gray Academy of Jewish Education Community,

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On February 13, 2015, Rory Paul announced his retirement from Gray Academy of Jewish Education after almost 13 years of tremendous leadership as Head of School and Chief Executive Officer. Recognizing that selecting a new Head of School is a significant event for Gray Academy and the Winnipeg Board of Jewish Education (WBJE), a search committee was established in accordance with best practices outlined by both RAVSAK (North American Jewish Day School Network) and the Canadian Accredited Independent Schools (CAIS). Chaired by the WBJE Vice President, Sean Shore, the committee represented a broad range of interests and skill sets from the WBJE, the community at large, as well as another CAIS school. The committee members reviewed numerous highly qualified applications and carefully considered and interviewed the top three candidates. Last night the unanimous recommendation by the search committee was ratified by the WBJE and we are very pleased to announce that Lori Binder has accepted the position as Head of School and Chief Executive Officer for Gray Academy of Jewish Education.

Gray Academy PAC Rep

Morris Shenkarow

Council of Rabbis Rep

Rabbi Moishe Smierc

Head of School/CEO

Rory Paul

Associate Head of School

Lori Binder

Lori is a gifted educator, nationally recognized in the Jewish Day School and Independent School networks. After graduating from Joseph Wolinsky Collegiate (class of 1991) and spending a year and half of study in Israel, Lori obtained her Bachelor of Education in English and Judaic Studies from the University of Winnipeg. Her deep commitment to her own professional development has enabled her to devote 19 years of teaching and leadership to our school system while furthering her own advanced education and training. Lori received both her Level I Administrator and Level II Principal certificates from the Province of Manitoba and also holds a Master of Education in Administration and Supervision from Loyola University in Chicago. She is a graduate of both the Day School Leadership Training Institute at the Davidson Jewish Theological Seminary in New York and the Canadian Accredited Independent Schools' (CAIS) Leadership Training Institute. As a result of her exceptional career in education, Lori is the recipient of the *Grosberg Family Judaic Studies Educators Award*, the *Harold Grinspoon Award for Excellence in Judaic Studies* and the *Students' Teacher Recognition Award from the University of Manitoba*. Lori is a newly appointed Fellow of RAVSAK's *Professional Excellence Project*, a cohort for outstanding educational leaders in North America. Most recently Lori was selected as one of Canada's top 40 minds in education and has accepted an invitation to attend the CAIS Summer Leadership Institute for the *2051 Project* to be held this summer in Victoria, British Columbia.

Principal

Hart Sera

Vice Principal

Joyce Kerr

Director of Judaic Studies

Ruth Ashrafi

Chief Financial Officer

Carlos Benesdra C.M.A.

On behalf of the search committee and the Winnipeg Board of Jewish Education, we are thrilled to welcome Lori as our New Head of School and Chief Executive Officer for Gray Academy of Jewish Education starting in the Fall of 2015. We have been inspired by her leadership and look forward to working together as she guides Gray Academy of Jewish Education into the future, shaping the lives of each and every student and the growth of our community.

With the successful completion of the search process, the WBJE will work with Lori, Rory, and the staff to plan for a seamless transition. The WBJE is extremely pleased with the results of the extensive search process, and we know with Lori at the helm we will continue to deliver on academic excellence to our students.

Of course, if there are any questions, we encourage you to submit them to searchcommittee@grayacademy.ca.

Yours truly,

Winnipeg Board of Jewish Education

Per: Tracy Kasner Greaves
President

Per: Sean Shore
Vice President