

October, 2010

Dear Rabbi Niman:

I know this letter is long overdue, but in light of the recent events, I have some feelings that I would like to share with you.

To be quite honest, when I met you for the first time, I was quite nervous. You were hired to be the Menahel, and I was already the Assistant Principal. I did not know your educational philosophies, your management skills, or quite frankly where I fit in your plan for the Yeshiva's future. I believe that my feelings were shared by many of the staff who were concerned and fearful of the unknown. In addition, many staff members had become used to little or no accountability – their aura of professionalism was missing and the Yeshiva was in disarray. What would the demands be? Nobody knew, but all were concerned.

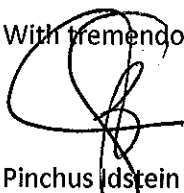
Rabbi Niman – I must say, over the past 9 years I have acquired a boss, a confidante, an advisor, but most importantly, a true and loyal friend! In addition, over the past 9 years under your leadership, the Yeshiva has been revitalized! You have given the Yeshiva a strong directive and proper direction. Administrators, staff of both disciplines, and students feel loved yet accountable. Where the atmosphere that once permeated the halls was lackadaisical, today the hallways are energized with the tangible energy of learning and students desiring to grow. The transformation of the Yeshiva from a school on the brink of demise to a school respected in the community and whose students are coveted by Yeshivos all over Eretz Yisroel is a result of your hard work, your creativity, your love and understanding of each and every boy, and your insatiable desire to do what is right and what is the best for the talmidim of the Yeshiva.

I would like to highlight the respect the Rabbeim of the Yeshiva have for you by giving you a snippet of the conversations that have taken place in my office in the recent weeks. As news of the Yeshiva's plans became more known to all, parents and Rabbeim have come to the office to express their shock, unhappiness, and disbelief with the Yeshiva's decision. They have even included parents and Rabbeim who over the past 9 years have had differences of opinion with you, many of them heated and passionate, regarding Yeshiva policy and hashkofa. These very same people today are enraged that you are leaving the Yeshiva! What bigger compliment to your leadership is there than the respect of those who disagree! They know that you are a man of integrity, they know your motives are to enhance the lives of their children; of course there will be disagreements – but despite them they feel so safe knowing that you are in charge and are deeply concerned and apprehensive about what the future now holds.

Rabbi Niman – It has been my honor and pleasure to work so closely with you in building the Yeshiva over the past 9 years. You will be sorely missed both as a fellow administrator and a friend. The institution that will be your new home and life mission is a very lucky one. I wish you and your wonderful family all the VERY best.

Additionally, I would be in remiss if I did not mention the remarkable work that your wife does for the women of the community. Her sensitivity and care to the mitzvah of Taharas HaMishpacha, and her commitment to ensuring that each and every woman and her personal needs are addressed and met is something that this community will never be able to replace.

With tremendous respect and admiration,



Pinchus Idstein  
Assistant Principal, Yeshiva of Greater Washington – Boys Division