

Kulanu

Page 1—Mission statement

We, Kulanu, the Cincinnati Reform Jewish High School, are a supplemental religious high school program sponsored by and for the members of Rockdale Temple, Temple Sholom, Isaac M. Wise Temple, and The Valley Temple, with the participation of the Hebrew Union College – Jewish Institute of Religion.

The high school student is the primary focus of our efforts. At the same time, we involve the parents, Rabbis and Educators in our program. As a Reform Jewish Institution, we strive to achieve the following goals:

- To bring Torah into our lives through the study of its language, concepts, ideals, and values.
- To foster spiritual growth as individuals and as a Reform Jewish community.
- To teach and encourage acts of loving kindness as we actively pursue the welfare of our families, our community, our country, Israel, and our world.

Our ultimate goal is that the teaching of Judaism, as learned and experienced in our program, will imbue our daily acts with the highest of Jewish values. Our educational program, therefore, embraces the rabbinic dictum, “Upon three things the world stands: on Torah, on prayer and spiritual growth and on acts of loving kindness.”

*Written and approved by the Kulanu Board of Trustees, 2012*

## Page 2—The Board of Trustees of Kulanu

In the year 1982, members of Rockdale Temple, Temple Sholom, Valley Temple and Wise Temple gathered together with the Rabbis from each congregation and representatives from the Hebrew Union College – Jewish Institute of Religion, to implement the concept of a community high school for Reform Jewish youth.

A charitable non-profit Ohio corporation was organized under the name Cincinnati Reform Jewish High School. Five lay representatives, the Educational Director and the Rabbi from each member Congregation served on the Board of Trustees. Thirty years later, this structure is still intact.

The Kulanu Board of Trustees is composed of the following individuals: Rabbis from each of the four congregations, the Congregational Educators and representatives from each of those congregations.

The name was changed in 2011 to Kulanu, meaning “all of us,” to stress the community nature of the school.

As the child of four parents Kulanu is truly a member of the family of these Congregations. Striving to harmonize its goals and ideals with the needs of the member congregations, Kulanu continues to fulfill its mandate to bring together the greatest number of Reform Jewish teens, their Rabbis, talented and dedicated teachers and guest scholars.

These descriptions are an overview of the various committees and are not intended to cover all duties of the committees.

**Executive Committee:**

Elected by the membership. Currently serving for two years. Every attempt is made to have each Temple represented on this committee. This committee meets once a month, prior to the regular Board meeting, or more often if needed. This committee consists of Board Officers (President, Vice President, Treasurer, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, and Past President), the High School Director, and on Rabbi.

**Budget:**

This committee works with the Treasurer on the budget for the year. This committee also assists where needed in budgetary duties. This committee envisions future needs of the school and makes recommendations to the Board.

**Search Committee:**

This is an Ad Hoc committee appointed by the President, usually chaired by the Vice President. In session when searching for a new Director.

**Siyyum:**

This committee deals with all aspects of Siyyum. Planning should begin no later than January.

**Snack:**

This committee deals with all aspects of break time snacks.

**Move Up:**

This committee deals with all aspects of the move up session for incoming 9<sup>th</sup> graders.

### **Attendance and Tardiness**

Each student will be allowed up to 4 absences per semester. Further absences of any kind will result in mandatory make-up work to be assigned by the Kulanu Director in order for the student to receive credit for a course. The parents will be notified should this occur.

### **Discipline**

The disciplinary policy is intended to deal with serious infractions. The Kulanu Director has the right to impose appropriate actions for serious infractions including vandalism, drinking or drugs in the host congregation, leaving school grounds during school hours, reckless driving, fighting or any other action warranting review of a student's tenure at Kulanu.

The policy regarding a serious infraction is:

1. An initial meeting will be arranged with the parent(s) of the student, the Kulanu Director, the student's Rabbi, the Student as well as any other relevant parties. Disciplinary action will be discussed by this group. The Kulanu Director must notify the President of the Board of Trustees of the student's congregation and the other relevant parties regarding action taken.
2. The Kulanu Director retains the right to impose a probationary suspension of the student at the end of which time the student's case will be reviewed.
3. Should the student's behavior be deemed untenable, the Kulanu Director reserves the right to expel a student from Kulanu. A confirming letter will be sent to the student's parent(s)/legal guardian.
4. An appeal of an expulsion can be filed in writing within 30 days with the Kulanu Director. The appeal will be heard by a committee consisting of the Kulanu Director, the student's congregational Rabbi, and a member of the Kulanu Executive Board.

### **Guests**

All guests must register with the Kulanu Director or Administrator. Guests may only visit Kulanu twice during the school year. Non-registered guests will be asked to leave.

### **Tuition**

It is the policy of Kulanu that tuition will not be refunded if the student has attended at least 3 class sessions. Students entering the program mid-point of the school year shall be required to pay 50% of the annual tuition. Any exceptions to this policy shall be by special arrangement with the Kulanu Director, the congregational Rabbi, and the Kulanu board president. Tuition is payable to the individual congregations.

**What is Kulanu?**

A corporation formed by the four Reform Temples to provide a religious supplemental high school for the Reform Jewish community. The school meets once a week for 1 ¾ hours on Sunday evenings, rotation each semester between Temple Sholom and Wise Temple. The student body is comprised of grades 9-12. Students must be members of one of the four Temples.

**What is the Board Make-up?**

The voting members of the board are representatives of each of the four member Temples. Each Temple is allowed five representatives to serve on the high school board. The remainder of the board is comprised of the Rabbis and Temple Educators, all of whom serve in an ex-officio capacity. It should be noted that this is an autonomous board. We are to keep the Temples aware of what is going on, but we are self-governing.

**How are Board Members Chosen?**

Individual board members are chosen by their congregations. Each congregation has its own method of choosing members to serve on this board.

**How long will I be asked to serve?**

Each member is asked to serve for a minimum of two years. Board members are, however, encouraged to serve for a longer period of time. There is no maximum number of years one can serve.

**Who is a typical Board Member?**

The one common factor among the Board Members is a desire to provide the best possible Jewish education to the students entrusted to our care. Our members hope to provide the students with some of the tools they will need as they leave their parents' homes to go on to college or on to the working world.

**What will be expected of me?**

The minimum that is expected of a Board Member is to attend the monthly board meetings, serve on at least one committee, and volunteer on Sunday evenings as able. The maximum will be a willingness to remain on the Board for several years, chair a committee and/or move into an executive position.

**How often do Committees meet?**

Meetings of committees are subject to board needs and what is happening at the high school. Most committees do not meet on a regular basis. Meetings are held at the direction of the committee chair.

**When does the Board meet?**

Board meetings are held monthly from September through June, on the first Thursday of the month. The Executive Committee usually meets prior to the Board meeting and, at the President's discretion.

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**What happens if I miss a meeting?**

All of us have occasions when we cannot attend a meeting. An email or phone call to the President would be appreciated when you know you cannot make a meeting. *NOTE:* three unaccounted for absences in a row will be considered a resignation and your Temple will be requested to replace you.

**Suppose I want to bring an issue before the Board?**

Like all boards, an email or phone call to the President with a request to put something on the agenda is all it takes. It is always proper to notify the President when you plan to bring up new business.

**How do I become an Officer?**

You may place your name before the Nominating Committee or have someone do it for you. Any Board member may place a name before the Nominating Committee.