

Jill Kessler

Major Accomplishments

- Group Facilitator for *Leadership: An Evolving Vision*, The Principals' Center, Harvard University, summer 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020
- Beta-Tested, *Leading Schools*, a new course launched by the Harvard Business School and Graduate School of Education, 2020
- Education coach for a K – 8 Principal, 2021
- Educational Coach at Torah Day School, Phoenix, 2017 - 2019
- Coach for a first time Head of School in Chicago, 2015 – 2016
- Coach for a Head of School in Arizona, 2015 – 2018
- Co-president of Arizona Association of Independent Schools (AAIS)
- More than doubled enrollment at Pardes Jewish Day School (PJDS)
- Re-located PJDS three times, the last move to the Ina Levine Jewish Community Campus
- Helped raise over 4 million dollars for the building of the new middle school, Kosher kitchen, additional classroom, four new offices and campus renovation
- Wrote and secured over \$800,000 in grants for PJDS
- Responsible for all hiring and supervision of leadership, faculty, and staff
- Worked in lock-step with the Chief Financial Officer to have little debt
- Built the school infra-structure at PJDS, achieved school accreditation, introduced student/parent handbooks, faculty handbooks, improved quality of teaching staff, hired and cultivated leadership team, created a culture of continuous improvement through professional development opportunities throughout the year and in the summer, advanced 21st century learning, the acquisition of technology, created a visiting artist series and an intra-mural athletic program for middle school students.
- Worked closely with Director of Jewish Life and Learning, community rabbis to move the school from a school with Jewish children to a Jewish Day School
- Worked effectively with numerous board chairs throughout the years and helped train the board in best practices, mission and vision, and strategic planning
- Created board committees including finance, marketing, security and facility, and ad hoc committees such as technology
- Established and worked with community partners
- Increased student achievement and a focus on the whole child
- Developed a robust plan for students with learning challenges, ADD, anxiety, etc.
- Served on the board of the Jewish Tuition Organization and promoted the JTO to secure financial aid for approximately 48% of the students at PJDS

- Published numerous articles and presented workshops locally and nationally

Professional Experience

Interim Head of Lower School and Early Childhood Center: The Ramaz School, New York, New York, 2019-2020

Head of School: Pardes Jewish Day School, Scottsdale, AZ 2003 – 2017

Dean of External Affairs: All Saints' Episcopal Day School, Phoenix, AZ 2002-2003

Head of School: Tesseract School, Paradise Valley, AZ 1996 – 2002

Co-Head of School: Tesseract School, 1995 – 1996

Director of Preschool and Primary Staff Development: Tesseract School 1991 – 1995

Teacher: Sarah Lawrence College Teaching Laboratory and the Third Street Settlement House

Education

M.A. Child Development	Sarah Lawrence College
M.A. Education with a focus on diverse learners	University of Phoenix
B.A. Dance	New York University

Professional Development Highlights

- Harvard University, The Principals' Center, *Leadership: An Evolving Vision*, sponsored by The Avi Chai Foundation, 2013
- PEJE (Partnership for Excellence in Jewish Education), attended and/or presented at conferences from 2006 – 2012
- Project Sulam Cohort 3, 2010 – 2011, participant
- Co-Chair AAIS state conference, 2008
- David Mallery, *Heads Retreat*, 2007
- Harvard University, The Principals' Center, *Improving Schools, The Art of Leadership*, sponsored by The Avi Chai Foundation, 2004
- Selected for *Creating An Action Plan for School Improvement*, an 18 month program sponsored by The Avi Chai Foundation in conjunction with The Principals' Center, 2005
- Stanford University School of Education, *School Leadership Institute*, summer 2000
- Ravsak and PARDES conferences, participant and presenter
- Studying with local rabbis
- Local and national conferences, *ASCD, Learning and the Brain, AAIS, ISM*

Board Leadership

AAIS (Arizona Association of Independent Schools), Co-President, 2016 – 2017

AAIS Secretary, 2014 – 2016

Camp Daisy Stein Advisory Board, 2015 - 2016

CAPE, Council for the Advancement of Private Education, represented Jewish Day Schools, 2009 - 2011

New Way Learning Academy, Board Secretary, 2009 – 2012

Jewish Tuition Organization Board, 2006 - 2012

Temple Kol Ami Board, 2003 – 2006

Arizona State University Parent Board, 2003 – 2005, served as the representative for the first “Distinguished Presidential Teaching Award” created by ASU President Dr. Michael Crow

Professional Presentation Highlights

PEJE Conferences, various locations

Torah Day School, Phoenix, AZ

Horace Mann School, New York, NY

Harborside School, San Diego, CA

Temple Kol Ami, Scottsdale, AZ

Temple Chai, Phoenix, AZ

Kyrene School District, Tempe, AZ

The Children’s School, San Diego, CA